



Halton Healthcare

# NEWS RELEASE

from Halton Healthcare Services

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**For Immediate Release**

## **‘A Work of Heart’ – Halton Healthcare honours volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Week**

**(Halton Hills/Milton/Oakville, ON) April 14, 2015** – Halton Healthcare is celebrating 2015 National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 12 – 18) by thanking the more than 1,100 volunteers at its three hospitals and other clinics.

“National Volunteer Appreciation Week is a time to celebrate and recognize the hard work and dedication that our volunteers demonstrate every day in our hospitals,” said Denise Hardenne, President & CEO, Halton Healthcare. “We would like to extend a huge ‘Thank You!’ to our volunteers for all their generous service and fundraising contributions.”

Several events are being held to honour volunteers who assist Halton Healthcare in many different capacities – directing visitors, assisting at the bedside, preparing materials behind the scenes, running gift shops and other fundraising ventures – for dozens of programs.

“We are very fortunate that so many volunteers share their gift of time and talent with us to help improve the patient experience at our Georgetown, Milton, and Oakville Hospitals,” said Sharon Norris, Vice President, Human Resources Planning and Organizational Development. “This year’s theme, ‘Volunteers – A Work of Heart,’ describes perfectly the contribution the volunteers make. They truly are the heart of our organization.”

### **SMILE Program**

Volunteers play a key role in Halton Healthcare’s innovative SMILE program on the Medicine 4-Centre unit at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Created by a small group of healthcare professionals with backgrounds in nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, the SMILE program relies on volunteers to visit and engage patients who are at risk of delirium and functional decline by spending time with them doing mentally- and physically-stimulating activities. Halton Healthcare hopes to expand the SMILE program to Milton and Georgetown in the near future.

To watch a video about the SMILE program, click [here](#).

### **Volunteer Facts**

- Oakville has 825 adult, student and youth volunteers supporting 70 services
- Milton has 288 adult, student and youth volunteers supporting more than 30 services
- Georgetown has 181 adult, student and youth volunteers supporting more than 20 services.

## **Volunteer Fundraising**

In addition to the hundreds of hours volunteers contribute to our hospitals every day, our volunteers raise funds throughout the year from their gift shops, vendor programs, HELPP Lottery, Bingo, 50/50 draws, and special events.

- The Oakville Hospital Volunteer Association is half-way through their 10-year, \$3 million commitment for NOH.
- The Milton District Hospital Auxiliary donated \$43,000 to the Milton District Hospital Foundation.
- The Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association is in the final year of their \$250,000 pledge towards the Georgetown Hospital expansion.

“We couldn't have done so much this year without the kindness and generosity of this extraordinary group of people,” added Ms Norris. “Our Volunteers’ unique gifts continue to enhance the care of our patients, families and visitors, as integral members of our healthcare team.”

For more information on Volunteer Appreciation Week activities at Halton Healthcare, visit: [haltonhealthcare.on.ca/become-a-volunteer/volunteer-appreciation-week.html](http://haltonhealthcare.on.ca/become-a-volunteer/volunteer-appreciation-week.html).

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## **About Halton Healthcare**

Halton Healthcare is a progressive, multi-site healthcare organization comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Together these hospitals provide healthcare services to more than 325,000 residents in the communities of Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville. With an outstanding reputation as a workplace of choice and a good community partner, Halton Healthcare hospitals have been recognized for their best practices in a number of patient safety and patient care initiatives. For more information, visit [www.haltonhealthcare.com](http://www.haltonhealthcare.com). Follow us on Twitter [@HaltonHlthcare](https://twitter.com/HaltonHlthcare).

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