

DID YOU KNOW?


AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER (IYV)

November 2000

Vol. 7 No. 11

 **DID YOU KNOW** that the United Nations has declared 2001 as International Year of the Volunteer (IYV)? International Year of the Volunteer will provide opportunities to recognize the 7.5 million volunteers who give their time and talents to Canada's 175,000 charities and non-profit organizations.

St. John Ambulance is a member of Volunteer Canada, which is working in partnership with Canadian Heritage and Human Resources Development Canada to provide leadership for IYV at the national level. Promotional messages, themes, tools and resources with a common "look and feel" will be produced to help Canada's volunteers embark on IYV projects and activities where volunteerism takes place – at the local level. Visit the IYV section on Volunteer Canada's web site (www.volunteer.ca) for a sample IYV planning kit.

Some ideas to celebrate and promote volunteerism are:

- use real, down-to-earth personal stories of volunteers – share them with the media, collect them in a book, publicize them in newsletters
- make a scrapbook or photo album marking contributions of volunteers to your community
- ask your town/city/municipality to declare its support for IYV through an official proclamation of the year
- organize an IYV kick-off event in coordination with other agencies in your community
- organize a volunteer-a-thon to collect pledges of volunteer time

How will **you** mark the year? Celebrations need to happen locally, regionally and nationally. Send your ideas for national involvement directly to:

Department of Volunteer Support
St. John Ambulance NHQ
312 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa, ON K1N 6P6

fax: (613)236-2425

or

e-mail: comments@nhq.sja.ca
(put "IYV" as the subject line)

One great idea that has already begun is the **St. John Ambulance Millennium Quilt**. The plan is to put together a quilt, composed of squares from every Brigade Unit and Branch in Canada. The purpose is to bring all St. John Ambulance members together, to work together. **Everyone can be involved**. The rules are simple:

- one square per St. John group (Brigade Unit/Branch)
- each piece is to be 5" square (4" with a 1" border)
- squares can be made of any kind of material
- identify your division and/or area
- send your completed square (**by 1 April 2001**) to:

St. John Ambulance – Federal District
439 Churchill Ave. North
Ottawa, ON K1Z 5E1
Attention: Angel Ellens

Upcoming IYV Dates

5 December 2000 – International Volunteer Day and official kick off for the launch of IYV 2001

22-28 April 2001 – Volunteer Week 2001

27-29 April 2001 – National Youth Summit on Volunteerism