



**MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, April 3, 2014

**NHS salutes volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Week**

The Niagara Health System (NHS) is thankful for the support of the more than 1,150 volunteers across our six sites. Our volunteers make a difference in local healthcare and help our healthcare team provide a great patient experience.

“Daily, volunteers enhance the patient and family experience by providing comfort measures like a warm blanket, a listening ear and a comfortable environment,” says Andrea McCollum, Volunteer Resources Coordinator. “We often hear compliments about the invaluable caring and comfort they provide for people during what can be a stressful time in their lives.”

Volunteers help provide quality patient-centred care in a number of ways. They visit with and comfort patients during challenging times in the patients’ lives. They give information and directions, and assist with a variety of patient programs. Volunteers also fundraise for equipment and capital projects, provide customer service and leadership and work in our gift shops. “Volunteering at the NHS is an opportunity to have a positive impact in the lives of others,” says Debbie Anderson, Volunteer Resources Coordinator. “It’s a chance to leave your mark and be involved in something very meaningful.”

To learn more about the NHS volunteer program, positions and the application process, go to [www.niagarahealth.on.ca](http://www.niagarahealth.on.ca).

Members of the media are invited to attend our volunteer recognition celebration lunches:

Port Colborne General and Welland sites -- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

**Monday, April 7, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Casa Danta Lodge, 34 Lincoln St., Welland

Douglas Memorial and Greater Niagara General sites -- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

**Wednesday, April 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Legends Golf Course, 9172 Willoughby Dr., Chippawa

St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake sites -- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

**Friday, April 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Parkway Conference Center, 327 Ontario St., St. Catharines

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