

## **Recognizing the 12.7 Million Canadians who Volunteer**

This year during National Volunteer Week, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29th, we recognize and celebrate the contributions of more than 12.7 million Canadians who volunteer with non-profit organizations across Canada. For 2017, Volunteer Canada's theme is "Volunteering, Eh" which aims to highlight the many wonderful ways in which people volunteer to care for each other, for the earth or mobilize networks to raise awareness and funds for issues that matter to them.

For years, Children's Aid Societies have benefitted from the assistance of volunteers; individuals who have historically played an essential role in child welfare across the province. As a volunteer with a Children's Aid Society you may be involved with driving children to school or to appointments, offering guidance as a mentor, providing your expertise as a member of the Board of Directors or agency committee, or assisting with the planning or execution of a fundraising event. No matter the role, each volunteer is important and their contributions are vital to helping Societies be successful in the work they do.

Last fiscal year, approximately 60 individuals volunteered in a variety of capacities for the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society (KHCAS). This included volunteer drivers who logged over 544,000 kms assisting children, youth and families. Jennifer Wilson, Executive Director of KHCAS commented, "We are so fortunate to be able to benefit from the generosity and expertise of the many community members who choose to volunteer for our Society. Their dedication, energy and enthusiasm contributes to the well-being of many of the children, youth and families we serve and we thank them for the significant role they play in the success of the work that we do."

At Highland Shores Children's Aid, which serves communities within Hastings, Northumberland and Prince Edward counties, 70 individuals donated their time as either board members or volunteer drivers in fiscal 2016-17. Those volunteer drivers logged over 700,000 kms serving children, youth and families. "National Volunteer Week provides us with a great opportunity to publicly thank those individuals whose contributions make such a difference to our organization and to thousands of organizations across our country", said Mark Kartusch, Executive Director of Highland Shores Children's Aid.

Call to find out how you can make a difference by volunteering at a Children's Aid Society:  
Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society at: 705-743-9751, ext. 1221 or  
Highland Shores Children's Aid at: 800-267-0570, ext. 2600