

MAY COURT SERVICE PLACEMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

Revised March 2016 by Janice Semelman, Community Service Director

MAY COURT PUPPETEERS:

Puppeteers requires a weekly commitment every Tuesday morning, from September to end of May. Our current play, "What Would You Do?" offers grade four and five elementary students an entertaining way to hear the important message that bullying is wrong and develop strategies to deal with bullying appropriately. Performances are held 3 times a month. Once a month, a rehearsal is held to practice puppet manipulation and to become familiar with the script. Memorization of the script is not required. The show is taped, therefore there is no need for speaking, only movement of puppets. Experience is also not necessary - it's easy to get the hang of the puppets. Performances are held in schools within Oakville and Burlington, free of charge. Puppeteers are asked to wear "black" for performances. The time commitment is approximately between 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for the performances and rehearsals. Transporting of the parts of the stage and puppets is a shared responsibility. Members are asked to inform the convener(s) of vacations or absences.

Socially, the puppeteers meet after the show or practice for a cup of coffee and to chat. Holiday and end-of-year pot-lucks are a lot of fun. A love for children and knowing that you are helping children deal with bullying is all that is needed for this important service.

There is an opportunity to work from home booking the shows if you prefer not to be a performer. Contact the Puppet Convener or Membership Director.

LUNCHBOX PROGRAM:

The Association of May Court Clubs of Canada invited all May Court Clubs to develop a project in their community that addressed the specific issue of nutritional needs of children. The May Court Club of Oakville has been delivering non-perishable snacks to needy elementary schools in Oakville and Burlington since 1989. Members of this placement are responsible for the purchasing and delivery of food on an approved list to their assigned schools, typically 3-4 times a year for 2-3 schools. Each member is responsible for keeping in touch with their schools to determine when and if re-stocking is needed. Each member is responsible for submitting receipts and an expense form in a timely manner to be reimbursed by the Club.

The time commitment for each re-stocking is 1 ½ to 2 hours calling the school and purchasing food, and approximately 2 hours for each delivery. This is performed about 4 times yearly.

The volunteer should be physically able to lift the food deliveries and drive a vehicle with an adequately-sized trunk. Many volunteers partner with another member to make lifting and carrying easier.

This placement is a good choice for a volunteer seeking a time-flexible and more independent placement, and someone who is rewarded by supporting children with hungry tummies.

Approximately 12 members are required each year to perform this placement.

The need to provide nutritional snacks is greater than one may think and this is a very important and welcomed service that our Club provides to local schools.

FOOD4KIDS:

This placement was added in January 2016. Food4Kids is a charitable agency which May Court has supported with funding since 2014. They strive to close the nutritional gap for needy children in the Halton area. Specifically, they supply weekend food packages to children ages 5 to 14 identified by their school as being in need of the service and also for their younger siblings at home when applicable. Without support from Food4Kids, these children would experience hunger on the weekends due to inadequate or no food being available to them at home.

Working in a team of six members at the Food4Kids facility located at 2258 Mountainside Drive in Burlington, food is packed in the afternoon on the last Wednesday of the month. If more than 6 members indicate interest, individuals can serve as substitutes, and a second team could be developed once 6 more members are identified. In addition, Food4Kids may require volunteers to deliver the food packages on Friday morning between 8 am & 10 am weekly. It should be noted that in case of bad weather or a school closure, the delivery would take place on Thursday.

Perhaps it is difficult to understand, but for many children in Halton, this is a real issue. Our members report that they experience a real sense of satisfaction from this placement.

WELLSPRING:

Wellspring Birmingham Gilgan House is located in Oakville at 6th Line and Dundas Street. Birmingham Gilgan House is a beautiful, warm and welcoming facility that offers a variety of supportive care programs, at no cost, for cancer patients and their families. Located in the heart of Oakville, this Centre is part of a network of Wellspring centres that provide emotional, psychological, restorative and educational support programs and services. For the past 16 years, Wellspring Birmingham Gilgan House has been serving the needs of people living with cancer in Oakville, Mississauga, Halton, Burlington and surrounding communities, by providing programs on both a drop-in and registered basis for men, women and children with any type of cancer, and at any stage in their cancer journey.

This placement involves a three hour shift once weekly or every two weeks. For details about what volunteer positions are available, please visit the Wellspring website (<http://wellspring.ca/birmingham>). Some positions available include; front desk volunteer, peer support, driving clients, and supporting programs. The facility determines positions for each volunteer, and arranges the training that is required. May Court members will be contacted by the centre manager after they express interest in volunteering. It is recommended that anyone interested apply online via the website. Training becomes available, based on when there are enough members to train. Training is usually offered on a quarterly basis.

Wellspring was renovated as of December 2012, and it was beautifully done. The renovation allowed for more programs to meet the needs of the community. The May Court Club of Oakville raised funds for this renovation and the *Art Therapy Room* is named in honor of our Club. Working at Wellspring is very rewarding. Volunteers have the opportunity to see and feel the difference the Centre makes to cancer patients and their families in their time of need. **It should be noted that a police check is required to work here.**

WORKING WITH SENIORS:

Wyndham Manor is a long term care centre for seniors located on Reynolds Street in Oakville. This placement allows for many varied volunteering opportunities and has great flexibility. Weekly visits are most common; however, bimonthly is also acceptable if more convenient for you. Your choice if you would like to spend time one on one with a senior resident, or would prefer a group format. Some of the more popular activities include reading, playing board games/cards or simply having a conversation. You are encouraged to suggest and introduce any new activity that you might like to share with others. Matching your interests with a current resident's is an easy way to begin making a difference in someone else's life and a great starting point if you are looking for a one on one placement.

Requirements for this placement are: i) a current police clearance letter for the vulnerable sector ii) an interview and orientation with the Wyndham Manor Volunteer Coordinator.