Selfless in the Age of Selfies - Halton Youth Can Change the World

In an age of selfies it is more important than ever to take a moment to think about someone other than yourself. More than a moment, in fact. This year, Ontario students will rise to the challenge for six weeks, kicking off with National Volunteer Week April 12th-18th. The 2015 ChangeTheWorld campaign, April 12th to May 24th, is an Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge, a joint initiative between the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN) and the Government of Ontario to inspire high school students to give back to their community. Students from different schools, neighbourhoods, and backgrounds will share their passion in dozens of community projects. Volunteer Halton, our local volunteer centre, is committed to working with students to realize their vision of better communities. We support youth as they think outside the box to find ways to contribute that are beyond the traditional volunteer roles and capitalize on the skills and interests of high school students today.

ChangeTheWorld is an opportunity to provide a vital connection between students and the world around them. Last year, 3,263 youth volunteered a minimum of 3 hours each in over 30 events across Halton to a total of 12,238 hours. This year Volunteer Halton invites all youth between the ages of 14-18 to look around and choose a way you can make a difference, big or small, in your neighbourhood. If you need some ideas visit our website at www.volunteerhalton.ca.


Volunteering is a Work of Heart!

Thank you to our many volunteers who help bring comfort and joy to the medically complex children in our community each and every day.

You are the heart of The Darling Home for Kids!

The Helping Hands Volunteer Program at The Darling Home for Kids is generously sponsored by:

www.darlinghomeforkids.ca/volunteer

Thank You
Halton Women’s Place Volunteers!

For your dedication and time in keeping Halton Women’s Place a Safe and Happy Place.

From All the Staff at Halton Women’s Place

A life without violence is the only life to live...
National Volunteer Week 2015 (April 12 to 18) is almost here. Each year we dedicate a special time to honour citizens who volunteer their time and talents to worthy causes across our country, region and local community. The theme for National Volunteer Week 2015 is the Ripple Effect of volunteer action. This is a metaphor indicating how an act of kindness and compassion has endless impacts in creating a healthy, vibrant and inclusive society. I am reminded of the quote by Scott Adams “Remember there’s no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.”

Like the pebble thrown in the water, a volunteer’s gift of time and caring is symbolized by the water circles touching many other shores and objects in its path. These ripples are created every time volunteers reach out beyond themselves, to engage in kindness and caring for others. People from all walks of life engage in volunteerism for a variety of reasons some of which are: to tackle the issues of poverty, the environment, homelessness, to promote social inclusion, and most importantly, to be the voice and hands of compassion and hope.

Volunteer Halton is privileged to witness like-minded individuals and groups who identify the need and move into action. From the first conversation to the volunteer action each volunteer creates their own ripple effect. This is the invisible force of volunteerism. Volunteers are everyday individuals who answer the call for change. Many come together as strangers, connect through a cause, and end up with lasting friendships. Volunteer Halton recognizes the wonderful volunteers who come from different backgrounds and experiences from all ages to create the ripple effect.

Robert F. Kennedy stated “Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others they send forth a tiny ripple of hope…. These ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

On Monday, April 13th 2015, those efforts are being acknowledged and appreciated at a Volunteer Recognition Awards Breakfast hosted by Community Development Halton/Volunteer Halton. We want to acknowledge the work of volunteers across Halton and say THANK YOU for being part of the ripple effect that reaches out to embrace us all.

**Article submitted by Ann Coburn, Director, Volunteer Halton**

**www.volunteerhalton.ca**

1-855-395-8807

---

**Mayor’s Message**

Please join me in thanking all our Milton volunteers for supporting and responding to the growing demand for community services.

Our community is blessed with so many caring and dedicated resident volunteers who devote themselves for the enhancement and betterment of services provided by many local, regional and health related agencies.

I would like to also acknowledge and thank the many volunteers that help deliver the Corporation of the Town of Milton’s programs in the areas of: aquatics, arts, culture, cycling, summer camps, youth, seniors’, special needs, fire services rehab team, community events, and our boards and committees.

All your contributions are invaluable. Thank you.

Mayor Gord Krantz and Members of Milton Council

---

**Volunteers… A Work of Heart!**

Thank you so much for all you do.
You are an integral part of our healthcare team!

Milton District Hospital is very fortunate to have an amazing team of dedicated and talented volunteers who enhance our patient and visitor experience every day.

We would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers for their invaluable service and fundraising contributions. Our volunteers make a difference to our patients, visitors, staff & physicians as well as each other every day.

**National Volunteer Appreciation Week**

April 12 - 18, 2015

Volunteer with us! Visit www.halonhealthcare.com
Volunteering
Giving back to others can change your life!

Caring, Nurturing
• Help someone cope with blindness, deafness or illness.
• Provide telephone listening, friendship, referrals and crisis intervention by manning a phone at the Distress Centre.

Positive, Energetic
• Visit someone confined to home due to age, infirmity, disability.
• Get involved with teens in afterschool programs, group social events.

Knowledge & Learning
• Reading and writing skills through Literacy North Halton.

“Survivor” Capability
• Have you lived through the loss of a loved one or survived a major illness? Are you a recovering alcoholic, drug addict? Share your experiences and help others to “survive”.

Business Skills
• Use finance, marketing, sales, management skills on the Board of Directors of any of United Way’s agencies.

Organizational Strengths, Social Skills
• Help organize a special event or fundraiser.
• Volunteer to help coordinate workshop or seminar or volunteer training session.

Volunteering may only take a few hours a week or even a month. Regardless of the amount of time you have available, you can find a satisfying fit for your skills, interests and schedule. Becoming a volunteer has other benefits too. For teens, it can provide those essential ‘community service’ credits and it may offer an insight into a future career. (It is also a credential that many employers look for in a resume.) You may find volunteering to be the most satisfying ‘job’ you ever have.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK April 12-18, 2015

Volunteer Halton

Open for business
Pet Valu recently held the grand opening of its new location on Bronte Street (in Sobey’s plaza). Here, owners Julie Vaillancourt and Robert Keating (right) join with Mayor Gord Krantz and special guests (from left) Winston, Porter and Sleeman in welcoming customers.

Justin Greaves / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)