

Community Information & Volunteer Centre

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Days of Caring mobilizes businesses to volunteer

One volunteer sector trend is the opportunity to help non-profit organizations through the workplace. There are many people who cannot commit to an ongoing volunteer position.

The United Way Days of Caring Program offers an alternative for employees who want to give back and make an immediate impact.

Days of Caring matches teams of volunteers from businesses to charity projects in the community. Recently, a team from KPMG Accounting spent a day helping the Hospice Association sort out their archived files.

"They ensured that our files were organized, our financial materials in order and helped us to clean up the office in anticipation of a move to our new location," shares Susan Steen, Executive Director of the Central Okanagan Hospice Association.

The businesses benefit as much as the charities. For the relatively low cost of a few hours out of the office, their employees gain an unforgettable team-building experience. They return with a new perspective on the community, the knowledge that they have made an impact, and new skills and connections.

"A Day of Caring is a way of allowing our employees the opportunity to give back on a more person level and experience the actual needs within our community firsthand," explains Pia Garbutt of RBC, whose team of volunteers helped paint the office of the Kelowna Family Centre this past year.

The Days of Caring Program is now offered in partnership with the Kelowna Capital News, and we will be sharing stories of community impact throughout the year. Days of Caring can also match volunteer projects for teams from non-business groups.

If you would like help with a project, or have a team that would like to volunteer, please contact Avril at 250-860-2356 or avril@unitedwaycso.com.

Go to kcr.ca, 'Volunteer Opportunities Search' to create your own volunteer profile.

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