



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 June 20

VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 082-13 re Volunteer Resources be received for information.

Key Points

- Health Unit Volunteers logged 4,747 hours of service from September 2012 to June 2013
- Health Unit staff celebrated Volunteers during National Volunteer Week (April 21-27)
- The Hutton House Access Volunteer Program was recently awarded the June Callwood Community Volunteer Service Award. MLHU partners with Hutton House to provide volunteer opportunities for people with disabilities.

Background

A volunteer is 'a person who performs or offers to perform a service voluntarily, to do charitable or helpful work without pay.' They have a spirit of service, a sensitivity for humanity, strong moral values and a social conscience. For over 36 years, the Health Unit has had the benefit of tapping into people who call themselves volunteers.

Year-End Summary

The last two years have been challenging for the volunteer program. Through evidence-informed practices, the Reproductive Health Team identified more effective and constructive ways of promoting eye health for children and for promoting pre-natal health care. This resulted in the cancellation of the vision screening program ([Board Report 013-11](#)) and pre-natal health fairs (September 2012) and eliminated the need for approximately 50 volunteers in these areas.

Health Unit volunteers still managed to log 4,747 hours of service from September 2012 to June 2013. They worked with the following Teams: Vaccine Preventable Disease, Reproductive Health and Early Years, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, and Environmental Health. One new Community Emergency Response Volunteer (CERV) team of 44 members was brought on in February 2013. The addition of this new team brings the total number of CERV teams to seven, with approximately 100 CERV volunteers.

The Volunteer Development Committee has not been together since the Volunteer Appreciation Reception in May 2012. To show appreciation to Health Unit volunteers this year, a more personal approach was taken. During National Volunteer Week, (April 21 – 27), volunteers were celebrated in various ways and personally thanked by the people who directly work with them. The Health Unit also

placed an advertisement in the London Free Press - Volunteer Supplement and on the newly developed volunteer webpage of the new website, thanking them for their support.

The Health Unit is proud to have a long-standing relationship with Hutton House through their Access Volunteer Program. Volunteers from this program attend the Health Unit every Friday morning to collate thousands of documents for the Vaccine Preventable Disease Team. This year alone, they completed 1,762 hours of service. The Access Volunteer Program was recently awarded the June Callwood Community Volunteer Service Award. Health Unit staff members played a part in the nomination process. Hutton House and the Volunteers should be congratulated on this accomplishment that recognizes individuals and groups for superlative volunteer contributions to their communities and to the Province of Ontario.

Ms. Gayle Riedl, Human Resources Officer, continues to be an active member of the London and Area Association of Volunteer Administration (LAVA) and the Ontario Public Health Volunteer Resource Management Network.

This report was prepared by Ms. Gayle Riedl, Human Resources Officer.

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