



**The Maple
Counseling Center**

July 2008

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for **The Maple Counseling Center Senior Peer Counseling Program**.

The Senior Peer Counseling Program trains adult men and women who are aged 55+ as volunteer paraprofessional counselors to provide on-site individual and group counseling for adults, 62 years and older, who reside in Beverly Hills and adjacent communities of Los Angeles. Additional services are provided in the community. No prior education or experience is required.

The goal of the program is to improve the quality of life for older adults through low-cost supportive psychological services. **TMCC** offers individual and group peer counseling to assist individuals to cope more effectively.

Some clients are active, healthy, employed or considering retirement. They may seek psychological assistance to cope with relationship changes, loneliness or phase of life challenges. Other seniors face overwhelming multiple losses including: depression, anxiety, bereavement, physical illness, social isolation, homelessness, poverty, divorce, caring for aging parents and raising children. This program offers the community a lifeline of support.

The Training Program will provide instruction in active listening and counseling skills, the role of being a helper, therapeutic techniques, as well as crisis intervention skills. Skills will be learned experientially. The Training will provide exposure to a wide range of themes relevant to assisting older adults such as, family and relationships, mandated reporting laws, physical and psychological health, resources, social services, economic stressors, coping with grief and loss.

To defray some of the costs of training volunteer counselors, there is a non-refundable fee of \$300 to participate in the 40-hour Training Program. (Scholarship applications are available.) Acceptance to the Training Program does not guarantee acceptance as a counselor in the Program. Due to the limited number of spaces, 15 to 18, in this program, applicants who are accepted must be able to attend all training sessions and be confident of their ability to make a one-year commitment to the **TMCC** Senior Peer Counseling Program.

The many benefits of volunteering as a peer counselor include the opportunity for personal development, the profound gratification of helping others, intellectual stimulation, motivation to learn more about yourselves and how to assist clients, as well as joining an organization dedicated to providing psychological help to those in need.

Please include TMCC in your estate planning

9107 Wilshire Boulevard, Lower Level Beverly Hills, CA 90210 (310) 271-9999 Fax (310) 247-4910

Website: www.tmcc.org

Many current senior peer counselors describe their experience at **TMCC** as life altering and have remained active counselors for numerous years.

The Training Sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings 4:30 to 7:30 pm beginning in September. Please submit your application as soon as possible for consideration for the upcoming class.

Trainees are expected to attend all training sessions and will be asked, upon acceptance as Counselors, to make a commitment of 10 hours per week for at least one year following the training. Counselor time may include the following activities:

- Counseling 4 – 6 individual clients
- Home visits for a disabled client
- Co-facilitating senior therapy groups
- Weekly two-hour group supervision
- Individual supervision
- On-going training sessions
- Maintaining client records, phone calls
- Identifying resources for clients
- Transportation time

Men and women who are interested in participating in the Peer Counselor Training are invited to complete the enclosed application and mail to:

The Maple Counseling Center
Attention: Lori Karny
9107 Wilshire Boulevard, Lower Level
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Upon receipt of your application, applicants will be contacted to participate in a group interview to be held at **The Maple Counseling Center**. Due to time constraints some applicants may be interviewed individually.

Should you have any questions about the program, please call (310) 271-9999 x247.

Sincerely,

Lori Karny, LCSW
Clinical Supervisor and Program Coordinator



**APPLICATION
SENIOR PEER COUNSELOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

Name: _____ Date _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phones: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Fax: _____ email _____ Date of Birth: _____

How did you hear about the TMCC Senior Peer Counseling Program?

Friend Internet _____ Newspaper _____ Professional Other _____

1. What do you hope to gain through participation in this program? _____

2. What are your perceptions of the aging process? _____

3. What has been your experience? _____

4. Describe your own experience with aging relatives, grandparents, parents or friends. _____

5. Describe your attitudes toward physical illness and emotional limitations in yourself and others?

6. Describe the personal qualities that you believe will help you to become an effective paraprofessional counselor. _____

7. Briefly describe a personal situation, conflict or interaction that helped you to realize something significant about yourself or another person. _____

8. Describe a time or situation when you felt discrimination and your reaction. _____

9. Please describe your personal experience(s) as a client in therapy. When? How long? Was it helpful?

10. Current and Past Employment and Volunteer Work

Organization	Position	Dates
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11. Education/Academic Degree(s) Date School(s)

12. List any other volunteer training or relevant education. _____

13. If you are currently taking classes or attending school, describe your current/future goals. _____

14. If relevant, describe any past experience as a counselor. _____

15. What is your concept of supervision? _____

16. Have you ever been terminated from a volunteer position? If so, please explain the circumstances.

17. Have you been convicted of a felony or reported for sexual misconduct with a child or an adult?
Yes___ No___ If, so please explain. _____

18. Please add any additional comments or information you would like us to know about you.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. Please be assured that all the information you provide will remain confidential.