

## 2001 : International Year of Volunteers

Margaret Gray

Whether dedicating their “free time” to their profession, to their community or church, or even to a favourite cause, volunteers make our world a better place in which to live. In recognition of their contributions, 2001 has been designated the International Year of Volunteers. This issue of the Journal seemed a fitting opportunity to thank the many volunteers who make our Society the highly respected and valued organization it is today.

CSHP is an excellent example of what can be accomplished with the support of dedicated volunteers. Our Society is recognized for setting the course in our profession, in both institutional and community practice. We've managed to attain this level of recognition only through the sweat equity of our volunteers. Take a few moments to review some of our more visible accomplishments: CJHP, Standards of Practice, guidelines, position papers, and the Direct Patient Care Modules, to name just a few. In addition to these tangible products is the work done through the many committees and task forces of CSHP. Our Society would not be here today without the work of our volunteers. On behalf of the Society, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of these volunteers for their dedication to our profession and to CSHP.

While thanks go out to those who have already given generously of their time and talents to CSHP and to those who continue to contribute to our Society in this way, I would like to challenge all of our members to consider giving back to CSHP as a volunteer. As I've highlighted above, we exist only because of our volunteers. Did you know that our office staff consists of fewer than 10 people, including just a single pharmacist (our Executive Director)? Often people become com-

placent in the belief that someone else will do the work, or even that a paid employee could do it. In CSHP this isn't possible. CSHP needs you!

Volunteering of your time doesn't have to be daunting. Often, the task is a one-time venture. Many volunteers comment that they enjoy their volunteer experience, as well as the chance to network with their peers locally or even across the country. I know from personal experience that CSHP has given me much more than I could ever give back.

You should by now have received your membership renewal notice from CSHP. Included on the renewal form is a section asking if you are able to volunteer your time and expertise to support our Society. I urge you to complete this section of the form. The information you provide will be used both nationally and by the branches when they are looking for help for committees, task forces, and a variety of other activities for which support may be needed from time to time. Why not celebrate the International Year of Volunteers by saying “yes” when we ask if you will volunteer for our Society?

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