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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL ALLIANCE (MHA) CELEBRATES ITS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Many faces, many caring jobs and many caring souls – these are the MHA Volunteers. This year's theme for volunteer recognition is *"volunteers - the root of a strong community"*.

There are 147 active volunteers who generously give of their time, skill, energy and kindness to patients, families and staff of the MHA. This past year, volunteers of the MHA contributed a combined total of 16,862 hours to the two sites. Volunteers, from students to seniors, all have unique skills that contribute to the positive atmosphere at MHA. Volunteers work in almost every department throughout the two sites.

"Our volunteers are often the first contact for our patients when they arrive at our hospitals", stated Dawn Butler MHA Board Chair. "It is very comforting to be greeted with a smile and a helping hand."

"Volunteers are the roots of a strong community," said Todd Stepanuik, MHA President & CEO. "We are truly blessed to have 147 volunteers who so willingly share their gifts and diverse talents to help us better serve our patients. The volunteers' nurturing spirit, co-operation and hard work are invaluable contributors. Each day, volunteers help foster a community of support for our patients, staff, physicians and visitors," added Stepanuik.

Simply put, "Just like roots are essential for trees to bloom, volunteers are essential for communities to boom," says Meg Sattin, MHA Volunteer Coordinator.

On Wednesday, April 13th at the SMGH site and Thursday, April 14th at the FCHS site, the organization hosted the annual volunteer appreciation dinner to recognize the contributions of the volunteers.

If you are interested in joining the ever expanding volunteer team at either the SMGH site or the FCHS site please contact: Meg Sattin, MHA Recruitment Officer, 519-245-5295, Ext. 5595 or email margaret.sattin@mha.tvh.ca.

About MHA:

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is comprised of two fully-accredited partner sites: Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

A progressive, team-oriented and technologically adept organization of excellence, the MHA is creating a more integrated and seamless approach to treatment by embracing and seeking out partnerships, through collaboration and investing in people. This coordinated approach helps to ensure that a high level of service is provided while reducing costs and continually enhancing quality.

Providing core acute primary and secondary hospital care, the MHA has also been recognized for establishing two notable Centres of Achievement (Orthopaedics and Diabetes Education Centre) that generate local and regional referrals.