

Volunteer Week highlights exceptional service

National Volunteer Week, Canada's biggest celebration and volunteer recognition event, happens from April 19 to 25, 2009. This week-long event is a time to say thank you to those who do amazing work in our communities. The volunteers in our country who generously donate their time and effort are parents, children, students, immigrants, seniors, neighbours and coworkers. They are people just like you or me. While we may not always see the direct result of their work, the loss of a diverse volunteer workforce comprised of 12 million people would certainly be felt in every community across Canada.

"Few of us stop to think how every little

bit of volunteering adds up and impacts the way we live," says Janice Bell, director of Volunteer Edmonton. "Take away the people who volunteer and what will non-profit and voluntary organizations do? Reduce the number of services and programs, divert money away from core services to hire additional staff or close down permanently. These are all likely scenarios that could happen if we didn't have volunteers."

Luckily, organizations have long been able to rely on volunteers to support their causes. "The economic recession is a difficult time for all of us," says Ruth MacKenzie, president of Volunteer Canada. "But many are using this time to roll up their sleeves, share their skills, and better their communities and the lives of others."

The hope is that this week highlights



the importance volunteerism plays in all of our lives, but also the need for volunteers. "There's a perception that volunteering is routine or requires long hours of work. Not true," Bell remarks, adding that anyone can volunteer their talents and skills for any amount of time for a myriad of organizations in a variety of highly specialized roles.

If you are interested in volunteering, take some time during National Volunteer Week to consider the ways you can help the 4,000 non-profit organizations that exist in Edmonton. "Think of volunteering as a way to become involved in an

activity you've always wanted to try, to gain a new skill that will give you better job prospects or just a time you, your friends or family can do something together while benefiting your community. It's that simple," says Bell.

To start your volunteer search, visit www.volunteeredmonton.com for more information.

Look to this space to see the work that the city's volunteers and non-profit organizations are carrying out and what it is that Volunteer Edmonton is involved in. For more information or suggestions for story ideas please contact Evelyn Pham, communications coordinator at epham@volunteeredmonton.com, call 780-732-6655 or check out our website at www.volunteeredmonton.com. Volunteer Edmonton is a program of The Support Network.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

volunteers from compassion to action.

APRIL 19 to 25, 2009
www.volunteer.ca/nvw

TENT SALE
 BELOW COST PRICING

up to 70% OFF

ODEL FURNITURE
"Trend for today's lifestyle"
 Whitemud & 99 Street Corner • 780-430-4346

Hours:	
Mon-Fri:	10am-7pm
Sat:	10am-6pm
Sun:	12pm-5pm

SOFA
\$299.00

Not exactly as shown

WHEN YOU PURCHASE LOVESAT \$699.00

SALE
\$399.00

ROCKER RECLINER Reg. \$799.00

SALE