



Media Release

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Summer volunteer program lets teens explore health-care professions

Teenagers who are interested in learning more about health care are encouraged to join the summer volunteer program at Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston General Hospital or Providence Care's St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital site.

In addition to offering a glimpse into various health-care professions, the summer volunteer program offers youth the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills and make a meaningful contribution to their community. After successfully completing the application and interview process, students are expected to volunteer about two days per week throughout the summer.

"In high school you're usually still trying to figure out what you want to be," says Erin Stewart, acting co-ordinator of volunteer resources at Hotel Dieu. "Our summer volunteer program can help answer some questions and provide direction regarding a career in health care."

Youth volunteers, who must be between 14 and 18 years old, help out in various areas of the hospitals and have the opportunity to interact with patients. At Hotel Dieu, for example, volunteers may provide assistance with patient needs in the Children's Outpatient Centre, Brockview Cafe or Day Surgery areas. At KGH, a typical day may include visiting with patients, hosting duties in the Auxiliary Café or working in the Tuck Shop. Providence Care volunteers assist at mealtimes and help escort patients outside and participate in recreational activities.

Students from all three hospitals help organize fundraisers with proceeds benefitting patient programs and equipment. Each site will also host educational sessions open to all the youth volunteers, designed to showcase health-care career options.

The summer volunteers augment the hospitals' existing volunteers that selflessly give their time to enhance patient care, many of whom take a break during summer months.

"The enthusiasm of the students is a wonderful addition to the volunteer team during the summer months," says Janet Hunter, co-ordinator of volunteer

services at Providence Care. “Their assistance is greatly appreciated by both patients and staff, and ensures that programs and services continue throughout the summer.”

Applications are now being accepted. For more information:

- Hotel Dieu - visit www.hoteldieu.com or call 613-544-3400 ext. 2311;
- KGH - visit www.kgh.on.ca or call 613-548-2359;
- Providence Care - visit www.providencecare.ca or call 613-548-7222 ext. 2177.

During the past year, Hotel Dieu’s 201 volunteers have contributed more than 17,870 hours, KGH’s 850 volunteers have contributed more than 60,000 hours and Providence Care’s 801 volunteers have contributed more than 65,000 hours.

Working together, Kingston’s hospitals provide a continuum of specialized health care in this region. Our teaching hospitals offer leading-edge clinical care, pioneering research and outstanding teaching opportunities through their affiliation with Queen’s University. These dynamic partnerships translate into quality patient care for our community.

Leading Care. Changing Lives. Together.



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