

Committed volunteer has raised over \$315,000 for his community

Federal government employee supports the Salvation Army, helps young people deal with important social issues

By Elena Koutsavakis

Sept. 7, 2006 – Charlottetown, PEI – A concern for others may seem a simple reason to volunteer, but this quiet determination has inspired a Charlottetown resident to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for his community and to help young people deal with vital social issues.

Linnell Edwards became chairman of Charlottetown's Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal in 1991 at a friend's urging. Funds raised during this campaign help support the organization's retirement home, shelter and thrift store.

In his first year, Dr. Edwards was determined to raise \$45,000, an ambitious target. He met his goal and, over the next seven years, raised a total of \$315,000 for the Salvation Army.

"Many people have been touched by the Salvation Army," said Dr. Edwards, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. "When there are disasters around the world, the Salvation Army is there to provide food and shelter to those in need."

No longer chairman, Dr. Edwards continues to raise funds for the Salvation Army as a member of its advisory board.

Dr. Edwards' volunteering is not limited to the Salvation Army. He once organized the Students Against Driving Drunk annual 10 km run to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

He is also president of Charlottetown's Race Relations Education Association, a group that helps the city's young people understand the importance of positive race relations.

Dr. Edwards is one example of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their communities. Along with their regular volunteering, thousands of public servants participate in the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest workplace charitable project in Canada. In 2005, federal public servants contributed more than \$29.5 million to GCWCC in 113 communities nation-wide. GCWCC 2006 kicks off on September 7 and will run until November 22.



Dr. Edwards with an award from the Salvation Army in recognition of his services as chairman of its Red Shield Appeal campaign.

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