

## **Marlboro Township Police Department Seeks Domestic Violence Response Volunteers**

The Marlboro Township Police Department is currently recruiting volunteers to serve on the Marlboro Township Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT). In affiliation with 180 Turning Lives Around (180), and with the assistance of the response team volunteers, the Marlboro Police Department continues to make this free, 24/7 confidential service available to victims of domestic violence in the aftermath of a highly emotional and traumatic experience.

180 will be conducting the mandatory 40-hour training course for new DVRT volunteers October 11<sup>th</sup>-November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00p-9:30p, in-person and via Zoom on Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Thursdays. (Week 1 is in-person at Holmdel Community Center, Weeks 2 & 3 are via Zoom, Week 4 is in-person at Ocean Township Courtroom on MON 10/31, TU 11/1, WED 11/2). Weeks 1 and 4 we will be able to distance. Masks are not required, but will be available for those who wish to wear one. We will advise if there are any changes to that policy. We will shift to all Zoom, if necessary. Training will be provided free of charge to successful applicants. Applications are currently being accepted.

180's volunteer DVRT Advocates are civilian members of the community who work collaboratively with law enforcement to provide support, information, and resources to victims of domestic violence at police headquarters. Advocates also discuss with victims safety planning and their legal rights in regard to obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order. By providing support and crucial perspective of the situation, these specially-trained advocates help to empower victims to make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

Basic requirements for volunteers to apply include that they must be eighteen years of age or older, have access to reliable transportation, possess a valid driver's license, be willing to serve on an on-call shift basis, participate in an interview process, pass background investigations and fingerprinting, successfully complete the mandatory training, and attend a monthly supervisory meeting. The Marlboro Police Department and 180 are committed to a culturally and socially diverse team to better serve the community. Bi-lingual capability is helpful. Prior knowledge of domestic violence is not required. The identities of the DVRT volunteers are kept anonymous. Please contact Lt. Christie McKenna, DVRT DVLO, at 732 536-0100 ext. 1079, to obtain an application or for additional information. Applications are also available for download at: <https://180nj.org/give-help/volunteer/volunteer-advocate-for-victims-of-domestic-violence/> Deadline to apply is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

For forty-six years, 180 Turning Lives Around, a private non-profit organization, has been dedicated to providing emergency safe housing, support, counseling, advocacy, education, and prevention in Monmouth County for individuals and families affected by domestic and sexual violence. If you, or someone you know, is in need of assistance, please call 180's 24/7 Confidential Domestic Violence Hotline at 732-264-4111 or 888-843-9262. Visit [www.180nj.org](http://www.180nj.org) for more information. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.