

A community's best friend

Federal government employee volunteers to make his neighbourhood a better home for everyone

By Alida Rubwindi

Sept. 7, 2006 – Ottawa, ON – A safe walk to school for children. A “green” lifestyle at work and home. Measures like these make for healthy communities, and are often the result of volunteers’ hard work.

Kris Nanda is one of these volunteers. He is chair of the parents’ council at his children’s school and successfully lobbied to have sidewalks built for the students’ safety. He has collected donations from numerous local businesses to support school programs.

While his volunteer interests are wide-ranging, Mr. Nanda’s particular goal is to leave his corner of the world in better shape than he found it.

To this end, he actively supports Ottawa’s Eco-Stewardship Fair, an annual event that promotes environment-friendly communities. He leads his department’s efforts during Canada’s Environment Week Commuter Challenge each June to encourage employees to use “sustainable” modes of transportation, such as walking or public transit. He also helps organize neighbourhood clean-ups at home and through his church.

Mr. Nanda, a senior program analyst with Infrastructure Canada in Ottawa, is part of a federal team that negotiates multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects. Yet despite a busy work schedule, Mr. Nanda believes it’s essential to find time to volunteer.

“I choose to use my time to make a difference in my community and improve the quality of the environment. Hopefully, I am helping contribute to securing a better future for my kids and their generation.”

Mr. Nanda 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.



Kris Nanda volunteers actively to help enrich his community and improve the environment.

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