

OCTOBER 2022

# WOODGREEN VOLUNTEER SERVICES NEWSLETTER



## Summer Volunteer Networking Event Held at Woodbine Beach

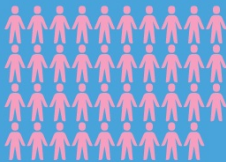
WoodGreen held its first in-person volunteer networking event since the pandemic on August 17th, 2022 at Woodbine Beach. Volunteers and staff from various WoodGreen different programs participated in the event, organized by WoodGreen’s Volunteer and Student Services department. The event was an opportunity for new and long-time volunteers to socialize and network with each other face-to-face. WoodGreen staff were also present at the event. Previously, pandemic restrictions had meant that many volunteers could only meet virtually with staff and peers.

During the event, volunteers had a chance to participate in a number of games such as Charades, Speed Friending, and Mini Geo Catching, which helped make sure everyone had fun while connecting with each other.

We have more recognition events scheduled for the fall and winter (in accordance with public health guidelines). Stay tuned for more info!

## OUR VOLUNTEERS JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022

### CLIENTS



3472

Since July, 2022 WoodGreen volunteers served 3472 clients in different programs

### VOLUNTEERS



112

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

### HOURS



3250

Starting from July until end of September 2022, our volunteers devoted a combined 3250 hours to serve the community.

# WoodGreen Volunteers learn Culturally Responsive Communication 101

Everyone sees the world through a different lens. In Toronto, one of the most diverse cities in the world, we need to see through the lens of someone else. Recently, Global Learning Specialist Deniz Toker hosted a workshop for our volunteers, so they could learn this vital skill. Thanks to Deniz Toker, (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) & MA in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)), and his Volunteer Training Workshop, Culturally Responsive Communication 101, WoodGreen volunteers got to learn this vital skill.



During the training, Deniz explored the low-context and high-context cultures, and elaborated on how we might encounter these in written communication vs. non-verbal assumptions. Volunteers learned that different cultures approach communications in different ways and what this means when dealing with clients and peers from diverse backgrounds.

Another Culturally Responsive Communication 101 workshop session will be scheduled soon for volunteers to continue learning about this valuable topic. Stay tuned!

## Volunteers of the Month



### Cally Specht

Cally Specht looked to volunteering with WoodGreen as a way to combine her skills as a former Child Care Teacher with her search to do something meaningful with her life. She found that teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) was the perfect choice! Her joy of learning trickles down to her mentees and is expressed through the level of comfort they feel towards their instructor.

"I feel needed and respected," she says. Especially gratifying for Cally was when "One of my mentees found a great job as a Dental Secretary through my help with learning English terminology and how to build a Canadian resume."

By providing a fun place where mentees can laugh while learning, Cally Specht's classroom creates a win-win for everyone.



### Blake Hill

Blake started volunteering with WoodGreen because he wanted to make a difference for someone who may not have had the same opportunities as he did. For him, helping guide mentees who were interested in the financial industry was a good way to share his own unique work experience.

Blake enjoys meeting new people with different backgrounds, and the fresh perspectives they offer on everyday life. For Blake, the most valuable aspect of his volunteer work with WoodGreen has been to build trust with those seeking his assistance and then see them becoming well-rounded professionals in their chosen field. He appreciates that he may have played a part, no matter how small, in their progress.

"Being able to give back to the community, a bit more than I may have without joining WoodGreen, is very satisfying in itself."



## Laila Meher

After coming to Canada as an immigrant, Laila first joined WoodGreen as a participant in its English as a Second Language (ESL) and job search related programs. Because she did not have any Canadian job experience, WoodGreen connected Laila with its free income tax clinic. She was so grateful that she not only decided to continue as a volunteer, she directed other new immigrants to take advantage of WoodGreen's services.

"Thanks to WoodGreen's training, newcomer professionals got access to the job market and became financially empowered. I also spread word to my community about WoodGreen's free income tax clinic, which saved them money. It gives me immense pleasure when someone benefits from my efforts."

For Laila, the most important lesson she learned while volunteering with WoodGreen is that every person is valued and their opinion counts.

## Upcoming Events

### Volunteer Training Sessions

#### Different Communication Styles

By Suzanne Kiraly

When: November 23, 2022

#### Culturally Responsive Communication 101

By Deniz Toker

When: December 2022

### Volunteers Annual Holiday Celebration

- Game night
- Refreshment
- Volunteer networking

When: December 6, 2022

### Placement Students Get Together Event -Fall Term

When: TBD

### 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: November 3, 2022

### New Student Virtual Orientation

When: October 27, 2022

# Volunteer Opportunities

- Therapist Volunteer - Walk-in Counselling Clinic
- Meals on Wheels Runner
- Meals on Wheels Driver
- Medical Escort for Seniors
- Friendly Caller
- Income Tax Clinic Administrative Volunteer
- Food Program Assistant
- Employment Service Administrative Assistant
- Settlement Mentor
- Friendly Visitor - Seniors Program
- Career Mentor for Women in Trades
- Administrative and Program Assistant - Homeward Bound
- Tax Preparer - Off-season
- Special Events Assistant
- Community Resource Updater-Volunteer
- Arabic speaking English Tutor
- Mentor: Teacher
- Settlement Program Assistant
- Mentor: Human Resource
- Mentor - Communication and Marketing
- Volunteer Photographer/Videographer

## Student Placement Opportunities

- Digital Marketing and Social Media
- Seniors Program