

Volunteer MATTERS

Volume 1 • Issue 4

THE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER OF AIDS CALGARY AWARENESS ASSOCIATION

October 2009

Volunteer Challenge a huge success!

Eighteen weeks ago AIDS Calgary put forth an ambitious challenge to the community: help us support people living with HIV in our community by giving 2000 hours of voluntary service over the summer.

We had an amazing outpouring of support and 49 individuals joined our current volunteer base to share their time and talents with us, and the community. These volunteers made thousands of AIDS ribbons and condom packs for outreach, helped out around the office with administration and assisted with nutrition programs. Several volunteers gave their time to staff AIDS Calgary outreach booths at summer events. Volunteers also worked to educate their community, their loved ones and their co-workers about HIV prevention and transmission. And of course dozens of volunteers supported the 2009 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life by assisting with planning, raising funds, creating teams and helping us to produce the most successful AIDS Walk in Calgary's history.

We are thrilled to announce that our volunteers took the challenge to heart and not only reached the goal, but beat it with 3229 volunteer hours collected!

"The dedication and commitment of these volunteers has been tremendous," said Jessica Leech, Team Leader of Community Strategies. "Everyone had so much fun and we hope that people will keep up the excitement and continue to do this incredible work with us."

We are very excited to announce that the top prize for the most hours volunteered during the Volunteer Challenge has been awarded to

Katharine Hopkins. Katharine gave 115 hours of her time.

Katharine joined AIDS Calgary as a volunteer in April and pledged to help us around the office with "anything that needed to get done," – and that's exactly what she did. When the Challenge began, she doubled her efforts and supported our Operations, Community Strategies and Development teams with every type of administrative task imaginable. From making phone calls and creating spreadsheets, to photocopying and helping out with recycling and much more. Katharine did it all with a smile on her face.

"Katharine was a great addition to our team," said Tracie Seeley, Development Assistant and Katharine's volunteer supervisor for much of the summer. "She is dependable, funny, friendly, and works so hard no matter what task we ask her to help with. What more could you ask of a volunteer?"

For her wonderful efforts, Katharine will be awarded a gift, courtesy of Westjet, of two tickets anywhere Westjet flies.

Our second contest, Event Planner for a Day, was won by Christina Parker. The contest challenged our volunteers to come up with a great idea for a mini fundraiser. Christina not only came up with the idea, she actually volunteered her time around the clock to put on a gala event called "Live, Laugh, Love" on September 18, 2009. Christina worked tirelessly to plan the event, secure sponsors and create a website for promotion. Funds raised at the gala were in support of Team Love. Christina and her 7-year old daughter captained this team for the 2009 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life.

Christina and her family fundraise and walk in memory of a close friend who lived with HIV/AIDS and passed away in late 2006. She hopes that by continuing to raise awareness in the community and fundraising to support those living with HIV/AIDS, one day there will be no need to Walk anymore.

To recognize her ongoing efforts, Christina will be awarded with a gift of a bed and breakfast package for two, courtesy of the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis.

AIDS Calgary would like to sincerely thank each one of our volunteers for your individual efforts toward reaching our common goal. Your support and dedication to serving people living with HIV, increasing awareness and reducing stigma in our community has not gone unnoticed. You are an inspiring group of people and we appreciate all of your hard work. Congratulations on a job well done and we hope you will take time to celebrate your success!



Katharine Hopkins - winner of the Volunteer Challenge top prize

AIDS Walk for Life volunteers hard at work!

Over 120 volunteers helped to make this year's Walk our best ever! Thank you to each one of you for your hard work and continuing to support this important awareness and fundraising event. We hope to see you again next year!



Photo courtesy of Michael Witwicki



Photo courtesy of Joe Foley



Photo courtesy of Michael Witwicki



Photo courtesy of Kendra Heinz



Photo courtesy of Joe Foley

Fall/Winter Volunteer Opportunities

Here's a snapshot of volunteer opportunities that you can expect this fall and winter. Email us at volunteer@aidscalgary.org to find out more and to register.

GLBT-A Community Giving Conference **October 23, 2009**

This conference will build a collective understanding of philanthropy in the Calgary GLBT-A community. We are in need of 4 volunteers (2 in the morning, 2 in the afternoon) to assist with registration and provide ongoing support throughout the day. Volunteers will be provided with a snack and lunch and will be able to attend the conference for free.

AIDS Calgary Casino Nights **October 26 & 27, 2009**

We still require a few volunteers to staff the countroom for this year's Casino nights on October 26 and 27. No experience is required and training is provided on site. Volunteers

must be comfortable handling cash and be detail-oriented.

Volunteer Activity Night **November 4, 2009, 5 to 7 pm**

A fun evening with a small group of volunteers. Help us make condom packs and AIDS ribbons.

Volunteer Committee, International Sex Workers' Rights Day **November 2009 to March 2009:**

We are recruiting volunteers to help us plan events for International Sex Workers' Rights Day on March 3. Volunteers will be required to participate in a short interview with the SHIFT program coordinator and be available for some evening meetings, as well as for the day of the event. Applications are currently being accepted for this position and the committee will begin its work in early November.

Holiday Hampers **December 2009**

As we get closer to the holidays AIDS Calgary will be looking for volunteer drivers to assist us with delivering holiday hampers to our clients. Deliveries will be conducted over two days in the week before Christmas and details will be announced in early November.

Volunteer Holiday Party **December 2, 2009**

Our annual holiday and appreciation party for AIDS Calgary volunteers has been scheduled for December 2, 2009. Individuals who have volunteered their time over the past year will be receiving an invitation shortly to recognize their contribution – watch your mail or inboxes and mark the date in your calendar!

Editor: Nikhat Ahmed **Contributors:** Nikhat Ahmed

Volunteer Matters c/o AIDS Calgary Awareness Association 110, 1603 10th Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T3C 0J7

Phone: 403.508.2500 **Fax:** 403.263.7358 **Email:** volunteer@aidscalgary.org **Web:** www.aidscalgary.org

AIDS Calgary's mission is to reduce the harm associated with HIV and AIDS for all individuals and communities in the Calgary region. Volunteer Matters is published six times per year. Please send submissions or queries to the address listed above. The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of our funders.



AIDS CALGARY
awareness association