

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION



Windsor Social Services THANKING VOLUNTEERS National Volunteer Month April 2018

www.townofwindsorct.com/socialservices



Windsor's Wonderful Volunteers

By Susan Nunes, Volunteer Coordinator and
Administrative Assistant at Windsor Social Services

There are so many ways in our community and beyond that we can volunteer. You can choose a cause that is important to you that may have touched your life somehow - Relay for Life - Habitat for Humanity - Make A Wish Foundation - Cancer Societies - Special Olympics - perhaps volunteer at your child or grandchild's school. Perhaps some of you were room parents or scout leaders. Many people volunteer through their libraries, churches or local hospital or so many other ways in the community.

I often say "Windsor is a great place to be" and I really believe that. And what really makes it great in my opinion is all the wonderful volunteers who dedicate themselves through their many organizations, civic groups, religious institutions or just on their own to make a difference in the our community. Whether it's once a month, twice a month, weekly, however long one chooses. You are inspiring!

IT ALL MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

The Town of Windsor has over 500 volunteers who give their time through many different town departments, boards and commissions. So many programs just couldn't happen without you.

Here in the Social Services office and at the Windsor Food bank, we see people in need in our community every day. Windsor has wonderful programs to assist people in need but they don't happen without the dedication of our wonderful volunteers.

**We all have a story and life can be really hard.
Kindness goes a long way. Being nice matters!**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

SOCIAL SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

IT JUST CAN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU

Just through the Social Services department programs alone, we have approximately 120 volunteers—making a difference—every day, and here is how we do it:

A VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

Our **food bank volunteers** do food pickups from local stores, stock shelves and distribute food during open hours. Collectively, they volunteered approximately 2,000 hours during 2017. Working together they made 2,590 food distributions—that's over 262,512 lbs. of food which equates to 218,748 meals served! This dedicated team made a difference in the lives of over 6,000 duplicated Windsor residents last year.

Be it frigid cold, blustery snowy, nor'easter rainy, or clear and sunny, our hearty dedicated **Mobile Foodshare volunteers** stood outside in 2017 for a combined 200 hours making 4,230 food distributions to people in need. There are always a lot of smiles and fun at Mobile-no matter the weather!

Our dedicated team of **Weekend Wheels volunteers** keep this program rolling along to help children from food insecure households. Throughout the 2016/2017 school year, our volunteers spent 800 hours resulting in 2,445 food filled backpacks being sent home with our participants to keep them nutritiously satisfied through the weekend. That was 20,679 lbs. of food =17,232 meals! With the growth we have seen this current school year, we anticipate our total distributions to be 3,312 food filled backpacks = 30,000 lbs. of food =25,000 meals. Again, **volunteers** make this happen!

Our **Groceries To Go volunteers** devoted 234 hours last year making 979 food distributions to our local seniors. Included in that number were 520 home deliveries to our homebound seniors. Volunteers helped seniors facing food accessibility challenges.

**THAT'S A TOTAL OF 10,244 FOOD
DISTRIBUTIONS! WOW!**

Celebrating Volunteers April 2018

WINDSOR CARES

Our Windsor CARES volunteers are busy throughout the year working events and fundraisers to assist and enhance the lives of people and groups of all ages in Windsor and our surrounding communities. They host and sponsor many fun and educational events at the Senior Center and Windsor housing sites.

On Wednesdays, through the cold winter weather to the warm summer days, you will find volunteers making sandwiches for the homeless and distributing them on Wednesday evenings in Bushnell Park.

In May of each year you can find volunteers delivering a "Spring Cheer" delivery of flowers for those individuals identified as needing a friendly pick me up.

You will also find CARES volunteers collecting for the WIN-TV Pack for the troops program, preparing and delivering a meal once a month to a homeless shelter, making a birthday cheer delivery to our homebound neighbors and hosting monthly Geissler's store collection for the benefit of the Windsor Food Bank.

Our CARES volunteers truly care about our neighbors in need and continue to make a difference in their lives.

AND VOLUNTEERING IS GOOD FOR YOU

Volunteering provides many benefits to both mental and physical health. It helps to counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety. It improves life satisfaction and mental health.

Volunteers are one of the most important resources a community could have. The ability of people to work willingly together for the betterment of their community is a true blessing.



Here are 10 Reasons Why People should Volunteer

- to Be a positive influence
- to Have fun and share your vision
- to Connect with the community
- to Keep active
- to Lift someone's spirits
- to Raise awareness
- to Feel good about yourself
- to Make new friends
- to Explore new interests and activities
- to Make the world a better place



ANNUAL TOWNWIDE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

The Town of Windsor hosts a celebration of all town department volunteers each year. This year's event will be a delicious brunch held on Sunday, June 10th at Maneeley's Banquet Facility in South Windsor.

Invitations will be sent out in May.

We hope to see everyone there.

Meet the Social Services Staff

Anne Wakelin, Human Svc. Director

Sue Raggio, Dept. Coordinator

Maggie Goodman, Caseworker &

Municipal Veteran's Svc. Contact

Susan Nunes, Administrative Aide

Andy Price, Caseworker

Deb Sheldon, Caseworker

Jasmine Hall, Caseworker

Ted Hughes, Food Bank