

April 22, 2013

RVH honours its 'Blue Brigade'

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) will celebrate its remarkable volunteers, also known as the 'Blue Brigade', during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 21 to 27.

During this week, more than 13.3 million volunteers across the country are saluted for giving back to their community so selflessly every day. At RVH we have much to celebrate. The health centre has one of the largest health centre volunteer forces in the country. Everyday RVH's 900 volunteers, in their signature blue vests, provide an extra set of helping hands in more than 75 areas of the hospital, providing more than 100,000 hours of assistance every year. From guiding patients and visitors throughout the facility, to assisting with paperwork; from serving coffee at the Auxiliary-operated Café Royale, to manning the counter at Victoria's Gift Shop, the contribution by the RVH volunteer force is immeasurable.

Now, with the completion of the Phase 1 Expansion project last May, which included the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre, and the opening of new departments like the Emergency Extended Care Unit, even more volunteers are needed at RVH.

"Our volunteers have been the heart and soul of RVH since our earliest beginnings in 1891 when a group of women recognized the need for a community hospital and set about to raise the funds necessary," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "That same spirit was alive and well over 100 years later when our volunteers kicked off RVH's 'I Believe' Capital Campaign for the Phase 1 Expansion with a staggering \$5 million pledge, which they fulfilled two years early. And it continues today as they work tirelessly to meet their most recent pledge of \$1.5 million to the new Cardiac Care Unit (CCU). Their commitment to RVH is boundless."

The men and women who sit on the RVH Board of Directors and the RVH Foundation Board of Directors are also volunteers who invest countless hours in governing the health centre and as such they will be recognized this week as well.

RVH will honour the volunteers at a special luncheon on April 24 at the Army Navy Air Force Club from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering at RVH and are 16 years of age or older, please call 705-739-5650.

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For more Information:

Suzanne Legue
Chief Communications Officer
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

Kimberly Wright
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41618