

Volunteering made easy through website

Volunteer Edmonton is all about helping people find volunteer opportunities, says Volunteer Edmonton director Janice Bell.

While Volunteer Edmonton isn't your typical volunteer centre where individuals are directly matched with a volunteer opportunity, the non-profit program provides information on what volunteering is, how to start and where to find the right opportunity via their website.

"Without volunteers - both new and experienced - Edmonton wouldn't be the wonderful place it is to work and live in," says Bell.

And Volunteer Edmonton is making the most of the electronic age that we are now in, billing itself as Edmonton's online volunteer information source.

It's all about helping people find people

"We can point organizations and/or individuals to existing resources in the community," says Bell.

Acting as a link, she points out, is one way to work with already existing organizations and services in the city.

"There's no reason to reinvent the wheel. Lots of amazing resources exist in Edmonton. Sometimes people just need help finding them."

Prospective volunteers can start their volunteer search by visiting the "I Want to

Volunteer" page.

There, a number of links to websites that feature volunteer opportunities are listed.

Volunteer Edmonton's website also offers resources non-profit groups are looking for places to post their volunteer

opportunities.

But the website also offers additional information to assist non-profit organizations in developing good volunteer management practices such as upcoming workshops, training and events; links to a

variety of reports and research; volunteer management resources; and more.

"The non-profit sector plays an important role in Edmonton and we need to ensure that volunteers continue to have a positive experience. The best way to keep volunteers involved and to get more people involved as volunteers is to give them something great to talk about," says Bell.

There's no doubt that word-of-mouth advertising goes further in promoting an organization than anything else, she adds.

By working with the non-profit sector and with volunteers, Volunteer Edmonton helps to ensure a healthy environment for the non-profit sector in the city.

Volunteer Edmonton's goals are to promote volunteerism; advocate for good standards of practice for volunteer involvement; and collaborate with organizations on actions that support volunteerism.

For more information or suggestions for story ideas, please contact Evelyn Pham at epham@volunteeredmonton.com, call (780) 732-6655 or check out www.volunteeredmonton.com.



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