

Do you need  
an extra set of hands?

Do you find there  
aren't enough hours  
in the day?

Are you looking for  
help with your  
overwhelming  
workload?

We are pleased  
to offer you a  
solution...

# The Community Participation program

*Help us help participants  
breakthrough to employment.*

"The Community Participation program has been successful for our agency and for the participant. The participant who worked with us developed all kinds of skills necessary to help her secure full-time employment. In fact, she has an interview next week with the provincial office of our organization. Our local Chapter Chair and I will definitely be two strong references for her in that endeavor."

**Trish Robichaud**  
Director of IFS  
York North Chapter of the  
MS Society of Canada

"The Ontario Works program has been beneficial to Information Markham. All of the participants we have worked with have been enthusiastic and dedicated. It has been a pleasure empowering them to return to the workforce."

**Leslie Walker**  
Executive Director  
Information Markham



**Community Services and Housing Department**  
Social Assistance Division  
Ontario Works Program  
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

For more information,  
please call us at 1-800-662-6640  
or locally (905) 895-0418  
or fax us at (905) 895-5045

# WITH YOUR SUPPORT

*...Together, We  
Will Do It*

Everyone  
benefits when  
they volunteer



*Can you use an  
extra pair of hands?*



*Will you help  
others?*



*Can others  
help you?*



## WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM?

The Community Participation program is a component of the Ontario Works program that gives Ontario Works participants the opportunity to build basic networks and gain valuable experience and employment related skills.

The goal of Ontario Works is simple - getting people back on the road to financial independence. With your help, Ontario Works participants will get back into the workforce.

Ontario Works participants who are placed as a volunteer with organizations through the Community Participation program will continue to receive social assistance. They will also have access to supports to help them with transportation costs, child care, special clothing or equipment.

## WHO CAN BE A SPONSOR?

Community Participation placements can be sponsored by community groups, service clubs and public or not-for-profit organizations. Ontario Works participants can also develop their own Community Participation placement under the direction of any community organization.

## WHY SHOULD ORGANIZATIONS SPONSOR PARTICIPANTS FROM THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM?

While participants gain valuable experience, learn new skills and build basic networks, organizations also benefit from the Community Participation program. These are some of the benefits:

- Access to free, self-sufficient and qualified individuals who can volunteer for up to 70 hours a month.
- No hassles and no administration duties.
- Volunteers are eager to work and attend job preparation workshops prior to placement.
- Volunteers are matched, by employment specialists, to placements according to their skill sets.
- Volunteers are supported and monitored by the Job Development team.
- Volunteers have flexible hours and good availability.
- By using an Ontario Works participant as a volunteer, you are helping someone realize financial independence.

## WHAT TYPES OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLACEMENT?

The range of Community Participation placements is limited only by your imagination. Here is a list of things our volunteers are currently capable of doing and areas in which they can volunteer. Maybe this list will help you think of how a volunteer could benefit your organization:

- Marketing, clerical, reception and office work.
- Computer work such as programming, data entry and technical support.
- Accounting and book-keeping.
- Working on special projects, special events, tourism, fundraising, research.
- Assisting in child care centres, retirement homes, hospitals.
- Working as a tutor, helping in schools, museums and libraries.
- Working with sports groups, environmental or recreational groups.
- Landscaping work, maintenance, restoration or conservation.

*...Together Everyone Achieves More*