

Thirty-Five Years of Volunteering at Women's College Hospital

“Everyone needs other people to support them” says Pat Fraser, a volunteer at Women's College. Her four children were born at Women's College and Pat wanted to give something back. When her oldest daughter was able to be in charge until Ian came home, Pat started volunteering at the VD Clinic. Every Monday from 5:00-7:15 she interviewed people and prepared them to see the doctor.

A close friend helped Pat find a volunteer role at the Hospital and she has worked in many parts of the Hospital's life since 1970. From the Information Desk, the Gift Shop, to out patient clinics, Pat and other volunteers know they are bringing empathy and support to people during times of sorrow, anxiety and joy. Hospital administrators know that the loyalty, stability and continuity of volunteers are their best resource in serving those who come to the hospital whether as patients, friends or family members.

Pat credits her father with her lifelong commitment as a volunteer in the community. “It is the way we were brought up”. She remembers him being involved with a number of community organizations and always doing something for others in a low-key way. For Pat volunteering is also related to being a church member. “Part of our Christian faith is looking out for our neighbour. There is such satisfaction in feeling that we can help out in even a small amount.”

Pat is one of the many members of Eglinton St. George's who have a lifelong commitment to volunteering in our community. In so doing they embody the words of Alice Walker “**Anybody can observe the Sabbath, but making it holy surely takes the rest of the week.**”

Betsy Anderson
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