



Volunteer Newsletter

WHAT WE
HAVE
DONE FOR
OURSELVES
ALONE
DIES WITH
US.



WHAT WE
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OTHERS
AND THE
WORLD,
REMAINS
AND IS
IMMORTAL

Recognizing our Volunteers

National Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and presenting our sincere gratitude to our volunteers for their generous contribution to the children and families in their communities. This week serves to highlight that, by working together, we have the ability to meet our challenges and successfully reach our goals.

In 2013, our wonderful team of 180 volunteers contributed a remarkable total of 32,472 volunteer hours.

During National Volunteer Week, we will be celebrating you, our wonderful volunteers, for your dedication to helping others. As Helen Keller so wisely said: *“How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world.”* and that is what you do every time you volunteer.

As part of this week of recognition, we are sending you by mail a small gift as a token of our appreciation. We invite you to read on to learn more about some of our volunteers and their contribution to The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa and the children and families that we serve.



Tutor/Mentor Program

Did you know that in 2013, our volunteer tutors/mentors contributed over 5,893 hours to helping our children and youth! Volunteer Services assigned 94 of the 108 tutor/mentor requests received from staff. We are thankful to have 77 tutors/mentors in this Program. We offer a warm welcome to the following new tutors/mentors: Abdullah, Sarah, Jenna, Jennifer, Chantal, Keerti, Mohamed, Nicolas, Talia, Brookelyn, Maggie, Stacey, Nicole, Alexandra, Kyle, Cathy and Katherine.

Mentors, Patrick, Xavier, Virginia and Cheryl have been supporting youths in a Career Planning Workshop to assist them with applications for postsecondary education.

Thanks to their support:

- Two youths were accepted into ALL the College programs they applied for.
- Many youth are repeat users, so "customer satisfaction" must be high!
- Two youth who were assisted to complete OACAS scholarship applications were selected to have their submissions sent forward in the process!
- A mentor with First Nation heritage has been able to positively connect with some of our First Nation, Inuit and Metis youth.

France Julien

“As a tutor, the moment the foster family tells you that the student is now getting good grades makes you feel really good, because working with a student doesn't guarantee better marks in the exams. However, the moment that really touched me was when I realized the student has started to like working on the subject she was struggling at before, and was eager to work with me on the subject even if she didn't have homework that were due. As a mentor, the moment a child starts talking to me about personal matters really touched me because it meant I gained their trust.”

High Fives to all of you!!!

A *special thank you* to our tutor/mentor leads Paul and Elyse for their continued and on-going support to the tutors/mentors as well as their monthly training series.

Drive Program

Ray Doxtater

I am proud of all the moments, when children recognize me as their driver and are happy to see me. I look forward to providing these children with drives to and from their visits and drives to and from school when required. I enjoy being a CAS team member. Being a volunteer driver is very rewarding and I cannot think of anything else I would rather do.

In 2013, our volunteer drivers completed an average of 50 drives per day totaling over 20,600 hours and 838,000 km of travelling. The Drive Clerks processed a total of 5,535 requests.

We currently have 33 drivers, including six who joined the team since October 2013. We offer a warm welcome to Caz, Stan, Patrick, Kimberly, Suren and Ken!

We are actively recruiting for the Drive Program. If you know of anyone suitable for this assignment please refer them to Volunteer Services.

Patrick Attwell

"I am very proud when I am waiting in the volunteer area and a child comes in for a visit and comes over to me and we get involved with some sort of short term activity as they wait to go to their visit. It is especially rewarding when I have numerous children involved and they meet each other socially and forget about their troubles for a while. It makes them feel more welcome and for myself, it gives me the satisfaction that I had made a happy difference in a child's day," said Patrick Attwell, a volunteer driver and mentor since January 2013.

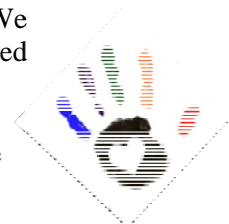
Susan McCarthy

"I believe that we as adults make the most impact on children under the age of 5 and they are learning how to deal with life by following our lead. If we can give them the right examples to follow, which I believe is happening with these children while they are at the daycare, they will learn strong skills in how to cope with challenges that come up in their lives. Personally it makes me feel good if I can help with this in any way."

Infant Stimulation & Preschool Programs

In January 2014, the Headstart Program moved to the Pineview Child Care Centre and the Infant Stimulation Program moved to Pincrest-Queensway Community Health Centre. We thank all the volunteers in these two Programs for their flexibility and continued support.

We are actively recruiting for the Headstart Program. If you know of anyone suitable for this assignment please refer them to Volunteer Services.



Patricia Cocker

"I have been a volunteer with the Infant Stimulation program since February 2007. This role has given me a great deal of satisfaction over the past 7 years. There are a number of moments that have made me proud. For instance: A few years ago, one mother started the program with a bit of an attitude at the beginning. One morning, near the end of her time with us, at break time, she came over with her son, plopped him on my lap and said to him, "Here is your second grandmother". She had obviously overcome her issues and had over time, formed a bond with me." I enjoy working with the parents and their infants and only hope that we can make a positive difference in their lives.

Special Assignments - Social History

David Gibb

"CAS has offered me many opportunities to learn more about child welfare, and each new volunteer assignment increased my value to CAS. Supervisors recognized a willing volunteer who didn't need a lot of training or supervision," said Dave Gibb, who joined CAS as a volunteer in 1999 after retiring from 35 years in education.

"After leaving the Ottawa Board of Education, I think I was looking for another organization that I could be a part of. I have been with CAS for fifteen years, and I have the feeling that I am a part of the organization. I have enjoyed freeing staff from some of the necessary paperwork involved in their job, and freeing staff and foster parents from having to drive children to access visits or to and from school. I would be dishonest if I didn't say that I have enjoyed being appreciated for what I have done and am currently doing. Personal satisfaction in doing something for others seems to be my motivation. Receiving deserved appreciation provides some of the satisfaction, and using my talents and developing them further is also part of the reward."

David has completed more than

~ 740 ~

social histories and counting...

His objective is to complete 1000 social histories...

Less than 260 to go....

Thank you so much David!

March Break

March Break Camp Program

Thanks to the support of our Foundation, the Volunteer Services Camp Office was able to send 71 children and youth to attend a March Break Day Camp. From horseback riding to arts and sports, these children were able to learn new skills, develop their self-esteem and make new friends. We are now gearing up for a busy summer season where we expect to process approximately 400 camp applications for both children living in their families of origin and living in care.

Family Visitation Program

The Program has undergone significant changes in 2014. We thank all the volunteers in this program for their patience with the transition to group access. We are pleased to add three new off-site locations to this Program which include the Boys and Girls Club on Dumaurier Avenue, the Bethany Hope Centre and Vanier Community Services Centre. The new Program Facilitator, Renée Campbell, is always available if you have any questions or concerns. She can be reached at 613-747-7800 ext: 2747.

As of March 2014, 20 volunteers are supporting the group facilitators during family visits. Training for this Program is currently aimed for spring 2014. A notice will be sent to volunteers when the dates are confirmed.

Steven Parker

“The relationships you form with the kids, on a day-to-day basis, that is the most rewarding and reassures me that I am proud of the volunteer work being done.”

My volunteer work with C.A.S. has had a big impact on me personally. What started out as an opportunity for professional development has turned into a remarkable experience which I genuinely look forward to each and every week. The Children’s Aid Society has allowed me to grow professionally, but also given me the opportunity to discover more about myself as well as the realities that children and families live with in my own community. Even more importantly, I believe that the work we do is having a meaningful impact on the children and youth in ensuring that they are healthy, happy, and safe.”

*To all of you,
our wonderful volunteers...*



KEEP CALM
and
VOLUNTEER

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