

# VOLUNTEERS are a part of Peel Children's Aid

## Passion. Action. Impact.

Volunteers at Peel Children's Aid are community members, parents, teachers, and retirees, who choose to share their lives with vulnerable children and youth. They come from many different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, are from all age groups and are single or married/partnered, male or female.

Every year, volunteers at our agency support children, youth and families. Volunteers have a wide range of skills. Some offer skills that can be used in working directly with children and youth, others offer their expertise to provide leadership and guidance as members of our Board of Directors working with the administrators of the agency.

Overall, there are more than 5,000 Ontarians who support children, youth and families by volunteering for Children's Aid Societies. At Peel we had more than 500 volunteers who gave more than 34,000 hours of support during the 2009-10 year.

Peel Children's Aid (2009-10)	Ontario
More than 500 volunteers	5,751 volunteers provided services to 39 agencies
34,000 hours of service provided by volunteers	21,724 hours of service (equivalent of 3,103 days at 7 hrs a day) provided by volunteers
1,074,867 km driven in Peel by volunteers	27,164,073 km driven by volunteers

Source: OACAS, 2009 HR Survey.



## How you can help

Peel Children's Aid always welcomes new volunteers. There is never a shortage of opportunities for interested community members to participate in improving the lives of children and youth. Their valuable contributions enable us to provide enriched services to children, youth and their families.

Volunteers offer a great deal of personal experience and knowledge that is invaluable to our agency.

Volunteers work alongside staff and foster parents, bringing their skills, energy and commitment to protect children. All volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, be screened which includes passing a vulnerable sector check and signing an Oath of Confidentiality.

Some of the volunteer opportunities available at Peel Children's Aid include:


**Drivers** – Volunteer drivers transport children to school, family visits, therapy and medical appointments. We especially need volunteers who are available weekdays during business hours.

**Special Friend to a parent or child** – 'Special friend' volunteers provide support, positive role modeling, encouragement and guidance to a parent or child by spending time with them and sharing their experiences.

**Mentors** – Mentors can support a youth in care by offering to help to work on things such as independence and life skills.

Why do I volunteer with Peel Children's Aid? What better way is there to spend your time than hanging out with youth who want nothing more than to have someone to talk to, to trust, to listen? In the process I am learning too – learning how to increase their self esteem, boost their confidence and have fun at the same time. The very first afternoon I spent with these boys I wasn't even sure what they would like to do so I took them swimming. The youngest one looked at me and said "you mean I get to do this every week?" It was so awesome because something so simple meant so much to him. For the first time I feel like I'm really making a difference in someone else's life. So that's why I volunteer as a mentor – I'm improving their lives and they're improving mine.

**We are currently in need of male mentors or special friends to volunteer their time with tween and teen boys.** To find out more or to attend a session to learn about volunteer opportunities, training and the application process, go to [www.peelcas.org](http://www.peelcas.org) or [www.useyourvoice.ca](http://www.useyourvoice.ca).

PEEL CHILDREN'S AID   
[www.peelcas.org](http://www.peelcas.org)

