

JANUARY 2023

WOODGREEN VOLUNTEER SERVICES NEWSLETTER



WoodGreen Holiday Celebration a Double Win for Volunteers!

On December 6, WoodGreen Volunteer Services hosted a holiday celebration. The event was an opportunity to recognize our volunteers for their efforts and to celebrate International Volunteer Day—an awareness day that happens annually on December 5th to recognize more than 800 million volunteers worldwide.

WoodGreen staff were present at the event and showed a cross-department video highlighting how deeply our volunteers are appreciated and the important role they play in providing essential community services.

The celebration was WoodGreen’s second face-to-face event since the pandemic, so volunteers were eager to chat. The refreshments provided were conversation starters by themselves, and volunteers enjoyed an interactive Bingo game that allowed everyone to learn about each other while mingling. For added fun, staff and volunteers alike had the chance to have their photo taken, accessorized by seasonal props. The volunteers shared the pictures on their social media channels using the hashtag #WoodGreenVolunteers.

OUR VOLUNTEERS
OCTOBER-
DECEMBER 2022

CLIENTS

3282

Since October 2022 WoodGreen volunteers served 3282 clients in different programs

VOLUNTEERS

179

179 new volunteers joined WoodGreen and devoted their time to serve the community in the past three months

HOURS

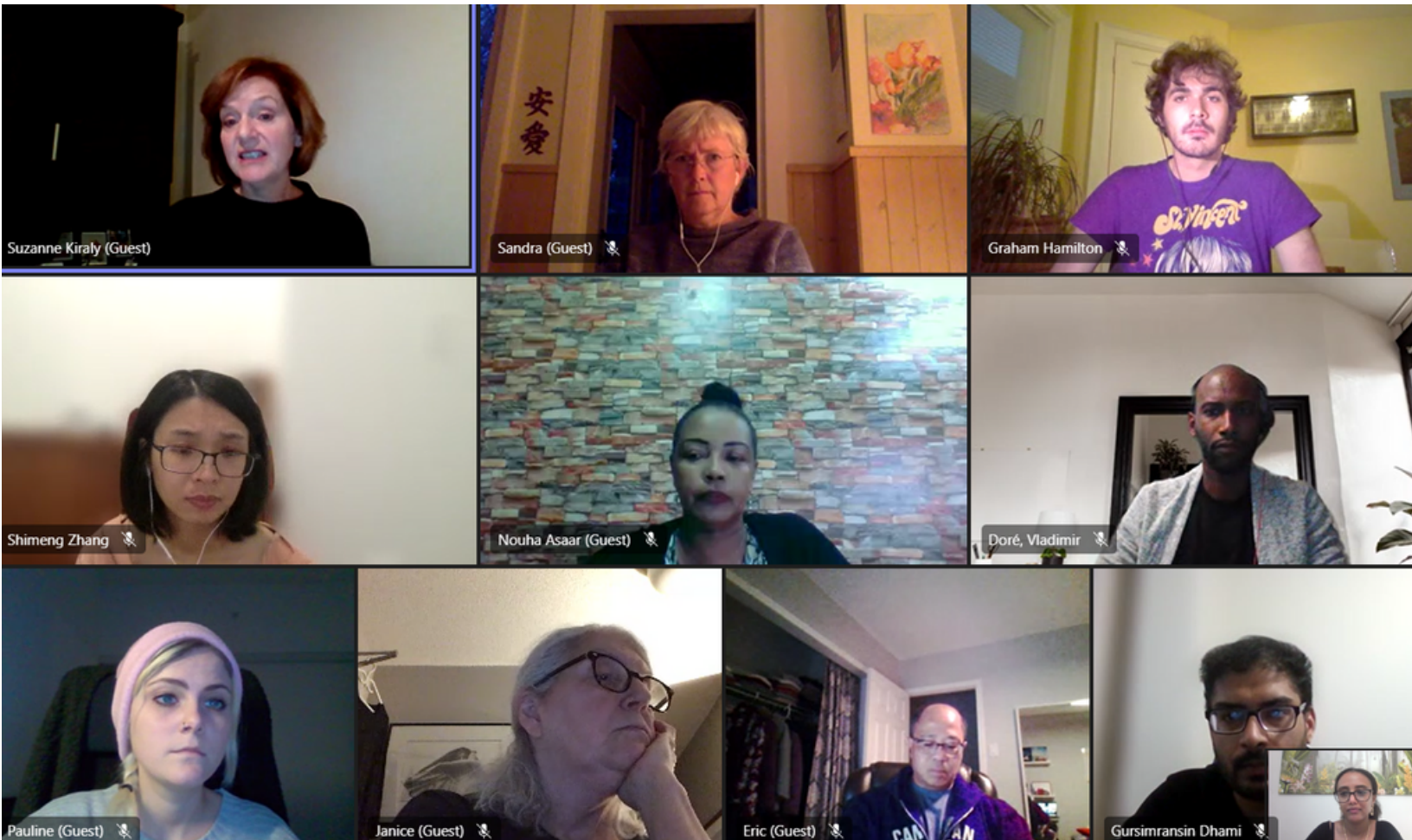
3893

Starting from October until end of December 2022, our volunteers devoted a combined 3893 hours to serve the community.

Volunteer Training Workshop Goes to the Birds

WoodGreen volunteers recently attended a workshop to help them strengthen their communications skills.

The Communication: Style Matters training session introduced our volunteers to four birds –dove, eagle, owl, and peacock—that reflect different communication styles. According to workshop facilitator Suzanne Kiraly, knowing what communication style (or “flock”) someone belongs to will help them adjust their own style when communicating with people whose style is different from their own.



To identify your own bird/style, think about what you are like. Doves like harmony; eagles are action-oriented; owls need details; and peacocks love to talk. Using case studies and real-life scenarios, Suzanne trained volunteers in a different kind of “bird-watching” and talked about how to recognize different birds, what they like and dislike, and best communications strategies for each.

While everyone has a bit of everything, one style will stand out. The bird classification system is a tool that will help people to successfully reach key audiences, whether they’re business associates, family, or friends, and is applicable around the world and across cultures.

Volunteers of the Month



Esin Albay

As a busy working professional and mother of two young children, Esin Albay likes that she can volunteer as a career mentor for the Community Connections program remotely from her desk. This allows Esin to manage her time, saves her the need to commute, and provides her with an opportunity to give back to the community.

"I have been relating my volunteer work to my personal and professional life, especially, when I mentor junior engineers at my work, I used the experience and the training I received from WoodGreen, which helps me to succeed in my professional mentorship program and allows junior engineers to learn a lot from me much quicker."

Esin came to Canada more than 23 years ago. For her, the most important aspect of volunteering with WoodGreen is that it allows her to apply her own experience as an immigrant to help other newcomers settle smoothly and land their first job in Canada.



Michael Shu

Michael Shu started volunteering with WoodGreen's Homework Club because it involves his twin passions: working with youth and tutoring subjects such as math and science. He joined WoodGreen in the first year of the pandemic when school was held online, and students had to adjust to a new learning environment.

"The students who join WoodGreen's Homework Club have an opportunity to clarify topics they learned in class," says Michael. "This can help them stay engaged in school."

For Michael, the most valuable aspect of his volunteer work with WoodGreen has been witnessing the progress and successes of his students. Plus, in addition to interacting with the community and working with WoodGreen staff and volunteers, Michael likes that Homework Club is online--so he can volunteer from anywhere!



Hannah Huerto

Hannah Huerto joined WoodGreen because she wanted to grow as a therapist. For her, what's most valuable about her volunteer work is being able to support individuals facing barriers to their quality of life.

"Being able to listen to clients when they are going through a difficult time and being able to validate their strengths and experiences truly makes my volunteer work remarkable and rewarding," says Hannah.

Hearing client stories, learning from other therapists, and knowing that the community is benefiting from free mental health services she's providing are also big pluses for Hannah. Volunteering at WoodGreen's Walk-in Counselling Clinic has even benefited Hannah in her own practice, where she's building on lessons, she's learned from her volunteer colleagues.

Upcoming Events

Volunteer Training Sessions

Inclusive Language

In this interactive session, you will learn about what inclusive language means and how it can help us create a culture of inclusion and respect for all people. It is never too late to "update" the language we use.

By Deniz Toker

When: January 25, 2023

Annual Volunteer Recognition

- Refreshment
- Volunteer networking
- Milestone award

When: March 23, 2023

New Student Virtual Orientation

When: January 27, 2023

New Volunteers Virtual Orientation

All volunteers who have joined WoodGreen

Community Services recently are required to attend the volunteer services orientation session.

This session includes:

- Introduction to WoodGreen Community Services' programs
- Policies & Code of Conduct
- Volunteer opportunities within different programs
- Volunteer engagement, benefits & recognition

When: January 18 & 24, 2023



Volunteer Opportunities

- Therapist Volunteer - Walk-in Counselling Clinic
- Meals on Wheels Runner
- Meals on Wheels Driver
- Medical Escort for Seniors
- Friendly Visitor for Senior-Ukrainian or Russian Speaking
- Friendly Caller
- Settlement Mentor
- Friendly Visitor - Seniors Program
- Tax Preparer Volunteer-2023 Income Tax Clinic
- Community Health Ambassador
- Workshop Facilitator, Stories of Our Lives – A Memory Project
- Foodbank Volunteer
- Career Mentor for Newcomer Professionals
- Food Program Assistant

Student Placement Opportunities

- Digital Marketing and Social Media
- Winter-2 openings-Placement Student-Youth Wellness Program
- Spring-Placement Student Receptionist & Data Entry Employment Services
- Placement Student-Admin Assistant-Employment Services
- Winter-Placement Student-Food Distribution Services
- Winter-Placement Student-Housing Assistant-Housing & Homelessness Services
- Placement Student-Data Analyst-Volunteer & Student Services-
- Placement Student-Admin Assistant at the Volunteer & Student Services