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The future rests in our helping hands

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Volunteering Gives Us Back Our Communities

By: Carine Strong, Executive Director, Volunteer MBC - April 19, 2010

The Region of Peel is comprised of many diverse and distinct communities defined by the people who live and work in them. Increasingly the bonds that hold these communities together are facing greater stress, much of it caused by our fast paced 24/7 world and the daily response to it.

People in need of support often find limited places for help. Volunteerism has the power to change this. Volunteerism not only helps those who need a hand, but also provides a greater sense of community to the volunteer. As the saying goes, you get when you give. Volunteering gives us back our communities and our sense of belonging and overall well-being.

This connectedness provides us with the opportunity to nurture our environments and bring people together – in classrooms, in hospital hallways, in libraries, on the sports field and at the Boardroom table – for good reasons and common goals, creating a community that truly cares for its own. It develops within us a true understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity, skills and talents of the residents that make up our communities.

Volunteer MBC (Mississauga Brampton Caledon) has been a conduit to volunteer opportunities for just over one year now, but already we have established a solid reputation of community advocacy and innovative leadership as we promote civic engagement, connect volunteers to meaningful opportunities and assist people and agencies to work collaboratively to build community.

At the Volunteer Centre we believe that every volunteer has a unique gift they can bring to make their community a better place to live. Each person, even the most marginalized among us have acquired certain useful skills either through some form of training or through participation in informal economic activities and learning experiences. Everybody has these kinds of capacities, and skills such as these can be utilized as important resources for community-building. We all represent an important brick to build a strong and healthy community. Margaret Mead said: "Never doubt that a thoughtful group of committed individuals can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Volunteer MBC is committed to and proud to be a part of this change process. The Board, staff and volunteers continue to work together to provide an avenue for people to be engaged and work for the change that will make communities stronger, vibrant and most of all-connected.

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Volunteer MBC would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize all the volunteers in the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon for your commitment and most importantly for sharing your special gift to make a difference in this community.

Our footprint is joined with all the dedicated volunteers as we walk together towards change.

Carine Strong is the Executive Director of Volunteer MBC, a volunteer centre that has been created to foster and develop volunteerism in the Region of Peel, serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon, by raising awareness of the power of service. Ms. Strong brings to the centre a 30-year history in progressively senior management positions in the field of Customer and Community Relations, Travel/Event Management, Marketing & Communications and Global Purchasing. She has dedicated her personal life to volunteering and spends approximately 50 hours a month on trying to make a difference in her community, Caledon.

For more information about Volunteer MBC, please contact 905.238.2622 or visit www.volunteermbc.org

