

A lasting commitment

Federal government employee volunteers with former employer to raise funds for her community

By Lee Gregg

Sept. 7, 2006 – Winnipeg, MB – Not many people choose to volunteer for a previous employer, but Jacquie Sippola is not a typical ex-employee.

After a three-year stint as the communications coordinator at the Misericordia Health Centre Foundation in Winnipeg, Ms. Sippola continues to return as a volunteer for its annual charity golf tournament.



Elis Purslow, with the Misericordia Health Centre Foundation, and Jacquie Sippola selling raffle tickets at the 2006 Misericordia Golf Classic.

“I was involved with the golf tournament for three years (as an employee of the foundation) and I feel a sense of ownership,” she said. “It’s a great way to keep in touch with the people I worked with and help a worthwhile organization.”

The event attracts about 180 golfers to the Pine Ridge Golf Club and raises over \$75,000 each year. Funds raised are dedicated to patient and resident programs at the Misericordia Health Centre.

Ms. Sippola, now a communications officer with Western Economic Diversification Canada in Winnipeg, lends a hand wherever needed. She works at the registration desk, sells raffle tickets and helps with the tournament’s prize giveaways.

“I start at nine o’clock in the morning and I’m usually home after nine o’clock in the evening. It’s a very long day but it’s a lot of fun,” she said. “I’m happy that I can ... help the foundation raise funds for its community programs.”

Ms. Sippola is one example of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their community. 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.

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