

Volunteer Edmonton News – May 22, 2007

Special Volunteer Week Activities

We hope that you all had a wonderfully successful National Volunteer Week last month! Thanks to the organizations who shared their National Volunteer Week activities with us.

At St. Michael's Extended Care Centre, a Sunday afternoon lunch was the highlight of the annual Appreciation Day with Volunteer Alberta's Karen Lynch as special guest speaker. Up to 160 people, including volunteers, guests and staff, took part. While St. Michael's gives various lunches and gifts to their volunteers throughout the year, this is the "one special occasion each year to honour all of the wonderful people who give so much to this institute and its residents and by doing so, benefit the whole community," says Volunteer Coordinator Pat Wilkes.

KARA Family Resource Centre recognized its 65 volunteers with a formal dinner and presentation at the Kingsway Legion. Every year at this time "the staff of KARA takes an evening where it's all about the countless hours, dedication and commitment that our volunteers give to our organization," says Volunteer & Information Coordinator Liz Larsen.

This year the Good Samaritan Society recognized its volunteers with the theme "Volunteers leave footprints of hope ... thank you for crossing our path." Each facility chose its own way to celebrate its volunteers. The Gerald Zetter Care Centre treated its volunteers to a roast beef banquet and awards night. Adding to the festivities were the bright red and yellow decorations and \$200 worth of door prizes donated by the Resident Council.

Youth Encouraged to Attend Vitalize 2007

Alberta's YouthVOLUNTEER will pay Vitalize 2007 conference fees (up to a total value of \$360) for one adult mentor who brings along up to two youths (ages 13-20). The Youth/Mentor Program, which runs concurrently with Vitalize, will offer a fun and energetic conference geared specifically to youth on June 8. Youth ages 18-20 can choose to attend either Vitalize sessions or the Youth/Mentor program. For more information: http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/all_about_us/commissions/wild_rose/youth-mentor/index.asp

The Board Development Program (BDP)

The Board Development Program is offered by the Alberta government and a number of partners. It provides assistance to boards in a number of areas.

Governance. These workshops are based on a curriculum that has been developed, tested and updated over the past 20 years to help boards improve their governance practices. These workshops are delivered by volunteer instructors.

Workshops. Can be customized or generic and cover a variety of issues in six themes: ethical and legal aspects; roles and responsibilities; policy development; the role of committees; board and staff relations; and building a better board. The board leaves the workshop with a number of items that can be worked on over four months to enhance their governance practices.

Consultations. BDP staff offer their expertise, free of charge, to boards and members who are seeking solutions to their board governance challenges. This may lead to more formal involvement with the BDP through workshops, but often individuals are best served by having the staff make appropriate and direct referrals.

The program is delivered by fully trained volunteers. A variety of resource materials, both in print and web-based, are available. BDP is supported through partnerships between Alberta Community Development, the Wild Rose Foundation and Grant MacEwan College.

http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/building_communities/volunteer_community/programs/bdp/index.asp

Alberta Budget Includes New Charitable Giving Incentives

Alberta's tax credit on gifts over \$200 has now increased to 21 per cent from 12.75 per cent. When combined with the federal charitable donations credit, Albertans will receive a 50 cent tax credit for every dollar donated over the \$200 mark. For more information on Alberta's 2007 budget:

www.gov.ab.ca/budget2007/index.cfm?page=1625

City of Edmonton Supports Social Enterprise

The City of Edmonton has established a Social Enterprise Fund. The \$10.5 million endowment fund will finance socially beneficial businesses that might not qualify for bank loans. The city has put \$1.8 million into the fund this year with an additional \$1.8 million a possibility for next year. The city's seed financing will be matched by the Edmonton Community Foundation and the Edmonton Real Estate Board has promised to invest money.

Summaries of Reports

We understand that everybody's time is limited and valuable – so in an attempt to help you get the most out of the numerous research papers/reports that are out there, not only will we make you aware of them through our newsletter and allow you easy access to those sites with direct links, but you'll be able to get a summary of the report or study at the Volunteer Edmonton website under the 'research' tab. Read the summary first and then decide if you want to spend the time necessary to read a 20-page plus report.

www.volunteeredmonton.com/summariesofreports.html

Study on Baby Boomers Offers Insight

A report entitled "Keeping Baby Boomers Volunteering - A Research Brief on Volunteer Retention and Turnover," March 2007, was undertaken by the Corporation for National and Community Service in the U.S. Although this study is American, it offers insights that can be applied to the Canadian context. You can read the report in its entirety at http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/07_0307_boomer_report.pdf or you can check out www.volunteeredmonton.com/summariesofreports.html for our summary of the report.

As always, if you require information please don't hesitate to contact me and I'll do what I can to be of assistance.

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Volunteer Edmonton

Building healthy communities through volunteerism ... one volunteer at a time.

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