

Date

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Volunteers do make a difference

The Four Counties site of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) took an evening to formally acknowledge the contributions volunteers make at the hospital.

At the MHA, volunteers are an integral part of the daily routine of the hospital. It is interesting to note that at the Four Counties site in Newbury, approximately 60 people volunteered a total of almost 4,800 hours last year, carrying out various duties.

At Four Counties, many departments utilize volunteers, with the biggest demands being in the Rehabilitation Department, the Adult Day Program, and the Auxiliary Gift Shop and Book Store. According to MHA volunteer co-ordinator Judy Peters, volunteers provide an invaluable service to hospital. "The volunteers are an important part of the hospital," said Peters. "They are able to do many tasks that assist the staff to provide the best care possible. For those volunteering in the rehab department, they assist the therapists by portering the patients to the gym and assisting them with their exercise under the direction and supervision of the therapists. The volunteers in the Adult Day Program assist the staff by serving refreshments/ lunch and by helping with the various activities such as foot care, manicures, games, crafts, and bus trips.

Cathy Smith has volunteered for the past six years in both the Rehabilitation Department and the Adult Day Program. She started volunteering for just a half day in the Rehab Department, but was then asked to help with the Adult Day Program. Now she volunteers on Wednesday and Thursday for about five hours each day. "My mother was a volunteer here, so I'm following in her footsteps," said Smith. "It is very rewarding to know you are helping out." While she was volunteering at the Adult Day Program, Smith explains that her mother became ill and needed care at home. "It is interesting that my experience with people at the Adult Day program helped me to better help my mother," said Smith. "I'm not sure if things would have been different if I hadn't been a volunteer."

Other areas that utilize volunteers at Four Counties include: the Diabetic Education Department, gift shop, book store, emergency department, health records and nutrition/ food services.

Volunteers are always needed.

For more information about how to get involved at the Four Counties hospital, contact Judy Peters at 519-693-7111, ext. 2467, or via email: judy.peters@mha.tvh.ca.

For more information contact:

Michael Mazzucco
Chief Executive Officer
519 245-5295 ext. 5592