



For immediate release: Monday, January 29, 2007

York Central Hospital Volunteer Association Celebrates 45 Years

YCH, Richmond Hill, ON: The Volunteer Association of York Central Hospital will celebrate their 45th anniversary at York Central Hospital (YCH) on Tuesday, January 30, the exact date the association was formed in 1962.

A number of local dignitaries will be on-hand to recognize the valuable contributions made by members of the Volunteer Association over the past 45 years. Special guests include The Honourable Bryon Wilfert, M.P., P.C., Brenda Hogg, Deputy Mayor, Richmond Hill and Bev Hykel, Chair, Region 6, Hospital Auxiliaries Association of Ontario (HAAO). Three founding members who have been with the organization since the inaugural meeting of the then York Central Hospital Auxiliary will also be on-hand to participate in the ceremony.

Generations of Volunteers

"The Volunteer Association has been around longer than the hospital itself. There is so much history and knowledge that some of our volunteers have about Richmond Hill and the surrounding communities. Some of them can clearly remember the farmland on which the hospital was built," says Ruth Cxford, former President of the association from 1980 to 1981. During her long and distinguished career as a hospital volunteer, Ruth has volunteered in many in-service areas including Emergency, Paediatrics, Baby Photography, School Tours, Palliative Care and currently in the Chemotherapy Clinic in addition to being Executive Member of the Pleasantville Branch.

Literally generations of families have lived the spirit of volunteerism through the YCH Volunteer Association over the past 45 years. We have husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, parents and their children and grandparents with their grandchildren, continuing on the tradition of volunteering at YCH. On any given day, alongside the long-time members and the adults, you will also find volunteers as young as 14 years old. YCH has one of the highest number of student volunteers in any hospital in Ontario.

Volunteers Play Many Important Roles

Volunteers provide a variety of services in a number of areas across the hospital in 60 program areas, including sales in the White Rose Gift Shop and running the main hospital information desk, doing clerical work, physiotherapy, cardiac rehabilitation nutrition and pre-op escorting to giving support to patients and their families in the Fracture Clinic, Day Surgery and in the new Hospital Elder Life Program.

The many faces of the Volunteer Association represent a cross-section of the community. No longer are volunteers senior women and stay-at-home moms. Our membership is made up of students, adults and seniors, male and female, representing a variety of cultures, languages, skills and abilities.

Volunteer Association Raises Millions for YCH

In addition to giving their time and energy to the hospital, volunteers also raise funds to support the purchase of new equipment and services. Altogether, the Association has donated over \$4,000,000 to the hospital since 1962. Volunteers have recently given over \$2,000,000 toward the YCH Foundation capital campaign for essential hospital equipment through their fundraising efforts. The Volunteer Association will complete another five-year commitment to YCH this year, keeping their promise to contribute \$750,000 toward the Share the Spirit Campaign in support of YCH's critical care unit.

Strong Community Impact

The YCH volunteer team is currently 700 strong. Since 1996, when we began keeping electronic records, our volunteers have put in over 1,000,000 hours of hard work. Their support directly impacts the patients at YCH and the York Region community at large.

Photo opportunity and recent group portraits are available to media

The ceremony takes place at 10 Trench Street (Main Hospital Site), Atrium, Continuing Care Centre and Rehabilitation building, York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill, ON, on **Tuesday, January 30, 2007 from 3:00 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.**

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