



May 07, 2022

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.” – Elizabeth Andrew*

There’s no denying that in today’s fast-paced world we feel busier than ever. At the same time many of us feel the pull to contribute somehow, but where to begin is often the question that prevents us from taking action.

Behind every non-profit organization you’ll find not only a team of dedicated staff but a group of people willing to give their valued time, skills and experience. These volunteers are the backbone of every non-profit, and many would not be able to operate without them. At its core, volunteerism is service to your community, and this local, focused approach is the single most important step we can take towards enacting change.

As a non-profit organization Rural Family Connections relies on funding through Early ON, Government of Ontario and the City of Ottawa, as well as fundraisers, sponsorships and private donations from the community. Money raised through our primary fundraisers – the Easter Bunny Breakfast and Touch-a-Truck – help us in our continued mission to provide early-learning opportunities and childcare within our surrounding communities.

To help guide us in this mission we are endeavouring to form an official Fundraising Committee, a dedicated group of volunteers willing to devote a small amount of time to help make our fundraising events even bigger and better. In this role volunteers can expect to spend two to three-hours each month, as we meet to discuss, plan and execute details of our two signature fundraising events. Those with a background in public relations, communications and fundraising would be a valued asset to the committee.

While it may seem, from the outset, that volunteerism is merely a time commitment and helps only the cause or organization, the benefits can be even greater for the volunteer. Volunteering is an excellent way to meet new people, develop professional networks, build a resume, hone old skills and acquire new ones. Service to community has also been known to alleviate depression, boost mental and physical health and provide a sense of purpose. In other words, giving *feels* good! As Gandhi wisely wrote, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

We hope you’ll join us soon.

Sincerely,

Lee Stanistreet