

National Volunteer Week

APRIL 7-13, 2019

Thank you Peel CAS volunteers!

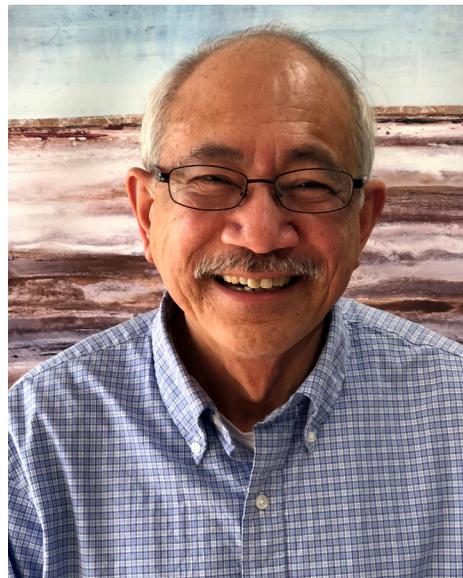
National Volunteer Week (NWW) is a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 12.7 million volunteers. This year's theme is The Volunteer Factor – Lifting Communities. "Peel CAS volunteers turn compassion for a cause and community service into action," says Carol-Ann Fox, Volunteer Coordinator, Peel CAS. "This week is a chance to celebrate and recognize the exponential impact of our volunteers and how they support our children and families," says Carol-Ann.

At Peel CAS, volunteers are an integral part of services we provide to the children and families in our community. Volunteers enhance the efforts of our staff through their support as tutors, mentors, drivers, parent aides, supervised access facilitation, childcare, community educators, administration and distribution of clothing. Volunteers provide nurturing, genuine care and they enrich the lives of our children and families through the generous contribution of their time, talents and skills.

On April 11, 2019, Peel CAS will celebrate our 38th Annual Volunteer Recognition Event where we honour and thank our volunteers!

Did you know? In 2018/19;

- More than 130 direct service volunteers contributed over 35,000 hours of service and helped provide service to over 10,000 families
- Volunteer drivers drove children over 1,046,283 km
- Volunteer board members ensured appropriate governance of our performance as a child protection agency
- Volunteers supported children, families and independent teens through our Holiday Wishes Program



Arsenio – Driver

Our family believes in giving back because we were so openly welcomed when we immigrated to Canada from the Philippines. When my sons were young, they both volunteered – one in church and one as a tutor. I realized that I should also be doing some volunteer work to give back to my community. When I saw the ad in the paper that volunteer drivers were needed I thought it might be my opportunity to share my time with those in need.

Being a volunteer gives me a feeling of fulfilment. My favourite part is listening and talking to children and youth and I have learned a lot from them. Eighteen years ago I made the commitment to volunteering and I have never looked back. The longer I drive, the deeper my commitment to these children has become. You have to be patient, compassionate and have some flexibility in your schedule, but I truly love working as a volunteer driver for Peel Children's Aid. I am grateful that I am able to give some of my time to others who may need help.



Joel – Mentor

I started to volunteer for Peel CAS because of what I had seen growing up. My parents were long time foster caregivers who opened their home and hearts to children. Their active engagement exposed me to the needs in my community at a young age. Now as an adult, I feel I have a responsibility to give back.

Volunteering as a mentor with Peel CAS is a great fit as I look forward to graduating in June with my undergraduate degree and then pursuing a master's degree in social work. I am extremely proud when my mentee applies my advice and I can see that it is helping. I recall working with one student, who was struggling with his grades. Together we worked on creating a plan and I helped him to write things down and provided some tips on how to get organized. I encouraged him to ask his teachers for help when needed. It was amazing to see that our work together made school cool to him. I never had a brother growing up and he is like a younger brother to me.



Lucinda – Supervised access

I have been a volunteer with Peel CAS for close to 20 years. As a young parent, both of my children were involved in organized sports. I witnessed the dedication and commitment of the people involved who offered their time and talents without compensation and this inspired me to give some of my time to others.

Volunteering is an opportunity to give back to my community. It has simply become a way of life for me. As a volunteer in the supervised access program, I help to facilitate visits between parents and children in a neutral setting. Sometimes I get to interact with children and their families, which is rewarding. I truly love having the opportunity to see the changes that can occur when people get together to make a difference in the lives of others.



For more information, contact Peel CAS at 905.363.6131 or visit

www.peelcas.org