

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- We train approximately 40 new volunteers a year to respond to those in need in this community
- Volunteers are screened by application, interview process, criminal record check and reference checks
- Volunteers commit to two twelve hour shifts per month and monthly professional development training

### Volunteers Must

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Reside in York Region
- Possess a valid "G" driver's license
- Have access to a reliable vehicle
- Have \$1,000,000.00 auto insurance
- Have not been victimized within the last 2 years
- Provide a Vulnerable Sector Screening Letter
- Provide three personal references
- Attend a minimum 60 hour training program
- Must have access to internet and an email address

If interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit our website at [www.victimservices-york.org](http://www.victimservices-york.org) or call the office at 905.953.5363.

### Our Value to the Community We Serve:

- To help victims cope with the impact of a crime and/or tragedy and reduce trauma to victims and their families
- To assist victims with accessing appropriate support services in the community
- To provide an opportunity for the community to become more involved in dealing with the effects of crime
- To promote victim assistance and education to the community

[www.victimservices-york.org](http://www.victimservices-york.org)

TEL 905.953.5363



For more information  
please call us at: 905.953.5363

Email: [victimservices@yrp.ca](mailto:victimservices@yrp.ca)  
[www.victimservices-york.org](http://www.victimservices-york.org)

In Partnership With:  
York Regional Police And  
The Ontario Provincial Police



Funded by:  
Ministry of the Attorney General's  
Victim's and Vulnerable Persons Division  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
United Way of York Region and  
Local Community Fundraising  
Charitable Registration  
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If you are a  
victim of crime  
WE CAN HELP YOU

Crime and Tragedy  
affect us all.

We all need someone  
to stand by  
us at such times.



For more information, contact us at 905.953.5363

Donations graciously accepted. Tax receipts available.

# ABOUT US

No one is immune to the effects of crime or tragedy. For many of us, it is one of our deepest fears to have a police officer knock on our door in the late hours delivering bad news about a loved one. We all need someone to stand at our side and support us during such times.

This is where Victim Services of York Region comes in. Victim Services of York Region (VSY) is a non-profit, charitable agency that works in partnership with York Regional Police, the O.P.P, and York Fires Services to provide 24 hour emotional support and practical assistance to persons victimized by crime or tragic circumstance.

VSY supports the short-term needs of person's victimized by crime and tragic circumstance by providing emotional support, practical assistance, and referrals to community resources for continued support. Service delivery is based on the principle of empowerment, prevention through education, and advocacy to recognize and support the needs of victims as stipulated in Ontario's *Victim's Bill of Rights* (1995).

VSY assists victims in situations of:

- intimate partner violence
- sexual assault
- sudden death
- death by suicide/homicide
- robbery and property crimes
- fire
- industrial accidents
- motor vehicle accidents
- criminal harassment
- human trafficking
- hate crimes
- family conflict
- elder abuse



# OUR PROGRAMS

## ON-SCENE RESPONSE

Crisis Response Teams are on call 24/7, 365 days a year. We receive referrals from York Regional Police, OPP, Fire Services, and Emergency Medical Services and can attend the crime scene, police station, hospital, or home.

## TELEPHONE CRISIS & FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT

Staff provide 24-hour telephone crisis assistance, support, and referrals to community resources to any individual who contacts VSY for help or requires follow-up support after an on-scene incident involving the police.

## SUPPORT LINK

We offer specialized services for individuals at high risk of experiencing serious domestic violence, sexual assault, and criminal harassment including safety planning and a mobile phone pre-programmed to dial 9-1-1 only.

## VICTIM QUICK RESPONSE PROGRAM

Financial assistance for safety related needs such as emergency home repairs and other emergency expenses such as crime scene clean-up, funeral expenses, transportation, and counselling in cases of financial necessity

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A key aspect of Victim Services is our volunteer program where we train diverse community members to provide emotional support through the Crisis Response Teams.

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THESE SERVICES?

A person is eligible for the following programs if he/she:

## VICTIM QUICK RESPONSE PROGRAM

- resides in Ontario
- has reported a violent Criminal Code offence either to a police service in Ontario or a women's shelter, sexual assault centre, emergency service or community agency providing services to victims of domestic/sexual assault
- makes the request within 45 days of the crime for emergency or funeral expenses, and within 90 days for counselling or transportation expenses
- is not eligible for other financial resources such as insurance, workplace EAP, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program
- has not previously received funding from the VQRP for the same criminal offence
- expends the funds in Ontario

## SUPPORT LINK PROGRAM

- does not already own a cellular phone, is not living with the accused, and has made a formal complaint to the police
- resides in York Region
- is willing to have ongoing cooperation with the police and report any further occurrences of violence/threats to the police and the Support Link Program Coordinator
- is willing to have ongoing contact with the Support Link Coordinator to ensure safety issues, changes in situation, and continued safety planning.
- is in the process of applying for a court restraining order or already has one
- understands that the cellular phone is not a long term safety tool and that other means of protection, planning and safety must be in place