

Community Services

Capital News: Volunteer Centre Column 2013 October 24

Frontline or behind the scenes volunteering

On the weekend I received a call about the Canadian Diabetes Association truck coming to my neighbourhood to pick up Clothesline donations.

I sat up straighter in my chair, smiled and thanked the person for calling.

This pleasant voice helped motivate me to de-clutter, supported a system of reuse and recycle and raised funds to improve the lives of people suffering with diabetes. Contact Ed Laverock at 250.868.2077 or ed.laverock@diabetesclothesline.ca to join their cause.

Whether the role is frontline, high profile or behind the scenes, volunteers impact our lives every day and in so many ways. Here are some ideas for you to consider.

Kelowna's Gospel Mission wants Clothing Bank Volunteers to train staff and volunteers about distributing clothing, keep a computer inventory and help people in need choose clothing. This is an interesting mix of interpersonal, computer and retail skills required.

Maybe your family is looking for a shorter commitment that is an action packed, fun filled and fast paced. Give two hours of your time to Stuff the Bus outside Wall-Mart on November 2nd.

Sonja Menyes, the Volunteer Coordinator for Kelowna's Gospel Mission would love to hear from you at 250-763-3737 ext 204 or sonja@kelownagospelmission.ca.

Getting back to phone calls, you can use your excellent verbal communication skills and offer a listening ear to caregivers and people with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Turn your telephone into a lifeline for someone who feels alone.

Contact Vicki Arnocky, the Alzheimer Society's First Link Coordinator, at 250.860.0750 or varnocky@alzheimerbc.org.

If you are passionate about children and have an accounting and finance background, the Magic Foundation is interested in learning more about you. This is an opportunity to bring an existing organization to Canada to assist families of children with growth related disorders.

Contact Crystal Ward at 250-801-3065 or liquidcrystalcity@hotmail.com.

Dawn Wilkinson manages the Community Information and Volunteer Centre at Kelowna Community Resources. Go to kcr.ca and click on Volunteer Opportunities Search to create your volunteer profile. View all the Volunteer Centre columns at: kcr.ca/volunteercolumn. Contact 250-763-8008 ext 24 or informkelowna@kcr.ca.