

News Release

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Bluewater Health Celebrates 40,000 Volunteer Hours

Volunteers Needed in Sarnia and Petrolia

SARNIA & PETROLIA – April 1, 2019 – Bluewater Health’s more than 500 volunteers are a vital part of the hospital team and play an integral role in supporting care and service. Their contributions range from greeting and wayfinding to assisting patients and staff, supporting our foundations and auxiliaries as well as serving as Patient Experience Partners and on Bluewater Health’s Board of Directors.

On Tuesday, April 2, Bluewater Health will hold its annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration to honour its volunteers’ outstanding support for the hospitals. The event leads up to National Volunteer Week, April 7 to 13, a time to pay special tribute to Canadian volunteers who take action to improve the well-being of others.

“Volunteers provide more than 40,000 hours of dedicated service in our two hospitals every year,” says Lisa Hendra-Pavey, Manager, Volunteer Resources. “They touch lives and lift spirits while helping our staff, physicians, patients, families and visitors through their caring smiles, kind words and helpful hands. Every day, volunteers contribute to the betterment of this community with passion, energy, dedication, caring ways and above all else, focus on supporting our patients and families.”

In addition to the appreciation extended to all volunteers during Volunteer Week, volunteers with service milestones are invited to attend Bluewater Health’s annual recognition banquet on April 16. This year, the longest-serving volunteers have 30 years of service: Bev Clark and Marilyn Smith (CEEH Auxiliary), Dianne O’Keefe and Cheri Paisley (Children’s Auxiliary), Donna Smalls (Patient Registration) and Fern Telfer-Tice (Pre-Admission Clinic).

“We place great value on our volunteers’ time, energy, skills and talents,” said Mike Lapaine, President and CEO. “We are fortunate to have the support of so many caring, selfless people, who give so much of themselves to Bluewater Health and our commitment to quality patient and family care.”

Each year, Bluewater Health also nominates six volunteers for an Ontario Volunteer Service Award through the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade. This year, the following volunteers will receive awards at a ceremony in Sarnia in April: Robert Bryan, Lynda Chapple, Sharon Dearing, Ken Hill, Vivian Wellington and Christa Woods.

Volunteer Positions

Volunteer Resources is recruiting volunteers to augment existing roles. In particular, the hospitals are seeking those available evenings and weekends.

Specifically, the roles involve meal assistance, Guest Services, the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) and Friendly Visitors, Emergency Department, Welcome Desk and Auxiliaries. Bluewater Health is also seeking additional Patient Experience Partners.

Assistance at Mealtime

Volunteers provide assistance by delivering meal trays, opening containers and encouraging food and beverage intake.

Patient Experience Partners Give a Voice for Positive Change

Patient Experience Partners work with Bluewater Health to influence policies and practices, to redesign care and to educate people about what really creates an exemplary healthcare experience.

Auxiliaries Provide Support

Two Auxiliaries provide financial support to Bluewater Health's two hospitals. The Bluewater Health Children's Auxiliary organizes fundraising activities to benefit the Maternal/Infant/Child program. The Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital Auxiliary organizes fundraising activities and provides in-service care programs for patients at CEEH of Bluewater Health.

Students Give – and Gain

Student volunteering provides the opportunity to explore new career options and gain experience in a healthcare environment, while helping others and giving back to the community. To participate in the student program volunteers must be at least 16 years of age.

For more information on turning passion for volunteering into actions that make an impact visit Bluewater Health's website at www.bluewaterhealth.ca or contact Volunteer Resources at 519-464-4400 Ext. 5406.

Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health's Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.* For more information about Bluewater Health, visit www.bluewaterhealth.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

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For additional information or to arrange an interview with a volunteer:

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