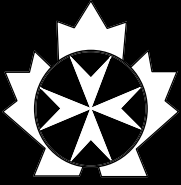


# COMMUNITY SERVICES DEFINED


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# DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS

 DID YOU KNOW that there are over 25,000 volunteers in St. John Ambulance in Canada? Every one of them performs community service of some sort.

*Community service* is more than a good deed. It begins with identifying a need within the community, and finding ways to provide a service that will make a difference in the lives of others. It is a contribution through active citizenship.

St. John Ambulance provides many opportunities for community service, such as:

- *Patient Care* – uniformed volunteers trained in first aid, health care and CPR (referred to collectively as “patient care”), who provide their services at public events;
- *Youth Program* – a program for young volunteers (age 6 to 20), run by volunteer leaders, and created to provide opportunities to Canadian youth for social, educational and personal development, with a focus on first aid and community involvement;
- *Instructors* – trained instructors often venture outside their role in the business of St. John to provide free or subsidized training to school children (eg. *We Can Help*), other non-profit organizations (eg. Scouts Canada) or needy groups;
- *Therapy Dog Program* – a unique community service in which dogs and their handlers provide regular visits to comfort the lonely, sick and elderly (see May 1996 issue of *DID YOU KNOW?*);
- *Auxiliary and Fellowship* – two different groups who may or may not be attached to a Patient Care, Youth or Therapy Dog unit, and who provide a wide range of volunteer services, such as administrative support, fundraising, social support, public relations and staffing displays (see November 1994 issue of *DID YOU KNOW?*);
- *New Community Services* – the only limits to what new community services St. John can offer are the needs identified within local communities – such as elder sitting, beach patrol, free courses on healthy aging, caring caller programs, hospice or respite care, campus response, public training for disaster survival, and educational outreach for high-risk groups;
- *Board Members* – the group that supports the charitable activities of St. John by assessing their community’s needs, deciding which of those needs to meet and how to meet them, fundraising to help support the charity financially, and raising the visibility of our volunteers in the community – the group that pulls it all together.

St. Johners providing community service have a number of things in common:

1. they are all volunteers – people who contribute their time and talents
2. they share a common goal, revealed in the mission statement of St. John Ambulance
3. they are all eligible for the highest recognition St. John offers: the Service Medal of the Order and admission to the Order

If you are a volunteer with St. John Ambulance, and you:

- visit elderly people in nursing homes,
  - give free first aid or child care courses to teen mothers,
  - provide patient care services at hockey games or concerts,
  - arrange special events to raise funds, or
  - sit as a board member making decisions on behalf of St. John in your community,
- then you are one of over 25,000 St. John Ambulance community service volunteers.