

Volunteers: The Heart and Soul of the Community

Volunteers are the heart and soul of a community. When they donate their skills to help individuals, organizations and causes they're expressing their values and concerns in their everyday life. ... Over the years volunteers have shaped and improved virtually every aspect of life in communities. ... Today more than ever one can find volunteers in every community setting imaginable. Volunteers enable things to happen, help needs get met and are a force to be reckoned with. ...

Just look at the accomplishments and track record of the Associated Country Women of the World. Your dedication and support has significantly impacted women's lives and their families worldwide. The resolutions you will be tackling ... are destined to benefit many communities worldwide. The fact that you have consultative status with several United Nations agencies is undeniably impressive and vital to raising the standard of living everywhere.

Volunteering is an integral part of our past, our present and our future. In the face of growing social needs and shrinking community resources we have to ensure the volunteer face across the world remains strong. It is especially relevant and important that the United Nations has proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of the Volunteer, recognition long overdue to these very important people. This year's international spotlight on volunteers can only help to make volunteering stronger and more vibrant. ...

As you have appropriately themed your Conference – "Volunteers Make Visions a Reality" – you are truly visionaries and have faithfully contributed to many realities in communities worldwide. Your love of community, civic pride and kinship spirits will live on in astounding legacies. And as a woman living in this world I thank you for what you have all done to make my generations standard of living amazing. Thank you.

Marie Fortunato

Tourism Development Officer, City of Hamilton

ACCW

23rd Triennial Conference

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Value

To say I volunteer for lack of something better to do

Is to say that my time has no value

To say I volunteer therefore I work for nothing

Is to say the work is worthless

But to say I choose to give my time to your work

Is to say we both have value

By Lorraine Jensen

From a Pre-Conference Workshop Participant

To the President and the members of FWIO,

With a sense of gratitude I express my sincere thanks to you dear madam for providing me such a golden opportunity to attend the Pre-Conference Workshop. I am equipped and empowered by the workshop. I assure you that I can create an impact on people to make our dream "Volunteers Make Visions a Reality" come true.

Wishing all the success!

Sr. M.K. Teresa DMI
Society of Daughters of Mary
Immaculate
India



Pre-Conference Workshop participants pose in Hamilton with Pre-conference Chair, Glenna Smith (kneeling far left).

Don't be afraid to use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sing best.

From Bernice Noblitt's collection - Silver Thoughts, Golden Words and A Nickel's Worth of Stories, 1992.