

How to Apply

- call or email us to set-up a telephone interview
- visit one of our programs for a day to determine if the volunteer position is right for you
- complete the volunteer application package
- participate in a volunteer orientation and training session

For more information please contact:
YDAC Volunteer Coordinator
905-773-7758 ext. 6266
1-800-567-0315
ydac@marchofdimes.ca



Programs are offered at the following locations:

MAPLE
NEWMARKET
PETERBOROUGH
RICHMOND HILL
STOUFFVILLE
WHITBY

You can help

- Make a financial **donation**
- **Tell others** about this program

For more information

York-Durham Aphasia Centre™
c/o March of Dimes Canada
13311 Yonge Street, Ste. 202
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4E 3L6
Phone: 905-773-7758 ext. 6266
Toll Free: 1-800-567-0315

www.marchofdimes.ca/ydac



Do you like to communicate?

Help Adults with Communication Disabilities

Volunteer to be a conversation partner at your community
York-Durham Aphasia Centre™,
a program of March of Dimes Canada.

The people we support

Our Volunteers & Rewards of volunteering

Volunteers and staff at the March of Dimes Community Aphasia programs support adults with different communication disabilities.



Aphasia is one of the communication disabilities that can occur after a stroke, brain injury or brain illness. It may be hard to talk, to understand spoken words, to read and to write.

Aphasia can occur on its own or it can occur with dysarthria or weakness of the speech muscle, and/or apraxia which is difficulty with coordination of speech sounds.

Communication changes affect both well-being and self confidence. People may become socially isolated when communication is challenging. The whole family may have a hard time carrying a conversation.

People with aphasia, dysarthria and apraxia of speech know what they want to say but they have difficulty saying it. As a volunteer, you can help change this!

Volunteers at the York-Durham Aphasia Centre have varied interests, different personal styles, diverse occupations, assorted ethnic backgrounds and many reasons for volunteering. Volunteers are the bridge by which adults with aphasia can re-enter and find their place in the community. As a volunteer one of the most important things that you will do is provide our clients with the opportunity to have meaningful adult conversations!

Volunteers come in once a week on a chosen communication program day and participate in discussion groups and skills sessions with adults with aphasia. These may include, and are not limited to, the music program, drawing for communication, cards and games, story-telling, themed discussions, news and current events.

Volunteers are provided with training on supportive communication strategies as part of the volunteer orientation as well as relevant training workshops and learning opportunities on a regular basis. Our professional staff of Speech-Language Pathologists and Communicative Disorders Assistants offer ongoing support to the volunteers in the programs.

“Volunteers are not just doing the ‘busy work’ of the agency, but are trained and capable of delivering the program to the clients. What I appreciate about YDAC is the recognition of volunteers’ vital role in the agency.”

YDAC Adult Volunteer

- A unique and rewarding experience
- Opportunity to chat, smile and laugh
- A chance to meet new and diverse friends
- Opportunities to evaluate and shape our community program
- Knowledge of the brain, stroke, head injury and aphasia
- Regular training workshops on a variety of topics
- A variety of skills: leadership, decision-making, communication, creative, confidence, patience and much more.

We provide hands-on experience to students planning to apply to the Speech-Language Pathology and Communicative Disorders Assistant post-graduate programs.

“Those of you entering the healthcare professions, this is an excellent experience that will make you more comfortable in a community health care setting. Those of you just looking to give back to your community, why not head to YDAC and make some new friends who will definitely appreciate your presence and contributions. Regardless of your reasons for volunteering, YDAC is a place that works towards bettering the lives of people on a daily basis – not just the lives of clients but also the lives of volunteers like you!” *YDAC Volunteer*