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Volunteer Week recognizes efforts

April 21-27 is National Volunteer Week, a time to acknowledge the integral contribution volunteers make to our collective wellbeing.

People across Simcoe County and York Region drive strangers to medical appointments, skimp on family time to serve on boards, pack food hampers or raise funds. They quietly and cheerfully deliver a myriad of services that boost our quality of life.

I personally wish to recognize my fellow volunteers on the Ontario Trillium Foundation's local Grant Review Team. Together, they review and analyze dozens of grant applications. In the last year they recommended that OTF invest $8.9 million in 89 organizations across the catchment of Simcoe-York.

The resulting financial investment that OTF makes locally is, in my view, more than matched by the hard work, time and expertise put in by the unpaid volunteers who choose to work with these groups.

Last year, in the Simcoe and York areas alone, some 18,841 volunteers contributed more than 612,867 hours of their time to support organizations that received OTF funding. If we translate their efforts into a dollar value, it comes to just over $10.4 million of giving!

All of us are touched and enriched by volunteers' efforts. So if you volunteer, take a bow. If you benefited from a volunteer's efforts this week, consider pausing to make sure they know that you know what a difference they're making.

Savi Singh
Chair
Simcoe-York Grant Review Team
Ontario Trillium Foundation