

Volunteerism in 2007

Date:	April 4, 2008
To:	Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged
From:	General Manager, Homes for the Aged
Ward:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

In 2007, more than 2,000 volunteers contributed approximately 127,000 hours within the division; such dedication accounts for almost 50 hours of volunteer time per resident. Those hours of service represent thousands of smiles, special moments, and reminders to our residents that their community cares about them.

Volunteers assist residents to maintain an active, independent and high quality of life by augmenting and complementing services provided by staff of the Home through a wide range of volunteer initiatives. Volunteers provide complementary services (tuck shop, bingo), enhance home programs (escorting, dining) and take leadership in fund-raising.

Youth are an important part of the volunteer team; one in four is under the age of 18 years. Community involvement is a high school requirement and volunteering with Toronto Homes for the Aged is a rewarding way to earn community service hours. Youth volunteers are active in all ten homes. Carefree Lodge has a well-established Youth Council and great progress has been made in five additional homes with Youth Council development – Bendale Acres, Cummer Lodge, Kipling Acres, Seven Oaks and True Davidson Acres.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

ISSUE/BACKGROUND

Hours contributed in 2007 have decreased by almost 4 percent from 2006 levels; however, it is important to note that the number of active volunteers has actually increased by 10 percent in the same period.

The reason for the reduction in hours can be attributed to a committed volunteer core coming in less often and contributing fewer hours of monthly service due to personal health, ageing, and family commitments.

Any increase in the number of active volunteers is primarily made up of student and youth involvement where we note steady and positive growth. On average, during school months, students cannot contribute as much time as some of the long-serving daytime volunteers. However, during the summer months, students are more active and we have seen hour contributions increase in July and August over past years when the traditional volunteer corps is away.

COMMENTS

With the support of a part-time Coordinator of Volunteer Services in each Home, volunteers are continually recruited, provided with orientation and training and assigned to provide service within the Home for our residents.

Areas of involvement include delivering programs such as the tuck shop, bingo, pub, one-on-one visiting and volunteers help to enhance many home programs including dining assistance and escorting. Volunteer service includes arts and crafts, chapel liaison, dining enhancement, fundraising, hairdressing, library, musical entertainment, special events, and trip escort.

As this summary indicates, the division continues to be a leader in the voluntary sector:

Volunteer Service 2007	Volunteer Hours	# of Active Volunteers	Hours per Resident	Youth Volunteers
Bendale Acres	14,085	321	46.64	39%
Carefree Lodge	8,523	273	67.11	68%
Castleview Wychwood	25,333	323	55.55	8%
Cummer Lodge	16,764	242	42.87	26%
Fudger House	8,896	82	35.58	2%
Kipling Acres	16,422	155	28.51	15%
Lakeshore Lodge	5,783	110	38.55	26%
Seven Oaks	12,702	200	51.01	38%
True Davidson Acres	11,454	130	61.25	5%
Wesburn Manor	7,037	174	36.65	26%
Divisional Total	126,999	2,010	48.55	25%

In 2007, these dedicated and caring individuals provided direct and invaluable contact and support to the residents in Toronto's ten long-term care homes.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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