

For Immediate Release:  
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## Media Release

### York Central Hospital and its Volunteers are Building Community Together

**Richmond Hill, ON** – As we reflect on National Volunteer Appreciation Week, York Central Hospital would like to extend its thanks to all of our volunteers, without whom we could not deliver the same level of care or services. With our volunteer team comprised of over 1,000 individuals, York Central Hospital is pleased to acknowledge the dedicated men, women and students who have offered their incredible support to our staff, physicians, patients and visitors.

The Volunteer Association of York Central Hospital was founded 49 years ago when local citizens came together to raise funds to build a hospital in their community. Once the hospital opened in 1963, their fundraising efforts continued both on-site and through their community branches; they quickly began to provide wide-ranging volunteer assistance in almost every department and unit across the hospital.

Most recently, as the Town of Richmond Hill wing opened, our volunteers increased their hours of service from 75,000 in 07/08 to 85,000 hours in 2009/10. The Volunteer Association just recently completed its commitment of \$750,000 towards our new Intensive Care Unit and is in the third year of its pledge to raise funds over the next five years for a new surgical suite. The Association has also raised funds for upcoming renovations to our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. From the White Rose Gift Shop to card parties, dances and plant sales, our volunteers have helped to build our hospital and our sense of community.

“At a time when volunteerism is on the decline in my hospitals, York Central Hospital is extremely fortunate to have one of the largest and most vibrant volunteer teams in the province,” said Jo-anne Marr, Acting President and CEO. “I’d like to extend a sincere thank you on behalf of all of our staff and physicians to our volunteers for their dedication to our patients and families, their commitment to our staff and physicians and their incredible support to our community.”

York Central Hospital is proud, and privileged, to celebrate National Volunteer Appreciation Week and the tremendous contributions that volunteers make to our hospital each and every day. Some of the activities include:

- An annual Volunteer Awards luncheon;
- A unique post card campaign sending personal thank you messages in our main lobby;
- The upcoming Student Volunteer Awards;
- Breakfast with the CEO, an opportunity for the hospital to engage volunteers on their feedback about York Central.

For more information, contact:

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**About York Central Hospital**

[www.yorkcentral.on.ca](http://www.yorkcentral.on.ca) - Opened in 1963, York Central Hospital is a large community hospital (472 beds) located in Richmond Hill providing Emergency, Inpatient, Ambulatory, Continuing and Long-Term Care services to a community of over 500,000 residents in Southwest York Region. Last summer the hospital completed Phase One of its major expansion and renovation project, significantly expanding its treatment facilities and inpatient beds. In addition to the services it provides locally, York Central Hospital is the District Stroke Centre for York Region and is home to a number of regional services including: the York Region Chronic Kidney Disease Program, York Region Domestic Assault and Sexual Assault Care Centre, and the York/Simcoe Behaviour Management and Autism Programs.

## Pictures from the Volunteer Awards Luncheon



**Enjoying the Luncheon**



**Celebrating Together**



**Oak Ridges Branch of  
Volunteer Association**



**Volunteers with 30 years of service**



**Volunteers Building Community Together**

# York Central Hospital Volunteers - Building Community Together



**Building Community at the Adult Day Program**



**Building Community at the White Rose Gift Shop**



**Building Community at the HELP Program**



**Building Community at 5 East**



**Building Community at Surgery**



**Building Community at the Info Desk**