

Volunteer Edmonton helps people find opportunities

By Evelyn Pham

Volunteer Edmonton doesn't fit the role of a typical volunteer centre.

As a program of The Support Network, a local nonprofit organization, Volunteer Edmonton exists to promote the value of volunteerism, advocate for good standards of practice for volunteer involvement and collaborate with others to support volunteerism.

Simply put, one of the things Volunteer Edmonton does is help people find meaningful volunteer opportunities, but with one exception.

"Volunteer Edmonton is not a volunteer centre in the traditional sense of the word – in other words, where a prospective volunteer goes to a building and is 'matched' with a volunteer opportunity," explained Volunteer Edmonton director Janice Bell. "Times are changing and volunteer centres across the country are changing too. While we don't do direct volunteer matching we do provide the general public with ways on how to find volunteer opportunities and help them narrow down their search through the information and referrals we have posted on our website." As an online volunteer information resource, Volunteer Edmonton provides much of the same kind of information as a traditional volunteer centre on their website, but without the matching aspect. "We're not looking to reinvent the wheel. There are so many amazing resources and organizations in the city. With over 8,000 nonprofit/voluntary groups in-

Edmonton there is no shortage of groups needing volunteers! We also believe that folks want to give back. People just need some help to point them in the right direction, and Volunteer Edmonton can do that."

Bell adds that an online approach does not eliminate the need for in-person connections.

"Once a prospective volunteer knows which organization they'd like to volunteer with, the kind of work they want to do, as well as a number of other things, and has contacted the nonprofit/voluntary group, it's up to the receiving organization to engage them in a meaningful way. Part of this is explaining to potential volunteers how their participation will help the organization meet its mission and vision."

Along with tips and resources on where to find volunteer opportunities, Volunteer Edmonton's website offers prospective volunteers information on how to find opportunities best suited to their skills and interests.

An entire page is dedicated to what kinds of questions to ask before volunteering with an organization to ensure that the organization has good, solid volunteer management practices in place.

"There are standards and expectations that volunteers should know about. We want everyone to have an amazing volunteer experience. Going into it with their eyes wide open, with lots of questions will help ensure that happens," says Bell. The website also serves the nonprofit/voluntary sector with the


research and volunteer management resources posted. Volunteer managers or individuals who work with volunteers can access summaries of articles, links to other websites, tips on best practices and information on local workshops, training and events.

"We work very closely and collaboratively with other organizations focused on promoting volunteerism. We're here to provide support and deliver resources that will help volunteer managers or individuals who work with volunteers do their job effectively."

To find out about how you can start to volunteer or to find out more about what Volunteer Edmonton can do for you, visit their website at volunteeredmonton.com. Click on "I Want to Volunteer" to start your search for volunteer opportunities.

Evelyn Pham is a communications coordinator for Volunteer Edmonton. For more information or suggestions for stories she can be contacted at epham@volunteeredmonton.com or by calling 732-6655. Volunteer Edmonton is a program of The Support Network.

Connect with



Volunteer Assistant

THE HE



Today I was that I have a I see struggle until we make do we complete spouses can I turn up the TV but say "it's not newscast seem: our vi when

This line of questions could give it's too late sometimes. Students your hearing, the harder it will be greater harmony at home, undeclearly participate in conversation home because you don't get it, talk professional may be the best thing

A+

Hearing Centre

#107 Whitemud Crossing
4211 106 St. Edmonton, AB T6J 6L7

SUPER SENIOR'S DAY Monday, May 26

Present this ad

9:00 - 11:30 am
Breakfast Special
Includes 2 eggs, toast and
bacon, ham or sausage.
\$2.99
GST and gratuity
not included

UPPER LEVEL, ENTRANCE 9

(780) 444-2112



Valid 04/28/08 only. One coupon per person, per visit. Restrictions may apply. No purchase necessary.

Courtney's

DENTURE CLINIC

PROVIDING ALL DENTURE SERVICES FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Reputation Built on Comfort, Quality,
Esthetics and Customer Relations

ALL DENTAL PLANS ACCEPTED

West Edmonton Commerce Park Joyce Hyman, DD
10037 - 166 Street Almir Mesic, DD

780 489-8161



Sunday, June

**Sounds
Sympho**

The Churchill Retirement
10015 - 103rd Ave. 780

- Musical Entertainment
- Tours & Refreshments
- Health & Wellness Fair

Riverbend Retirement R
103 Rabbit Hill Ct. NW

- Musical Entertainment
- Tours & Refreshments

www.reveralliving.com

Join us in our fundraising efforts for The Canadian Diabetes /
we who celebrate our seniors across the country on June 1st