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*The future rests in our helping hands*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Volunteer MBC's  
Open House Celebration**

**December 8, 2011 – Brampton, ON** – This past Tuesday, Volunteer MBC welcomed the Region of Peel community to their annual Open House. This year, the event was held at the centre's new location in Brampton (Huronario Street at Ray Lawson Blvd.), and had close to 100 attendees who enjoyed networking, a host of delectable baked goods and refreshments, and met with staff to learn more about the services that are available at the local volunteer centre.

The event also celebrated Volunteer MBC's third year anniversary, as well as International Volunteer Day (IVD). IVD was recognized world-wide on Monday (December 5) and is a day that celebrates the efforts of those who have made an important contribution to society by giving their time as volunteers. The centre's Executive Director, Carine Strong, acknowledged and extended appreciation to volunteers for their on-going support and contributions.

"We have been so very fortunate for the support that we receive from volunteers who help us out at our centre," said Ms. Strong. "We receive on-going support from over 70 wonderful volunteers, including our Board of Directors who lend their time and skills in various capacities to help us fulfill our centre's mission and run a number of projects. We certainly could not do everything that we do without their incredible support."

In 2008, Volunteer MBC was established and in April of this year the centre moved to their Brampton location which is in Community Door. The centre will be announcing its new Mississauga location shortly, and a satellite location is also planned in the future in the Caledon community.

"Volunteer MBC is a great place to go and get help to find a volunteer opportunity," said Samina Faisal. "So many people are confused about where to go. The volunteer centre is the best place as they can help guide you in your search for an opportunity that meets your interests or experience." Ms. Faisal recently graduated from a Personal Support Worker program and is presently volunteering through a referral provided to her by Volunteer MBC to gain her work experience.

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Peter Somogyi, President of the Peel Association for Handicapped Adults, said, "Volunteer MBC provides a great service for member organizations in helping them to find and retain volunteers, as well as to network with other organizations who serve the Peel Region community." Presently, the centre has over 130 community service organizations that have joined the centre as members and we encourage other organizations to consider joining in order to gain access to posting their volunteer needs in the centre's on-line database, as well as to benefit from informative workshops and programs that the centre offers.

"I really enjoyed the Open House," said Mridula Srivastava, who is an active volunteer in her community. "The event allowed me to network with other volunteers to share our stories with each other, to meet organizations who need volunteers, and to enjoy the festivities with the centre's staff. Volunteer MBC helps people, like me, and I am so very happy to know that they are here to help."

Volunteer MBC is a volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon. The centre offers a referral and matching service for volunteer placement within the community for all ages. They also provide education and support for volunteers and community service agencies and organizations, and serve the corporate community with various programming services that engage individual and team volunteering. Additionally, the centre strives to be a strong voice to support and promote volunteerism.

Volunteer MBC is a member of the Community Door, which is located at 7700 Hurontario Street, Unit 601, in Brampton. For more information about the volunteer centre, and to access their on-line volunteer opportunities database, visit [www.volunteermbc.org](http://www.volunteermbc.org). Photos of the Open House will be available shortly at: [www.flickr.com/photos/volunteermbc/sets/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/volunteermbc/sets/).

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Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC, (left) and John Huether, (right) who through his 2007 report, *Review of Volunteerism*, laid the groundwork for the creation of Volunteer MBC.

*Photo Credit: Jonathan Cox*



Susan Fonseca (left) and Amara Pieries (right), through Volunteer MBC, are volunteers for Community Door Brampton.

*Photo Credit: Jonathan Cox*



The Volunteer MBC team (from left to right):

- Carine Strong, Executive Director
- Adriane Beaudry, Program Manager
- Shaminda Perera, Referral Specialist
- Sharon Clark-Koufis, Marketing & Communications Manager
  - Marina Campos, Office Manager
  - Madhuri Payidiparty, Staff Support

*Photo Credit: Jonathan Cox*