



The Kent Center Vision

The Kent Center is dedicated to improving the quality of life in our communities by promoting growth, mutual interdependence and recovery. Our programs focus on maximizing the strengths of individuals and systems, while minimizing the deficits. We strive to create an atmosphere where dignity, respect and equality are commonplace. . . thus enabling the fullness of the human potential to develop.

The Mission of Compeer

To utilize community volunteers in supportive friendships to help people dealing with mental illness to live happier and more productive lives. To improve the quality of life and assist in rehabilitation and support of professionally referred adults and children receiving mental health treatment and/or needing emotional support.

“I had originally hoped to make a difference in someone else’s life, but I unexpectedly made a difference in my own.”

– Julia, Compeer Volunteer



It’s as simple as being a friend.

To contact the Compeer Program at

The Kent Center call:

(401) 738-4300, x 233

Compeer also needs volunteers for:

- grant writing
- fundraising
- publicity
- public speaking
- organization of social events
- volunteer recruitment
- program development
- Advisory Board membership

For more information about Compeer or The Kent Center, visit our websites at:

www.compeer.org
www.thekentcenter.org



*Making friends
...changing lives*

Compeer[®]
PROGRAM

A Volunteer Service of The Kent Center



About Compeer

At any given time, between 30 and 45 million Americans suffer from a mental illness that requires professional treatment. They are often linked by the common denominator of devastating loneliness, isolation and the intense misunderstanding associated with mental illness. The help they need on the road to recovery is often more than traditional therapy can offer. They need the support of a friend. They need a Compeer volunteer.

Compeer, a program of The Kent Center for Human & Organizational Development, recruits, screens, and matches trained volunteers in one to one friendship relationships with children and adults who are struggling with a mental health issue. Volunteers become positive role models, help raise self-esteem, increase social and communication skills and encourage independence for their Compeer friends.

The rewards are many when you volunteer for Compeer. There are opportunities for personal growth and satisfaction through helping others. Being a Compeer volunteer is fun and fits into your current lifestyle because you choose the hours, just as you would with any friendship.

Be a mentor to an adolescent

Growing up, forming one's identity and gaining independence is difficult for a young person today. There are numerous societal influences, both positive and negative, that adolescents face.

Many adolescents who are confronted by these issues do not have adequate social supports or friendships to assist them in their daily lives. Significant healing and education about living can take place within the context of healthy friendships with caring individuals.

Be a supportive friend to an adult

Help increase independence in daily living. Help decrease loneliness and isolation. Help increase self-esteem and self-confidence. Help a person become more comfortable in social situations.



Since its establishment in 1973, Compeer has grown from one location originally serving 12 individuals to Compeer International with:

- Affiliates in 100 cities, 30 states and two other countries
- 5,000 volunteers
- Nearly 200,000 service hours
- Friendships to 6,500 people with mental illness

In 1992, The Kent Center became the first organization in Rhode Island to be affiliated with Compeer, and since then has brought together hundreds of people in successful Compeer relationships. The Kent Center's Compeer Program has been named a model volunteer program by the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island and has been recognized for outstanding work in the community by organizations such as the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island.

“The Compeer Program has literally saved my life and has been an invaluable experience. I can only imagine how many other people this program has helped.”

– Carol, Consumer