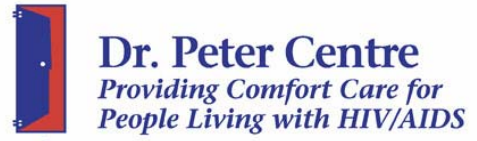


NEWS RELEASE

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Dr. Peter Centre Recognizes 100+ Volunteers that Dedicate Over 4,500 Hours to People Living with HIV/AIDS National Volunteer Week, April 15 to 21

Vancouver, BC – This week Canadians salute volunteers who give of themselves to better their communities during National Volunteer Week, April 15 to 21. Here in Vancouver the Dr. Peter Centre pays special tribute to the over 100 volunteers who donate in excess of 4,500 hours annually to people living with HIV/AIDS.

As the only health care facility of its kind in Canada, Dr. Peter Centre volunteers are essential support for the Day Health Program and the 24-Hour Care Residence. “I’m continually amazed at the number of talented people that want to give their time to the Centre,” states Dr. Peter Centre’s Coordinator of Volunteer Services, Carolyn Ryan. “We have over 100 volunteers that range in age from 19 to mid-70’s. They each bring compassion and companionship to our participants, and a great deal of experience to our organization.”

Ryan goes on to say, “Given the complex health care and special needs of Dr. Peter Centre participants, we conduct extensive volunteer screening to match volunteer skills with program needs. Then volunteers attend an intensive two-day training and orientation program before starting to work at the Centre. We ask volunteers for a minimum six months commitment. It is important to offer the participants and the staff continuity and we are honored to say that some have been volunteering here for years.”

Like Don, an entrepreneur who volunteers in the Cafe Wednesday mornings, serving breakfast with Dr. Peter Jepson-Young’s mom Shirley. Don feels strongly that he wants to give something back to the people in his community. And, Brad, a med-student who volunteers on Fridays. He plays cards, dominos and bingo with Day Health Program participants. He takes each opportunity to interact and to listen. Brads sees his volunteer experience is a significant way to help those living less fortunate lives. And then there are the very long serving ‘*flower ladies*’, Margaret and Celene, who for seven years now, arrive each Tuesday armed with flowers to thoughtfully place in all 24 residence rooms, the participants living room and reception areas. Often called “Grandma”, Margaret and Celene have developed strong friendships with many of Centre’s over 300 participants and are an important part of the home like model of care.

In addition, volunteers specializing in the arts conduct music and pottery workshops while professional volunteers offer alternative therapies including massage and chiropractics.

“Volunteers have a considerable impact on the Dr. Peter Centre,” states Executive Director Maxine Davis. “The support and dedication they bring to the daily lives of people living with HIV/AIDS, is especially valuable to us as a non-profit organization, we simply don’t have the resources to operate without our volunteers. It truly takes a caring community, and we salute these extraordinary people for donating their time and efforts to people with HIV/AIDS.”

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Dr. Peter Centre is the only HIV/AIDS day health program and 24-hour care residence in BC. It offers care and support to improve the overall health and quality of life of people most in need. The Centre’s innovative programs rely on both donor and government funding to serve the growing need for HIV/AIDS care in our communities.

PHOTO AVAILABLE

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