

Volunteer Link

Winter 07

Supervisor of Volunteers Award 2006: Craig Miller, Rehab Therapist

Congratulations to Craig Miller, a Rehab Therapist in the Brain Injury Service, Neuro Rehab Program, who is the recipient of the Supervisor of Volunteers Award 2006.

This award emphasizes the importance of the staff partnership in developing successful volunteer contributions within Toronto Rehab.

“Craig has been very influential in introducing me to the realm of Rehabilitation Sciences as a possible career pathway for my future in healthcare. He has been generous in sharing his knowledge with me,” said the volunteer who nominated Craig.

“Craig is very patient with everyone. He tries his best to inject some humour into the situation and this helps to alleviate the stress (the patients may feel). As a supervisor, Craig has managed to create an open, welcoming environment. I always look forward to my volunteer shift.”

Volunteer★Recognition

~ A Night of the Stars ~

The stars were shining the evening of Wednesday, October 11, 2006, as volunteers gathered at the George Brown College Siegfried's Dining Room for the Toronto Rehab Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

Almost 100 people including volunteers, guests, members of the hospital's senior management committee and Volunteer Resources staff attended this important event. The annual recognition event recognizes the service volunteers provide to Toronto Rehab to help positively influence the patient and family experience. Volunteers took special care to bring the theme — *A Night of the Stars* — to life in both the dining room and registration area.

One of the evening highlights was the presentation of service awards, including the introduction of a new award called *The Above and Beyond Oscar* awarded to those volunteers who have demonstrated volunteer commitment that is truly above and beyond. Congratulations to this year's winners: Margaret Antonides, Joe Brunetti, Nancy Herron, Robert Kapetanovic, Audrey Pankhurst, Azim Rashidi, Iris Robinson, and Barry Schneider.

This year's entertainment, Brian Thwait's and his interactive Train Your Brain presentation, kept all attendees laughing and was a great way to bring the evening to a close.

We appreciate volunteers' dedication to the volunteer program at Toronto Rehab. Without volunteers, patients would not have access to important services at our hospital. Thank you volunteers! Hope to see you at the event next year!

-Lynda Watson



► The Tuesday Night Social Group enjoying the evening together – Terence Ko, Katie Wong, Don Smith, Emily Lee, Inez Gannicott, Tim Giblin, Wei Li Shao.

Volunteers Come Together to Beautify the Therapeutic Recreation Horticultural Garden at Lyndhurst Centre

The power of partnerships was demonstrated at Toronto Rehab on September 8, 2006 when numerous volunteers rallied together to plant dozens of plants, shrubs and even a few small trees in the Therapeutic Recreation Horticultural Garden at Lyndhurst Centre in order to complete the garden before its official opening.

The team included volunteers from Deloitte, the Leaside Garden Society and Sheridan Nurseries along with Toronto Rehab staff and volunteers.

Karen Sacke, Coordinator, Volunteer Resources for Lyndhurst and Rumsey Centres, commented on why this partnership was critical. "We were better able to meet our goal of having the garden ready for opening day — an achievement that would not have been realized without the determination of these groups."

The garden was built through the spring and summer months, but with an official opening planned for late September and invitations in the mail there wasn't a plant in sight. Barry Schneider, a long-time volunteer at Toronto Rehab and a member of the Leaside Garden Society, took action and sought the assistance of Sheridan Nurseries.

After agreeing to help, Sheridan Nurseries turned to landscape design architect Sharon Fleming to step in and help design the garden. Sharon worked



➤ Lynn Coukos (Project Manager), Jonathan Hui (Deloitte Touche), Barry Schneider (LGS), Karen Sacke (Volunteer Resources), Sharon Fleming (Design Architect)

feverishly over a two-week period, including the Labour Day weekend, to design the garden and locate the plants necessary from Sheridan's farms.

As the deadline approached, Sharon finished her design and the plants started to arrive in the days before "planting day" set for September 8. Holding the planting on September 8 made it possible for Deloitte volunteers to join the team as part of the company's International Impact Day — a one-day world-wide event that supports Deloitte's staff volunteering in their community.

The day was a success and this project not only demonstrates a different

type of volunteer opportunity, but it also tangibly shows why partnering with the community can be so beneficial. It confirms how volunteerism can positively impact the quality of life for patients.

The garden is making a positive impact on patients, families, staff and volunteers at the Lyndhurst Centre and also provides an opportunity for patients who are undergoing therapy to help maintain the garden.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this unique project!

-Karen Sacke

Holiday Gift Wrap



➤ Volunteers (from left to right), Audrey Pankhurst, Nancy Herron, June O'Donnell and Emelia Murphy wrap the patient gifts.

On December 5, the QEC auditorium was a buzz of activity as 20 volunteers wrapped and packed 540 gifts to be distributed to all patients of Toronto Rehab.

The Toronto Rehab Foundation generously donated funds to fill the gift bags with lotion, chapstick, a soap dish and toothbrush holder, soap, special socks and a lint brush.

"It is our contribution to bringing some happiness to the patients at

Christmas time and it is a good feeling to know that you are making a difference in the lives of the patients," said volunteer Lillian Scott.

The Volunteer Association also played Santa to inpatients in the CCC, Neuro Rehab and Geriatric Rehab programs who do not have family. They purchased special gifts which were delivered to each patient Christmas Day.

-Lucy McIntosh

Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI) Ontario Network *Impact of funding cuts to the sector*

On September 25, 2006, the Canadian government announced the elimination of the Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI). Specifically, this announcement will effect CVI-funded organizations such as Volunteer Canada, Imagine Canada and regional networks in each province/territory that research, promote and develop volunteerism across the country.

Funding provided by CVI has paid for hundreds of resources utilized by thousands of community based organizations. In addition, this initiative funds National Volunteer Week — including posters, postcards, and all related materials and media coverage. Most recently the Ontario Network of the CVI developed a Municipal Tool Kit for volunteerism and research into the 40-Hour Community Involvement Program in Ontario (i.e. high school community service). These cuts were made as the government decided that CVI is a “non-core program,” defined as a program that does not “meet the priorities of the federal government or Canadians.”

The 2004 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), the largest survey ever completed that examines how Canadians support each other and their communities, indicated that over 12 million people provided two billion hours of volunteer effort every year. Previous surveys have found that volunteerism is declining. The movement that supports, engages, and retains volunteers needs support.

If you would like more information on the CVI cuts, and how you can help, you can visit <http://www.volunteer.on.ca/English/index.cfm>

-Alison Caird

Strengthening Voluntarism in Ontario: Collective Action on Common Issues

Ontario's non-profit, voluntary sector is an essential component of our province's social, economic and civic landscape, despite being challenged by a number of divisive and critical funding issues.

With a long history of important service, Ontario's voluntary sector has evolved to mirror our province's vast geography and increasingly diverse population. It is estimated that there are more than 45,000 non-profit, voluntary organizations in Ontario today. These organizations fulfill a multitude of mandates representing many different sub-sectors and are responsible for a total of \$50 billion in revenue.

While the volunteer industry's influence and reach is substantial — it is 11 times larger than the automotive industry and four times larger than the agricultural industry — it does not share a sector-wide voice on issues that impact it.

Over the last several months in an effort to strengthen and engage the various parts of the sector, the Strengthening Voluntarism in Ontario Project (SVO Project) has been engaged in bringing the sector together to work and plan collaboratively in hopes of creating a dynamic synergy that champions meaningful change and action for the non-profit voluntary sector in Ontario.

There is substantial evidence suggesting that Ontario's non-profit, voluntary sector has areas of common interest and faces

common issues/challenges including:

- changes in funding and funding priorities (see side-bar CVI);
- the introduction of mandatory community service programs;
- restructuring of governmental roles and responsibilities; and
- a transformation in the demographics of volunteers.

In many ways, Ontario's non-profit, voluntary sector is at its own critical turning point.

The good news, however, is that despite and amidst its many challenges, the non-profit, voluntary sector continues to achieve success and gain recognition for its contribution to Ontario's social and economic capital, its ability to demonstrate leadership and innovation, and its important role in providing Ontarians with the opportunity to become engaged in democratic dialogue.

It is, therefore, in that spirit of giving, hopefulness and commitment so integral to the sector itself that Ontario's non-profit, voluntary sector is now being asked to come together and dialogue and, perhaps in doing so, build consensus on common issues for collective action.

Alison Caird, Toronto Rehab Manager Volunteer Resources, is co-chair of the SVO Steering Committee. The SVO project is funded by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

“Antonia and I had a great time last shift. We were a little nervous at first, but in the end we put a lot of smiles on the patients faces. Overall, I am truly enjoying this and look forward to coming in next Sunday.”

-Brittany, Unit Support Volunteer – Pilot Project, Lyndhurst Centre, on her reaction after her first shift.

**How long have you been with Toronto Rehab?**

I have been with Toronto Rehab for 37 years.

What do you do at Toronto Rehab?

I volunteer at a number of programs at QEC and UC. I started the Palm Court Tea, which is held weekly at QEC and started the same program at UC. I help with the Sherry Luncheon at UC and still serve on the Association Executive. Over the past 36 years, I have served as the President twice. Each year at Christmas, I organize special gifts for the patients at QEC and UC who do not have family. I have also driven the van for outings, and many years ago I started the Pet Therapy Program.

I started the program by asking my vet to come into the hospital with his dog and, although there was opposition at the time, the program has continued. In the beginning, patients interacted with different animals — not just dogs.

What is a typical day for you?

I arrive about 11:30 a.m. to help set up the auditorium for Palm Court Tea. I have lunch with some of the volunteers whom I have known for many years, and then together we start bringing patients to the auditorium for tea and sweets. We are fortunate to have volunteers who provide live music such as the piano, banjo and guitar. These volunteers play the old standards. Often if it is a special day or birthday we celebrate it by having a special cake for the person. Patients are then brought back to their rooms and we clean up, then have tea and a little meeting to plan the next week's tea. We all leave about 3:15 or 3:30 p.m.

What is the best part about your volunteer work?

Making patients and family members happy.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am married and have a son and daughter and enjoy four grandchildren. I did secretarial work and volunteered in post-war efforts to plan social and fundraising activities, which assisted with programs for returning prisoners.

Any hobbies/interests?

Gardening and knitting.

What is something most people don't know about you?

I came from England 53 years ago and I am married to an Australian architect who served as a Board Member of the hospital.

Welcome New Volunteers:

Karen Alexander (QEC)

Julia Carew (HC)

Melissa Chirrop (QEC)

Leonides Dela Cruz (QEC)

Jeremy Donald

Forest (QEC)

Sarah Duquette (RC)

Jennifer Fedrigoni (LC)

Cyrus Florendo (UC)

Enza Gitto (LC)

David Harrison (LC)

Sally Hong (LC)

Vivian Lee (HC)

Yvonne Lee (HC)

Michelle Liu (UC)

Charan Mahesan (UC)

Katrina Meleca (QEC)

Vicky Pun (UC)

Brother Vincent

Salam (QEC)

Ian Paul Saliba (QEC)

Marie Swiety (QEC)

Sharuka Thangalingam
(LC)

Jeffrey Wan (LC)

Jesse Weber (QEC)

Shirley Wong (UC)

Frances Wood (QEC)

Jennifer Xu (UC)

Patria Yan Luis (QEC)



Volunteer Resources:
(416) 597-3422

Staff/Contributors:

Alison Caird,
Manager, ext. 3551

Lucy McIntosh,
Coordinator, Queen Elizabeth Centre,
ext. 2141

Karen Sacke,
Coordinator, Lyndhurst &
Rumsey Centres, ext. 6279

Shannon Tebb,
Recruiter/Assistant, Volunteer
Resources, ext. 2243

Lynda Watson, Coordinator,
Hillcrest & University Centres,
ext. 3058

Newsletter Design & Layout
Dana Ginsberg, Media Services

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Please submit your ideas to:
Lynda Watson, Coordinator,
Volunteer Resources HC/UC
(416) 597-3422 ext. 3058 or email:
watson.lynda@torontorehab.on.ca

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