

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK
April 10th – 16th, 2011
“VOLUNTEERS; THE PERFECT FIT”

The Prairie North Health Region takes this opportunity to recognize the effort, time and talents that each volunteer contributes to the delivery of health care services. Volunteers are an integral part of our team; they fulfill roles that are different from but parallel to that of salaried staff. Volunteers contribute their unique talents, skills and knowledge of our community to provide personalized attention to clients, enable salaried staff to concentrate on the work for which they are trained, and contribute to a public awareness of health care services and health promotion issues.

Your attention and appreciation of the volunteer is often a very strong motivator for their continued interest and dedication in assisting with your programs.

It is important in recognizing the value of our volunteers that we provide a formal volunteer management program that provides the necessary support and training for a meaningful volunteer experience.

Our volunteers are often the link with the community and liaison with many of our facilities such as auxiliaries who because of their strong family ties contribute in time and fund raising for the benefit of the programs and the clients they serve. Volunteers often make the delivery of the program possible; such as Meals On Wheels, STRIDES for Better Health, Live Well with Chronic Conditions and Parent Mentoring to name a few. Volunteers enhance service delivery by reducing the stress clients feel in receiving services during illness, changes and aging; such as social visitation, unit volunteers, Greeter Programs, Palliative Care, transportation, Spiritual Services and Home Care Volunteers.

Present Statistics Canada survey reveals that;

- 6.5 million Canadians volunteer
- researchers have begun to examine the positive links between good health and volunteering, by enhancing social support networks which can act as a buffer against stress and illness
- volunteering can also enhance self-esteem, personal coping skills and resources – all of which have good health benefits
- volunteers providing a community link with clients in hospitals, long-term care, rehabilitation, enhance wellness and quality of life,
- Volunteers being there to “listen” to patients often aid recover, reduce stress, shorten hospital stay, and support within the community reduces the need for re-admission.

So take the time this week to gather together, recognize and applaud each other! There are few among us who have not contributed and volunteered in some form in our community and workplace, let’s celebrate together the impact of actions and attitudes!

“YOUR COMMITMENT...MAKING THE WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!”

