

Recovering Together: Learn what's new and coming

Highlighting: Volunteer Markham's Collaboration with the United Way's Greater Toronto Project Initiatives

August 21, 2020



Volunteer Markham (VM) has recently transitioned to a new database, Volunteer Attract, to better serve our community and make it easier for you to seek and post volunteer opportunities. Work is currently underway to identify the status of 'members' and volunteer opportunities by reaching out to all organizations as well as to better understand how we can work together.

Although our physical office is closed, we are operating online and are available to connect with you for any inquiries! We are also building our team of volunteers to include the role of advisors to better assist individuals by matching them to appropriate volunteer opportunities.

GTA Initiatives

Volunteer Markham is working alongside Volunteer Mississauga, Brampton & Caledon and Volunteer Toronto as a consortium to provide assistance in re-engaging with volunteers and organizations. As a group, we have worked towards contributing to the progress of the **United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT) Project Initiatives** in the **Volunteer Partner Matching Program**. This program allows organizations to increase their capacity in a safe manner and focus on the **five** essential service sectors (**Financial Security, Food Security, Homelessness, Seniors, and Long Term Care & Healthcare**).



As a group, we will be facilitating a **Screening Forum** to gain an understanding of the needs and challenges organizations are faced with today. This forum hopes to create a dialogue of valuable discussion, bridging both Grassroots Groups (GRGs) and Not for Profit Organizations (NFPs) in their needs for screening volunteers. Ideally this initiative is an amazing opportunity for organizations to onboard pre-screened volunteers who are ready to re-engage with their communities. So far, all working groups have been connecting with local and regional organizations in their respective networks to participate in helping the goals of the initiative. By the end of the initiative, we hope to re-engage volunteers within the community by discussing and building a COVID-19 recovery plan. This includes areas such as learning modules, training programs, screening processes, volunteer onboarding and non-profit engagement.

Our next steps will be focused on engaging with our community organizations and volunteers to navigate re-engagement with volunteers. We've created a plan for a forum to discuss with both GRGs and NFPs. The current tentative dates for the forums have been set for this the end of August and



September. It is the intent of the GTA Volunteer Centres to continue to offer the results of this work after this initiative has completed.

Volunteer MBC



vers-us
COVID-19



**SUSTAINABLE FUND
DEVELOPMENT**

**THURSDAY 12 PM
AUGUST 20**

Guest Facilitator



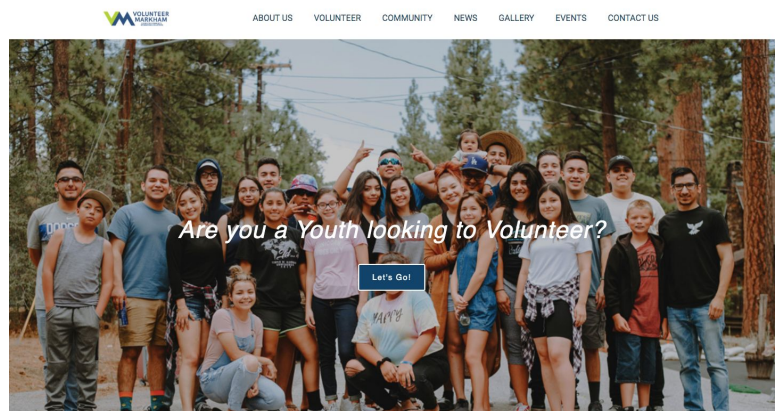
Rohit Mehta
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT,
DOGOOD FUNDRAISING

Yesterday Volunteer MBC held a [Fund Development](#) discussion forum to examine the sustainability of funding during the pandemic. The discussion was centred around project proposals while addressing longevity in funding for organizations. Founder and President of DoGood Fundraising Solutions, Rohit Mehta, was the guest facilitator shedding light on funding and efficient development. The discussion focused on how we can work towards fundraising goals that will be beneficial to organizations given our ‘new normal’.

We will be building a platform to bring GTA initiatives right from our own home at Volunteer Markham but until then we encourage you to follow [Volunteer MBC](#) for more information!

Volunteer Database

Volunteer Markham is dedicated to providing easy access to volunteer opportunities through our new database network. For **volunteers** who are interested in seeing readily available opportunities within the



community please visit [our website](#) to create a profile to start learning more. In addition, fill in this [form](#) to stay updated with our COVID-19 Volunteer Recovery Team. Updates and opportunities will be coming soon so sign up and ensure you don't miss out!

For organizations, we would love to partner with you so our community volunteers have ongoing opportunities to volunteer. You will be able to upload opportunities via [our website](#) and Volunteer Markham would be happy to [stay in touch](#) to work toward bringing volunteers back into the community.

Webinars and Training Programs

COVID-19 Learning Library

Volunteer engagement enables non-profits to increase organizational capacity and meet community needs. Harnessing volunteer interest is even more imperative in the current funding climate.

Access Volunteer Toronto's COVID-19 Library to learn how to adapt your program to safely engage volunteers for essential services (and more) in the community.

Check back every week for new resources!

*Library Last Updated
August 17, 2020*

Pre-Recorded Webinars

Success Stories

Quick Resources

The graphic features a dark blue background with a white virus-like pattern. The title 'COVID-19 Learning Library' is in large white font. Below it, there are three paragraphs of text. At the bottom, there are three orange buttons with white icons: a laptop for 'Pre-Recorded Webinars', a magnifying glass for 'Success Stories', and a document with the number '1' for 'Quick Resources'. The background transitions from dark blue to orange and then to light blue at the bottom.

Our colleagues at Volunteer Toronto created a [Learning Library](#) which provides relevant resources for organizations to train potential volunteers. The Learning Library provides resources for organizations, which includes: Pre-recorded webinars, Volunteer Program Planning, Position Description & Recruitment, Screening & Risk Management, Orientation & Training, Retention & Recognition and Success Stories.

As a valued partner in our GTA initiative, these resources are available to everyone right now and will soon be accessed from our home at Volunteer Markham as well.

Change the World Markham

Our local youth-led organization, Change the World Markham (CTW), has begun planning an outreach program. In this program they hope to engage with organizations with youth-friendly positions. These positions will be marketed to students looking for volunteer opportunities, both temporary and permanent! CTW is currently connecting virtually via Zoom to plan their outreach program in the hopes to attract new students to amazing volunteer opportunities for the remainder of the summer and this fall.



If your organization is interested in working with CTW Markham, please contact **Mirja Raita** at mirja.raita@volunteermarkham.ca

Coming Soon...

Markham Association of Community Champions (MACC) is also gearing up to pull together our networking group of Champions here in Markham. This group meets regularly to share resources and expertise while at the same time gaining friends and supporters for their own programs/services. If you would like to stay informed and join us please contact **Mirja Raita** and she will be sure to add you to our team!

As part of our GTA Initiatives, our Learning Group Sub Committee is also interested in how volunteers can help organizations transition to the 'new normal'. We strongly encourage organizations to participate in our quick [survey](#) as it will be useful for onboarding new volunteers!

