



# News Release

[www.bluewaterhealth.ca](http://www.bluewaterhealth.ca)

## Bluewater Health Celebrates, Seeks Volunteers

**SARNIA & PETROLIA – April 16, 2018** – 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 Friday, April 20, Bluewater Health will hold its annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration to honour its volunteers’ outstanding support for the hospitals. The event coincides with National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, a time to pay special tribute to Canadian volunteers who take action to improve the well-being of others.

“Volunteers provide over 45,000 hours of dedicated service in our two hospitals every year,” says Lisa Hendra-Pavey, Manager, Volunteer Resources. “Through their caring smiles, kind words and helpful hands, our volunteers touch lives and lift spirits while helping our staff, physicians, patients, families and visitors. They are passionate, energetic, dedicated, caring and above all else, focused on supporting our patients and families. Every day, volunteers contribute to the betterment of this organization.”

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

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 26. This year, the longest-serving volunteer is Jean Paisley, a member of the Children’s Auxiliary and supportive care volunteer with 60 years of service.

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 received awards at a ceremony on April 9 at the Dante Club: Greg Bond, Patricia Davis, Roslyn Giles, Ben Jacobs, Laura Nicholls and Jo-Ann Rowe.

### **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 Mealtimes**

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](http://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](http://www.bluewaterhealth.ca) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

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