

Board Member Application Form

April's Child ... *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect, One Family at a Time*

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____ (cell) _____

Email: _____

In lieu of answering the next two questions, please feel free to attach a resume.

Professional/Business/Volunteer Affiliations: _____

Membership/Involvement in other organizations: _____

April's Child's Board is a hands-on, working Board, which involves active participation by board members on standing committees. Please indicate which skills you may bring to the Board:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting & Financial | <input type="checkbox"/> Minute taking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chairing | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking and Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy making |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion and Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic/Operational Planning | |

Please tell us about any other skills you feel you would bring to your Board service at April's Child:

Why are you interested in serving on the Board of April's Child? _____

Nominations will be reviewed for upcoming vacancies and you will be contacted for consideration. Thank you for your interest in serving on the Board of Directors of April's Child.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send your completed application and resume (if applicable) to Laura Schwartz, email to laura@aprilschild.org

Please also read the following set of mutual expectations for April's Child Board Members.

Thank you for considering service on April's Child Board of Directors.

The mission of April's Child is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and strengthen families in Westchester County.

As you consider this opportunity, please familiarize yourself with this list of expectations.

As a Board Member:

1. I will interpret the organization's work and values to the community, and promote the organization.
2. I will attend at least 75% of board meetings (held monthly at 5:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month), committee meetings, and special events.
3. I will make a personal financial contribution annually at a level that is meaningful to me.
4. I will actively participate in one or more fundraising committees.
5. I will actively participate in one or more standing committees.
6. I will act in the best interests of the organization, and excuse myself from discussion and votes where I have a conflict of interest.
7. I will take seriously the major legal responsibilities of serving on a board, including and especially the fiduciary role of the Board.
8. I will stay informed about what is going on in the organization. I will ask questions and request information. I will participate in and take responsibility for making decisions on issues, policies and other board matters.
9. I will work in good faith with staff and other board members as partners towards achievement of our goals.

From April's Child:

1. I will receive an orientation to the board by the Executive Director and a current member of the Board of Directors.
2. I will be sent quarterly financial reports and an update of organizational activities that allow me to act as a "prudent person" in my legal responsibilities as a Board member.
3. Opportunities will be offered to me to discuss with the Executive Director and the Board President the organization's programs, goal, activities and status; additionally I can request such opportunities.
4. The organization will help me perform my duties by keeping me informed about issues in the community in which we are working, and by offering me opportunities for professional development as a board member.
5. Board members and staff will respond in a straightforward fashion to questions I have that I feel are necessary to carry out my fiscal, legal and moral responsibilities to the organization. Board members and staff will work in good faith with me towards achievement of our goals.
6. If the organization does not fulfill its commitments to me, I can call on the Board President and Executive Director to discuss these responsibilities.

For Your Reflection

As you consider joining the Board, here are some questions to consider:

Is April's Child the right cause and organization for me?

The mission of April's Child is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and strengthen families in Westchester County.

In considering joining the April's Child board, first ask yourself whether you truly feel strongly about the type of work that we do and the people we serve. Since, as a board member, you'll be investing not only money but time and energy to fulfill the mission of the organization, ask yourself whether the organization will be a good investment for you.

Can I work with this agency and this board at this particular stage in its life?

At one time in an organization's life, board service may be fairly smooth with few bumps, while at another time, board service may involve a roller-coaster ride (and of course, an unexpected event can may require readjustments). What type of Board seems right for you right now? You may want a board that really lets you roll up your sleeves and get to work with the other board members, or you may want a board that can let you learn about board work in a deliberate way.

What can I contribute to this organization?

What skills, contact, and perspectives do I have that will be useful to this organization? How, specifically, will the board use what I can bring? Often as Board members, we find that some of our talents and contacts never seem to be utilized by the boards we're on. Consider first what you bring to the table, and then, whether you are willing to give that to the organization. Look, too, for vehicles for your skills; if you can't see a specific vehicle (work on an event, help market a service, engage in recruitment and leadership development), your desire to contribute may well go unfulfilled. Ask yourself:

Do I believe in this organization enough to introduce my friends to it? Can I make a commitment to attending at least 75% of the meetings? Am I willing to give up additional time for committee work? Am I willing to make a donation? Can I volunteer with other board members at other times than meeting dates? Would I feel comfortable having my name on their letterhead or in their brochure? The right time to ask yourself these questions is before, not after, you have joined the board.

The final question is one that potential candidates should ask themselves and one that active board members should periodically re-examine during their board service:

What do I want to get out of being on this board?

An all too common experience for board members is a feeling that they are not deeply involved in the work and governance of an organization, and don't, as a result, feel that they either contribute as much or get as much as they had hoped when they first joined the board. Board members who plan and ask for what they want in the board will contribute more as well as gain more. Put in the time to be sure you get to know all of your fellow board members well. If one of your reasons for joining the board is to meet new people, volunteer to help in any way that makes sense.