



The Auxiliary to Burnaby Hospital dedicated 18,000 hours in 2012 and has donated over \$2 million to date to Burnaby Hospital Foundation. The Auxiliary was also one of the original volunteer groups who raised funds to build Burnaby Hospital over 60 years ago.

Volunteers at special events like Train Day for Burnaby Hospital help raise awareness in the community about how donations are making a difference. Train Day for Burnaby Hospital raised almost \$17,000 to help purchase medical equipment at Burnaby Hospital.



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Volunteering – a Time-Honoured Burnaby Tradition

by Kelina Kwan

When we live in a vibrant city, we often take a lot of things for granted - that is until we need some services, and then we are thankful that someone has thought of building schools, police stations and hospitals, etc. This became apparent to me when I noticed that Burnaby Hospital is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. So more than 60 years ago, there was no hospital in Burnaby. How did the hospital come into existence? I was curious.

So I put the question to Stephanie Leung, Communications Specialist at the Burnaby Hospital Foundation, and not surprisingly, the history of the hospital goes back to a time-honoured tradition in the city – volunteering.

“Not many people are aware that back in the 1940s, the idea to build Burnaby Hospital actually started with a group of volunteers, who then continue to raise the nickels and dimes needed to actually build the hospital” Leung said. “And you can still see the strong spirit of volunteering today.”

The hospital has a group of wonderful volunteers called the Auxiliary to the Burnaby Hospital. They are one of the original volunteer groups who helped to build the hospital, so this group has been active for more than 60 years. Today, the auxiliary helps out in the area of patient comfort and spiritual care. “You see so many of these volunteers really adding warmth to our community” Leung said. The auxiliary also runs a number of programs,

such as the vendor kiosk program in the hospital cafeteria. Partial proceeds of the program go back to the Burnaby Hospital Foundation. “Not only do they volunteer their time to help patients and focus on patient comfort, they also fundraise and donate a substantial amount to the foundation.

Apart from the auxiliary, volunteers also help with administrative work in the Burnaby Hospital Foundation’s office. The foundation is the charitable organization that raises financial resources to make Burnaby Hospital the best it can be, including raising funds for state-of-the-art technology or capital project for the development of the hospital. “Not many people are aware that hospital equipment

gets used and can become outdated very quickly because the technology is improving all the time” Leung explained. The foundation works very hard to raise funds through direct donations and support as well as through many special events. They are currently gearing up for their 15th Annual Rhythm of Life Fun Run to be held on Sunday, September 8 at Burnaby Lake Park. Over 100 volunteers traditionally come out and help in this fun, outdoor event for over 600 participants.

The hospital also manages a very large volunteer program – the Burnaby Hospital Volunteer Resources. Although this is a separate program to the hospital foundation volunteers and the auxiliary, they all work together to make Burnaby Hospital a better place for

patients. In 2012, the volunteer resources have over 400 active volunteers who help out in various areas throughout the hospital.

When asked why people volunteer for the foundation and the hospital, Leung said that many donors and volunteers see the direct relationship between the hospital that had helped them and their families, and how their “giving” to the hospital can help other people. Thus the time-honoured tradition of volunteering continues.

The Burnaby Hospital and the Burnaby Hospital Foundation are always looking for volunteers. For special events, please visit www.bhfoundation.ca For other volunteer opportunities, email BUHVolunteerResources@fraserhealth.ca or call 604.412.6130 or 604.434.4211.

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

Volunteer
...you'll be glad you did



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:
Join us and volunteer at Burnaby Hospital Foundation’s 15th Annual Rhythm of Life fun run on Sunday, September 8, 2013 at Burnaby Lake Park. For more information, please visit: www.bhfoundation.ca/events/run or e-mail events@thefinerdetails.ca.

Happy Canada Day

Volunteer Burnaby helps organizations and connects people with volunteer opportunities. Ours is a leadership role in advocating for caring communities. We provide individuals and organizations with resources and information, while facilitating the connections between worthy causes and volunteers. It is very satisfying work. You can help. Resolve to be involved!



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Volunteer of the Month – Christine Poissant

Christine Poissant has volunteered with Burnaby Hospital Foundation since 2009, lending a helping hand at the Foundation office and contributing her talents to various special events throughout the year.

“The Burnaby Hospital Foundation is there for one purpose – to help make Burnaby Hospital the best health care facility it can be. Burnaby Hospital is our hospital, and if we want to receive the best possible care when we need it, it is important that we all do our part to help support that goal. Making a donation to the Foundation is one way to support the hospital, and volunteering is another way. Anyone, no matter what their economic situation, can help by volunteering – it is a rewarding experience.”

