

Volunteer



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voice

Volunteerism at the MS Society of Canada, Alberta Division & Edmonton Chapter

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Virtual Volunteering...Lending a Hand through the World Wide Web!

To put it in layman's terms, virtual volunteering means volunteer tasks completed via the Internet and a home/work computer. You may have also heard others refer to it as online volunteering, teletutoring, and the list goes on. Virtual volunteering allows individuals with time restrictions to still be able to help out! It gives companies more flexibility to broaden the scope of their current volunteer programs as well as increase the social network within the organization."

Virtual volunteering is a great way to reach individuals who access the majority of their information and updates on the web – internet discussion groups are a great example of this. As well, potential volunteers who wouldn't call for information or sign on to volunteer via phone might be more likely to do so should an online alternative become available.

Who is virtually volunteering?

More than 150 online volunteers have given feedback on this project, ranging in age from 14 to 75. Most were between the ages of 18 and 50, with other agencies reporting that most of their online volunteers are in their 20s and 30s.

Does this mean face-to-face volunteering is become

less prevalent?? Absolutely not! Virtual volunteering simply allows more adaptability in terms of the way that tasks can be handled. In fact, many online volunteers mix their cyber service with face-to-face service at the same agency.

There are many great reasons to recruit and involve volunteers via online technologies. Replacing face-to-face volunteers, however, is not one of them.

Volunteers Wanted!

We are currently recruiting Friendly Visitors to spend time with MS patients living in long term care. We are looking for **engaging** and **dynamic individuals** who want to make a big difference in someone's life. Visitors should be able to give approximately 1 hour per week and be prepared for **a lot of fun!** Contact Volunteer Resources at 780-463-1190 to get more information and become a Friendly Visitor.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011-2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mark Your Calendars!

- Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2011 **MS Connections Conference**
- October 5, 2011 **Spanish Wine Festival**
- October 22, 2011 **MS Wine Gala & Live Auction**
- November 17, 2011 **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**
- Dec 26-January 2, 2012 **Office Closed for Holidays**

May is MS Awareness Month

- April 29, 2012 **St. Albert Enerflex MS Walk**
- 1st Week of April, 2012 **Edmonton Enerflex MS Walk
Volunteer Orientation**
- May 6, 2012 **Edmonton Enerflex MS Walk,
Sir Winston Churchill Square**
- 1st week of June, 2012 **RONA MS Bike Tour – Leduc
to Camrose Orientation**
- June 9 & 10, 2012 **RONA MS Bike Tour – Leduc
to Camrose**

You Are Invited!
Volunteer Appreciation Evening
**"VOLUNTEERS
ROCK!"**

Thursday, November 17, 2011
Old Timer's Cabin (9430 Scona Road)
Supper: 6:30 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.
RSVP to Breanne Coffill
by phone - (780) 463-1190 or
by e-mail abvolunteers@mssociety
by November 3, 2011.



Please join us to celebrate the many ways YOU make a BIG difference! Your hard work, dedication and talents are greatly appreciated by the MS Society and we would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank-you!"

2011 Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards!!!

★ This awards ceremony honors individuals ★ who serve as role models in the community and take pride in donating their time to help out others. At this annual event, six awards will be presented – 2 in each category of youth, adult and senior.

To submit a nomination and view the criteria for doing so, or for more information please visit: <http://www.culture.alberta.ca/voluntarysector/stars/>

THANK YOU EVENT VOLUNTEERS



**THANK-YOU TO ALL
THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO HELPED OUT...**

**...AT EACH AND
EVERY ONE OF OUR
EVENTS THIS YEAR!**



CHRYSALIS VOLUNTEERS

Chris and Meranda are members of Chrysalis, an organization that serves adults with disabilities. Chrysalis provides people with many opportunities, such as finding employment, developing life skills, and discovering volunteer opportunities, which is how we were fortunate enough to end up with Chris and Meranda at our office!

“Whether it’s putting together packages for Walkers and Cyclists to folding t-shirts, they give 100% no matter what!”

Since joining the MS Society of Canada volunteer team in 2009, Chris and Meranda have been a vital part of our event season! They are amazing volunteers that always get the job done. “We like coming here” says Chris. Every Friday the Chrysalis team comes to the society to help out with the preparation of our events and the little things needed around the office. With our event season so busy it allows us to constantly keep both Chris and Meranda engaged in every task we provide for them. Whether it’s putting together packages for Walkers and Cyclists to folding t-shirts, they give 100% no matter what! The MS Society of Canada attempts to make any volunteer experience as enjoyable as possible so in order to make the most of Chris and Meranda’s day, we ensure they have a radio to dance and sing along to as they assist us in the journey to endMS. Thanks Chris and Meranda!



THANK YOU
KIDS KAMP
VOLUNTEERS!

