

Corinna Vester: Stepping in to fill the gaps

Some people volunteer for no other reason than there is no one else to do a job that needs doing. Corinna Vester sees these types of opportunities as a way to strengthen a community.

“I think people stepping in to fill in gaps only strengthen our communities, it just makes for a richer society,” she says. “The payback is great — and you get to meet people who are as passionate as you are.”

It’s a view shared by the thousands of volunteers who get involved in the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest of its kind in the country. Last year, the GCWCC raised more than \$33.5 million to support the work of United Ways/Centraides, Healthpartners and other Canadian charities, including \$18.5 million in the National Capital Region alone.

Balancing a career and caring for two small children takes up much of Corinna’s day, but this federal public servant still manages to find the time to volunteer in her community. She volunteers at her children’s school and at the Dow’s Lake Daycare Centre, where she has been the treasurer for the past three years. She also acts as a special events coordinator with the GCWCC.

“You can really make a difference and be part of influencing decision-making — even at this level,” says Corinna.

For Corinna and other federal public servants like her, “filling in the gaps” means more than taking up space; it’s about making a contribution to your community, in your own way.

This year’s eight-week-long GCWCC launched on September 9 and ends November 25. For more information, you can visit gcwcc.org.