

Student Volunteer

January 2015 Issue

**Your guide to
volunteering opportunities**



Niagara Region Edition

Note from The Editor

Chances are, you have volunteered your time to help someone at some time in the past. Volunteering isn't about seeing how many volunteer hours you can collect. It is about "making a difference in someone's life". Quite often, we can't see those we are helping; but the knowledge that we have just helped someone who needed assistance, is payment enough.

Volunteering comes in many forms. There are ongoing volunteering opportunities that usually require some form of mid to long term commitment, such as auxiliaries at local hospitals; Auxiliary Police etc; community service clubs etc. Then there are hundreds of "one-off" volunteering opportunities, such as, volunteering at a community event or fundraiser; organising fundraisers for a particular cause etc. And finally, there are the active participation volunteer opportunities, such as, participating in a walkathon; mentoring; hands on overseas missions; Habitat for Humanity etc.

No matter what volunteer opportunities you get involved with, it all helps someone, somewhere. I personally feel that to volunteer is to pay my rent to society for giving me a roof over my head and food on my plate as well as a safe environment. More than 50% of the world is in poverty and do not have simple luxuries such as running water; medicinal drugs; adequate shelter; hope.

Volunteers are the heart and soul in the fabric of life. Silent heroes making a difference, one person at a time. But how about the personal benefits you gain from volunteering, apart from the obvious euphoric feeling knowing you helped change a life. Volunteering often gives you opportunities to develop personal skills such as planning; public speaking; hands on skills (such as those you learn with Habitat for Humanity); leadership skills; communication skills etc.

So, whether you join or form an established volunteer group; or whether you become a casual volunteer; your time and effort will be greatly appreciated and your heart will glow with an extra warm feeling. Happy volunteering.

Editor – Paul T. Baker

International & National Organisations

Lions Clubs International - World's largest community service organisation, with 46,000 clubs globally. Involved in everything from the environment to overseas medical screening missions. No project is too small or too large. Join a local community Lions Club or enquire about chartering a club on campus.



Paul Baker - (647) 703-9484; www.lionsclubs.org

Rotary International/Rotaract - Second largest community service club organisation in the world. Known for their work in eliminating Polio from the world. Many campus's have Rotaract Clubs - the youth division of Rotary International.



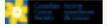
www.rotary.org

Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) - CNIB offer many services to its visually impaired clients. Our volunteer team stretches from one end of the country to the other – and is made up of Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life. No matter what role they play, all of our volunteers are engaged in meaningful and rewarding work that meets the needs of their local community.



www.cnib.ca

Canadian Cancer Society - The Canadian Cancer Society's strongest asset is our dedicated volunteers. By offering the most meaningful opportunities for you to make the biggest difference as a volunteer, we're having more impact, against more cancers, in more communities, than any other cancer charity.



www.cancer.ca

Habitat for Humanity - We need your help in the building of Habitat homes, on our Boards of Directors, and in the operation of our ReStores and affiliate offices. Join the over 63,000 volunteers that work with Habitat for Humanity in Canada every year, or the thousands that help abroad through our Global Village program. Our volunteers are an integral part of our organization, making Habitat home ownership and a brighter future possible for low-income families.



(905) 828-0987; info@habitatmississauga.ca; www.habitat.ca

United Way - Giving back to your community is easy with United Way Centraide. There are many rewarding opportunities that will fit your schedule and interests, including:

- Support an United Way Centraide event in your community
- Contribute your skills to a local United Way Centraide office
- Organize a workplace/campus campaign.

- Volunteer at one of the many of our supported social service agencies.
- Join a United Way Centraide's Board of Directors or Campaign Cabinet.
- Participate in a Day of Caring.

www.unitedway.ca

