

A message from our CEO for National Volunteer Week



April 19–25, 2020 is **National Volunteer Week in Canada** – a great opportunity to thank all our volunteers with GEF Seniors Housing and tell them how much we appreciate them!

In 2019, we had a total of **772 volunteers** – 599 tenant and resident volunteers and 173 community volunteers – who contributed **50,000 hours** of their time to enrich the lives of our seniors. Whether they are running groups like music, arts and crafts, reading, mental and physical fitness and wellness, bringing in a pet for visits or giving companionship, volunteers help keep our seniors engaged and enable us to offer a wider variety of programming.

One of our most important events of the year is the **Great Knitting Giveaway**, and last year more than 120 of our tenant and resident volunteers put their heart and soul into knitting 8,000 items, including toques, scarves, mitts and socks to benefit eight local charities – mostly in the inner city. Our volunteers really do share all the love and warmth!

GEF's mission is to **"Positively influence seniors' quality of life"** and our volunteers are a key part of that ongoing effort. While many of our volunteers are not able to work with us right now because of COVID-19, we are exploring alternative programming options so they can continue to engage with our residents and tenants. Although we have not been able to hold our annual volunteer appreciation event this year, we remain as appreciative as ever of all our volunteers who help create a great quality of life for everyone living in a GEF building.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers! We appreciate you every day!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raymond'.

