

# Volunteer MATTERS

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## Walk volunteers contribute to success!

Over the past five months, our Executive Walk Committee has been hard at work planning for the 2010 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life.

On Sunday, September 12th, these committed volunteers were able to see the fruits of their labours. This year's warm, sunny weather saw the most Walk participants on site in years! And our volunteers were there making sure that everything ran smoothly from registration to entertainment to food and beverage.

Alongside six staff members, 13 volunteers made the commitment to sit on our Walk Committee this

year. Our gratitude goes out to these dedicated volunteers. Thank you for all your hard work on this year's walk.

In total, 90 volunteers contributed over 650 hours to help make this year's Walk a great success! Thank you to each one of you for your hard work and for continuing to support this important awareness and fundraising event. We hope to see you again next year!



Route volunteers keep the energy high!



Food and beverage volunteers getting set up.



Ready to start the day!



Committee volunteer Lindsay and her team.



Registration volunteers hard at work.



Executive committee and staff.



### 2010 Holiday Party

Our annual holiday and appreciation party for AIDS Calgary volunteers will take place on December 8th this year.

All volunteers who have contributed time in 2010 will be receiving an invitation in November - watch your mail or inboxes and mark the date in your calendar!

# Volunteer Challenge 2010

This 2010 Volunteer Challenge wound down on August 19th. Our Challenge goal was to provide fun and unique events throughout the summer for our volunteers to learn more about HIV/AIDS, share their creativity with us and support the agency's programs.

From June to August, 110 volunteers donated 214 hours to AIDS Calgary programs and services. Volunteers did everything from

make condom packs to put up Walk posters to attend discussion and information sessions.

Our three discussion groups were some of the best attended events of the Challenge. Volunteers were able to learn more about hot topics in HIV research, sex work and the Shift program, and human rights and advocacy. If you have any ideas about other discussion topics that would be of interest to

volunteers please contact Vanessa at [vhasdell@aidscalgary.org](mailto:vhasdell@aidscalgary.org) or 403-508-2500.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who participated in this year's challenge. Your support and dedication to serving people living with HIV, increasing awareness and reducing stigma in our community is greatly appreciated. Congratulations on a job well done!

## Introducing Vanessa Hasdell

Hello, my name is Vanessa Hasdell and I am the new Coordinator of Volunteer Engagement. I am a graduate from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Health and Society.

I have worked extensively within the not-for-profit field and most recently held a three year term as the Prairie Region Campaign Manager for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada where I worked to build one of the organization's volunteer based fundraising campaigns.

I have 7 years experience in program development, volunteer outreach and volunteer management and am thrilled to apply my skills to a team dedicated to generating HIV/AIDS awareness and education and engaging volunteers to build positive changes in the Calgary community.

Thank you for welcoming me into the program and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead*

## Volunteer Activity Night

**Date:** October 27, 2010

**Time:** 5:00 - 7:00pm

**Location:** Calgary Cares Centre

Volunteer activity nights are a fun way to get involved with AIDS Calgary on a short term basis. Each month 12 - 15 volunteers join us in our offices to assemble condom packs, make ribbons, assist with agency mail-outs and do other easy tasks to help us provide our daily services.

Register by email at [volunteer@aidscalgary.org](mailto:volunteer@aidscalgary.org) or call 403-508-2500.



Enjoying the Volunteer Challenge wrap party.

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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.



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