

**ARE WE GIVING VOLUNTEERS THE RIGHT TOOLS?
APPLYING A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH TO VOLUNTEERISM**

May 12, 2021 11:00am – 1:30pm

Community organization needs and volunteer roles are changing rapidly as a result of the pandemic. Over the course of the past 12 months, we have seen an increase in the number of people interested in volunteering. Media coverage of the impact of the pandemic heightens our emotional connection with those affected and creates a calling within many of us to find a way to help. Join Rami Shami on May 12 as he presents on applying a trauma-informed approach to help prepare volunteers for what they might face in their roles.



Are We Giving Volunteers the Right Tools?

Applying a Trauma-Informed Approach to Volunteerism.

Rami Shami, Hospice Palliative Care Consultant, Case Manager, Kensington Health and Outreach Coordinator, Lighthouse for Grieving Children

The principles of Trauma Informed Care include safety, empowerment, collaboration, choice, and trust. Applying such an approach is imperative to protecting the individuals we serve, and those who serve them. Volunteers are an integral part of most social service organizations. But are we preparing our volunteers to what they might be really facing in roles? A recent study by Van Amerwingeren (2008) estimated that 76% of Canadians have experienced at least one traumatizing event in their lifetime.

In this interactive session we will:

- Define trauma and traumatization
- Gain an awareness of the prevalence of traumatization
- Articulate the basic neurobiology of traumatization
- Learn the principles of a Trauma Informed Approach
- Apply a Trauma Informed Approach to Volunteer Training and Management