



Letter to VON Volunteers with thanks for their meaningful impact

VON volunteers have always been at the heart of what we do. Our people – both past and present – have delivered caring support right to the doorsteps of others for decades, and today, thanks to your support, VON supports more than 10,000 people in Ontario and Nova Scotia each day. You help us give our clients health, happiness, meaning and hope, and our legacy of putting the needs of those we serve first would not exist without you.

This is National Volunteer Week, organized every year by Volunteer Canada to focus on the value and contribution of Canada’s nearly 12.7 million volunteers, including you. This year’s theme is ‘Empathy in Action’ and as we reflect on this, it’s moving to think about how significant the display of empathy is in each act of care by VON volunteers.

As a volunteer, you may deliver meals to a client and offer a warm smile, or a friendly chat, and you may visit an isolated senior and give them a sense of connection and friendship. You may comfort a bereaved neighbour after a loss, help spread the word about VON programs, or be part of a VON Board or committee. While the role of a VON volunteer is dynamic, each of you brings empathy and compassion to our clients. You are so important to their well-being.

For 125 years, VON has been solving problematic access to quality care at home or in communities, backed by an outstanding team of staff and volunteers. Through the many challenges faced by our organization, including the COVID-19 pandemic, as a VON volunteer you’ve played a critical role in our ability to adapt to new and evolving realities of delivering client care – together. And while the pandemic chapter has yet to close, please know how you are essential to the health of thousands of people and how grateful we are for your service.

As we look to the future, our connection to community will need to be stronger than ever as more and more Canadians rely on home and community care and support programs to live their best lives. We are proud to have a resilient and dedicated team of volunteers beside us as we continue to navigate the changing landscape of health care. Thank you for being a volunteer with us and for all that you do to support VON’s vision of every life lived to the fullest.

With sincere gratitude,

Peter Currie
Chair, Board of Directors

Jo-Anne Poirier
President and Chief Executive Officer