



Fair Haven resident Fay Clarke who volunteers in the facility as a Resident Council President and Auxiliary member.



Jean Mills at the special care unit with Hamish, one of the pet therapy dogs.



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Fair Haven United Church Homes

by Kelina Kwan

"We believe in enriching the lives of our Fair Haven community by providing a secure, compassionate and inclusive environment."

This is the vision of the Fair Haven United Church Homes, who provide affordable housing and long-term care for seniors in the Burnaby and Vancouver area. It is not only an ultimate goal to strive for, but it is also a true description of the community that they have built through their 60+ years of history.

The Fair Haven United Church Home in Burnaby is truly a community, not only in terms of its residents, but also in the spirit of volunteering – it is an example of how a volunteer community can be created through the simple belief of connecting and caring for each other. Volunteers are recruited to help in the One-to-One Visit programs, special projects as well as a variety of recreational programs. But

Fair Haven's volunteers are not only comprised of outsiders. Recently, I spoke with Normeo Chung, Director of Therapeutic Recreation and Volunteer Services at Fair Haven, and discovered how the spirit of volunteering is all around Fair Haven. In addition to recruited volunteers, "residents volunteer too," said Chung. "Residents help fold towels and protective cloths every day, they water the plants in the garden and inside the building, they help in a variety of recreational programs, and they help provide companionship for other residents" – a role that is usually fulfilled by recruited volunteers. "Residents also volunteer as officers in the resident council that, like a strata council, provides a voice for fellow residents to raise concerns."

But that is not all, staff members and workers at Fair Haven often introduce their friends and families

to become volunteers, and family members of residents also often become volunteers for the care home. Neighbouring organizations, such as L'Arche Greater Vancouver, also volunteer at Fair Haven.

Fair Haven's volunteer "community" also extends to residents of neighbouring cottages and apartments, and members of the South Burnaby United Church, who form auxiliary groups and volunteer to help raise funds for the long-term care home. An upcoming Christmas craft sale fundraising event will be hosted by the auxiliary group on November 17, from 1:30pm to 3pm. At this Christmas craft sale you can purchase Christmas and other craft items prepared by the auxiliary members. There will also be a tea, bake sale, white elephant and raffle. For more information on this and other events, please visit their website www.fairhaven.bc.ca

Although the entire community pitches in, Fair Haven is still very much in need of volunteers. Fair Haven's volunteers are mostly high school students and retirees, who are usually only available on weekends or in the evening. Fair Haven needs more volunteers who can help out weekdays and in the day time when elderly residents are more alert and can enjoy the activities more, "especially for the One-to-One Visit program," Chung said. "We have 100 residents in the Burnaby home, and they would all like to have a visitor every day. We need a lot of volunteers!"

Another initiative that Fair Haven is working on is corporate volunteering. Chung would like to see corporations and companies who would like to give back to the community, volunteer with Fair Haven. Volunteer opportunities can be arranged for company employees, such as helping out with a BBQ, helping with

events such as the upcoming craft sale, helping with graphic design for posters, or helping in a recreational program. There are many opportunities to volunteer as a team in your community.

So get involved in your community and join the Fair Haven team of volunteers!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Fair Haven United Church Homes, or if your company would like to set up volunteer opportunities with Fair Haven, please contact Normeo Chung at 604-435-0525 (ext. 312) or 604-433-2939 (ext. 2230), or visit their website at www.fairhaven.bc.ca and look under "Join the team".

For more information on how to get involved in your community, please contact Volunteer Burnaby through their website at www.volunteerburnaby.ca Or call 604-294-5533.

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Volunteer Opportunity!
Volunteer Burnaby is looking for gift wrap day time volunteers to help run the Annual Gift Wrap fundraiser at Brentwood Town Centre on week days. If you enjoy working with your hands and interacting with people, this position is for you. To learn more or to sign up please email Lee Faurot (lee@volunteerburnaby.ca) or call 604.294 5533



Volunteers of the Month...
Recognize every day volunteers! **Do you have someone that made a difference in your life through volunteering?** Recognize that person by sending us a short story and a photo to be published in an upcoming volunteer feature. Volunteering and helping is a value we all share in Canada. It's part of what gives us our good name at home and abroad. Go ahead show someone you care about their contribution... saying thank you goes a long way!

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