



IT'S TIME TO HONOUR OUR HIDDEN HEROES NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 17-23, 2005

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DID YOU KNOW that volunteer participation is the life blood of St. John Ambulance services in the community?

This statement was made by Linda Graff a highly respected international specialist in the field of volunteer management who has worked with St. John Ambulance Canada on the volunteer program management project. It sums up the vital contribution volunteers have made and continue to make to our organization. Volunteers impact virtually every aspect of St. John Ambulance from leadership and governance roles to direct service in the community. However small or large the contribution volunteers make, they do make a difference. SJA's volunteers come from every age group, gender and walk of life, yet they share the common goal to carry out the organization's mission to "to enable Canadians to improve their health, safety and quality of life by providing training and community service."

Volunteerism is an intrinsic part of our Canadian culture - over 6.5 million Canadians annually volunteer for the 180,000 non-profit and charitable organizations in Canada. There is an old saying that it is better to give than to receive. St. John Ambulance volunteers put those words into practice every single day. When one gives of himself or herself as a volunteer, the personal satisfaction and the pride that the volunteer feels is immeasurable.

Celebrate the role of volunteers in our organization. National Volunteer Week is a time to honour our hidden heroes who work selflessly and give of themselves every day. This is our opportunity to thank the many volunteers whose work and compassion add so much to the quality of our lives and to our communities. ***VOLUNTEERS GROW COMMUNITIES*** is the 2005 Volunteer Canada theme. We can all attest to this theme as SJA volunteers deliver services to the community through Patient Care, Therapy Dog Program, First Aid Instructions, Youth Program, Emergency Services, Special Events, etc. **St. John Ambulance volunteers do grow communities.**

National Volunteer Week is a grassroots celebration. During this special week, hundreds of local community agencies and volunteer centres across Canada organize special events. This week is significant because the work of volunteers impacts every aspect of society, including health, education, social services, youth, culture, sports and recreation, the arts and the environment. National Volunteer Week also serves to reinforce the human values that volunteering represents and increases awareness of the vital importance of volunteerism to our communities. Let's pay tribute to all the volunteers who so freely give of their time and energy for the betterment of others.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE