

Voices Survivor Advocacy Committee

VICTORY OVER INJUSTICE CLEANSSES EVERYONE'S SPIRIT

Norfolk Family Justice Center
Prepared for Survivors by Survivors



Mission

The mission of VOICES Norfolk is to promote public support and bring awareness of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse and Child Abuse through community education by sharing stories of hope, courage and strength. VOICES seeks to break the silence that enables abusers and VOICES empowers survivors to take a stand by raising their voice!

What are we?

A group of survivors who...

- Volunteer their time to celebrate their strength and survival
- **Ambassadors** of the NFJC who use their voices to help others through advocacy, education, and empowerment
- Support each other as well as incoming NFJC clients
- Can offer a unique perspective in regard to our Center's established programming, and /or identify gaps in services
- Continually advocate on behalf of the Norfolk Family Justice Center, not just in the early stages but for long-term sustainability

We are NOT...

- A support group
- A mascot for the movement

Why have a Voices Committee?

- Listen to what survivors are saying
- Learn what services and types of support are needed
- Listen and incorporate what survivors are saying and make adjustments to services
- Learn what is going on in your community from the survivors' perspective
- Garner quotes, stories, and facts that can help support the Family Justice Center in your community
- Empower survivors to get involved with the operations inside of a Family Justice Center and to support those who are coming to the center for services

Ultimately, the role of VOICES is to hold Centers accountable to the people they serve as defined by the Alliance Guiding Principles.

Benefits for the FJC:

- Offers a unique perspective about services provided
 - Survivors should be at the table in a leadership role
- Helps the Center connect with the community by sharing powerful personal stories about the reality of domestic violence and their success in seeking safety with the support of your Center's services
 - Survivor stories hold a different kind of weight than statistics and professional experience
- Can garner community support by helping identify systematic gaps such as the legal system and offenders not being held accountable.
- The Center should create a budget for the VOICES Committee and ensure they have the funding to operate.

Qualifications to be an NFJC Ambassador:

- Be a survivor of violence
- Be out of violent relationship for at least one year
- Have no open court proceedings with the abuser
- Be willing to lend your voice as a survivor to empower others and promote the NFJC
- Attend a monthly meeting (subject to change)
- Pass a background check and initial interview
- Attend the Onboarding intake process and Outreach Ambassador training