

NEWS RELEASE

Monday, April 22, 2013

Saluting our volunteers during national Volunteer Appreciation Week

The Niagara Health System is thankful for the support of more than 1,180 volunteers across our six sites. Volunteers are an integral component of the caring culture at our hospital. All of our volunteers do their part to create a great experience for our patients and their loved ones.

In 2012, more than 210 new volunteers began their legacy of service at the NHS. Their work is often reflective of the little things that patients deem most important in satisfaction surveys. Volunteers support patients receiving care by providing warm blankets, cool refreshments, a listening ear and a comfortable environment. They provide information and assist with directions.

Volunteering is the foundation upon which many of our hospitals were built. Auxiliaries have been raising funds for capital campaigns and equipment since as far back as 1865.

"The impact volunteers have on our hospitals is evident, they make an incredible contribution to quality care," says Andrea McCollum, Volunteer Resources Coordinator.

To show its appreciation, the NHS is hosting gala celebrations for our volunteers. Members of the media are invited to attend these events.

Greater Niagara General and Douglas Memorial sites -- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Tuesday, April 23, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Legends Golf Course, 9172 Willoughby Drive, Niagara Falls

Port Colborne General and Welland sites -- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Thursday, April 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Italian Hall, 223 Bell Street, Port Colborne

St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake sites -- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon **Tuesday, April 30, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**Parkway Conference Centre, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

"Volunteers at the NHS come from all ages and backgrounds. What they get in exchange for sharing their time and skill is the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others," says Debbie Anderson, Volunteer Resources Coordinator. "There's little more meaningful than leaving a legacy of service."

Visit our website at www.niagarahealth.on.ca for more information about our programs and to apply to join our team.

Media contact: Caroline Bourque Wiley, Manager, Communications, 905-378-4647, ext. 43113; e-mail cwiley@niagarahealth.on.ca