

Township of Morris

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www.morristwp.com

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NEW HOURS FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICES
Please note: Starting February 14, 2005,
Morris Township offices will be open from
8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT:

www.morristwp.com

2005 YARD WASTE PICK-UP

Begins April 6, 2005. Please check your
Municipal Calendar for dates in your area.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MORRIS TOWNSHIP CARNIVAL

May 25 to May 29, 2005
Ginty Field

FIRE AND FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! HELP US HELP YOU!

If you are interested, please call
(973) 326-7460 - Fire Department
(973) 539-1176 after 6 pm – First Aid Squad
All training is provided.

Volunteer Opportunities Are Available With Crisis Response Teams in Morris County

By Lieutenant John McGuinness, Morris Township Police Department

Studies demonstrate that many victims of domestic violence will return to their abusers unless there is intervention and support provided to them at the time of the crisis. To address this issue, the Jersey Battered Women's Service (JBWS), in conjunction with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, established the Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team in April 1997. In Morris County, police officers provide protection to victims of domestic violence by arresting and processing the batterer, while Crisis Response Team (CRT) volunteers help the victim feel less isolated and alone.

These CRTs are operating in all police departments throughout the county, and their assistance has been imperative in strengthening and diversifying victim's support systems. CRT volunteers respond to the police department in order to provide victims with emotional support, education on domestic violence, information on community resources and a safety plan. All victims are also offered follow-up contact by the Jersey Battered Women's Service.

Each Crisis Response Team is composed of trained citizens who serve as volunteers of their local police department. All volunteers go through a rigorous screening process followed by an intensive 40 hours of training. Upon successful completion of the CRT training component, volunteers are on-call to their assigned police departments and available to provide information and assistance for victims immediately following a police response to a domestic violence call. Additionally, individual supervision is provided to volunteers by JBWS within 24 hours of their call-out.

The goals of the Crisis Response Team are to:

- 1) *Decrease the emotional trauma experienced by victims* by providing the victim with an opportunity to express his / her emotional response to the crisis and providing education about the dynamics of domestic violence.
- 2) *Increase a victim's ability to make an educated decision about his / her options* by increasing the victim's awareness of available community resources and legal options, as well as an understanding of the legal process.
- 3) *Increase the victim's access to community resources* by providing the victims with necessary information to access available community resources and providing assistance in contacting those resources.

Please consider joining our efforts to keep our community safe by joining our Crisis Response Team of volunteers. If you would like to learn more about volunteering or would like to become a member of the Morris Township Police Department's CRT, please call the Crisis Response Team Manager at 973-267-7520, extension 216.