



## ***From Compassion to Action: National Volunteer Week is April 19-25: This year's theme is a 'perfect fit' for local health care volunteers***

**April 17, 2009 – Kingston** - Every year, over 2000 volunteers walk through the doors of Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston General Hospital, Providence Care and the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation. Their role in our local health care system is invaluable – their contributions enhance the quality of life of patients, residents, clients, staff and families.

This year, the theme of National Volunteer Week (April 19-25) is *Volunteers: From Compassion to Action*. According to the health care staff who work with volunteers at Hotel Dieu, KGH, Providence Care and the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation, the theme couldn't be more appropriate.

"Compassion to Action is a perfect fit," says Janet Hunter, director of volunteer services at Providence Care's St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital and Mental Health Services sites. "Our volunteers give their time because they are committed and caring, and their generosity translates into support for our patients, clients and residents."

"Without volunteers, we would not be able to provide the kind of care that we do," says Jill Holland-Reilly, director of volunteer services at KGH. "Our volunteers are motivated and kind-hearted people who make a valuable contribution to the well-being of patients, staff and visitors."

Each of Kingston's university hospitals and the joint Foundation offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities. For example, at Providence Care, volunteers assist patients, residents and clients on outings, help customers in the gift shops and lend a hand on gardening projects. At KGH, new programs include the Hospital Elder Life Program and Patient Relations Volunteers. At Hotel Dieu, volunteers staff the busy information desk and help in the Children's Outpatient Centre. Volunteers at the Foundation include board members, event sponsors and organizers.

Volunteers range in age from students to retirees, and in backgrounds or expertise as well.

"Our volunteers are a diverse population with equally diverse interests who allow us to offer the very best in patient comforts and care," says Jennifer Sawyer, coordinator of volunteer resources at Hotel Dieu.

"We are so grateful for our dedicated and generous volunteers. They helped build our new joint fundraising organization," says Denise Cumming, executive director of University Hospitals Kingston Foundation. "Their enthusiasm engaged our community and has attracted \$57 million in campaign donations. And volunteers run dozens of highly successful events that support new facilities, equipment, education and medical research."

***The university hospitals of Kingston  
Leading Care. Changing Lives. Together.***

## **2008 Facts and Figures:**

### **Hotel Dieu Hospital**

310 volunteers  
20,000 hours of service

### **Kingston General Hospital**

868 volunteers  
70,000 hours of service

### **Providence Care:**

938 volunteers  
60,000 hours of service

### **University Hospitals Kingston Foundation**

100+ volunteers  
4,000 hours of service

## **In their words:**

Health care volunteers have many reasons for giving their time – here are just a few:

“I’ve considered a career in medicine since elementary school. I wanted to experience a hospital environment and be in the midst of medical staff attending to patients’ needs. A friend told me that Hotel Dieu was a great way to get involved in the Kingston community, and to meet and interact with patients. I wasn’t disappointed!” – David Ademidun, volunteer

“I volunteer at KGH because I get the satisfaction of making a difference for a patient. This is a goal when I get up on the days that I volunteer. If I have made a small change in someone’s life in my day I have achieved my goal for that day. I know I can make a difference in their quality of life.” – Jenny Raymond, special care volunteer

“I volunteer as a Board member because it is a way of showing support for Providence Care and it is a way I can give back to the community. Providence Care’s Mission is to ‘enhance the quality of life for those we serve’ – I think that sums up why so many people, myself included, choose to volunteer.” Doug Hogeboom, volunteer Board Chair, Providence Care Foundation

“I love volunteering for University Hospitals Kingston Foundation. We are rebuilding our hospitals for the next generation and I love being part of this important community work. Volunteering is a great way to be involved in the community and Kingston and area has unlimited opportunities for volunteers.” – Ian Wilson, volunteer campaign chair, *Together We Can*

-30-

Contact:

### **Hotel Dieu Hospital**

Anne Rutherford 613-544-3400, ext.3380

### **Kingston General Hospital**

Karen Smith 613-549-6666, ext.6345

### **Providence Care**

Laura Fitzgerald, 613-548-5567, ext. 5483

### **University Hospitals Kingston Foundation**

John Suart 613-549-5452, ext. 5908