

## Focus: **Volunteer Recognition**

### Highlighting: **Volunteers: “The Value of One, The Power of Many”**

#### May 2021 Highlights:

[Sharing Volunteer Canada’s Spotlight On National Volunteer Week](#)

[PinkCars-ensuring seniors get vaccinated!](#)

[“Top Pick” Resources](#)

[Volunteer Champions 1st Quarter Awards!](#)

[Celebrate Volunteer Recognition Year Round](#)

[NEWS: Bill Pang, MPP Markham/Unionville Introduces Private Member Bill](#)

[270:](#) The Bill proclaims the first seven days of June in each year as Senior Volunteer Appreciation Week.

[Recently Posted Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Change the World Markham Youth Update:](#) Highlighting Youth Week, May 1-7

[VOLUNTEER MARKHAM’S FIRST EVER ONLINE AUCTION](#) Raises over \$6000!

[Volunteer Markham’s Annual General Meeting](#)

[Partner Spotlight: 360 Kids Nightstop Program](#)

*TIP: Clicking on underlined text will direct you straight to the article*

## Sharing Volunteer Canada's Spotlight On National Volunteer Week...

**Get inspired:** Volunteer Markham and “organizations from coast to coast to coast joined in celebrating Canada’s 12.7 million volunteers virtually in April by sharing photos, videos and kind words on social media. Check out their volunteer recognition posts on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#). “



The spotlight will continue to shine on volunteers as they continue to give so generously of their most valuable resource...their time! Always take a moment to say a quick ‘thank you’ when you meet them!

The [Minister of National Revenue](#) and the [Prime Minister](#) both made statements on National Volunteer Week. [Mayor Scarpitti](#) also spoke on Volunteerism.

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## PinkCars-ensuring seniors get vaccinated!



“*The Value of One, the Power of Many*”, the theme for this year’s National Volunteer Recognition Week continues to be exemplified through the forces behind PinkCars. PinkCars started with helping seniors 80+ get vaccinated. This small group bravely stepped up to volunteer and help seniors make their vaccination appointments as well as provide



transportation/drives to get them to these appointments. Regardless of the hurdles they faced, they continued to work around the challenges. Thousands of seniors have now been safely vaccinated with the support of PinkCars! As the vaccination rollout continues,



PinkCars has the “Power of Many” friendly, caring volunteers in our community to help anyone needing their support obtain a vaccination. Currently

volunteer translators and ambassadors are needed. Simply sign up to help make our community safe! Translate for our residents, sign up to receive a lawn sign to raise awareness, share with your friends and family or volunteer to drive. Stay connected with PinkCars through their website and on social media. Updated information can always be found. Sign up as a [Volunteer Driver here](#) or as a [Volunteer Translator here](#). For more information reach out to [Volunteer Markham](#) or [PinkCars.ca](#)

## “Top Pick” Resources:

Together we will recover! Throughout the pandemic we continued to respond to our communities across the GTA together with our Volunteer Centre partners. Given our remote/virtual environments, we have become saturated with online resources. To make things a little easier we have listed our “Top Picks” here:

[COVID - 19: How to Volunteer During the Pandemic](#)

[BRINGO](#), an easy to adapt game to bring some fun to your Zoom meetings

[Managing Virtual Volunteers During a Pandemic](#) (from the International Association for Volunteer Effect)

[Confirmation of Essential Volunteering Letter Template](#) (to carry with you when you are commuting to your volunteer role)

[Safety First in Volunteering:](#) Case Study/Success Story with Regeneration

[Budget 2021 Summary for Charities and Non Profits](#)

CanadaHelps: [The Giving Report 2021](#)

StatsCan: Covid-19: [Volunteering in Canada](#), Challenges and Opportunities during the Covid-19 pandemic

StatsCan: [Volunteering Counts](#): Formal and information contributions of Canadians in 2018  
An article that sheds light on the important contributions and dedication of volunteers in Canada. While the latest data on volunteering predate the pandemic, they provide a baseline for measuring the impact of the pandemic on volunteerism.

As always, stay on top of many resources by reviewing Volunteer Markham’s [Learning and Resources Page](#) (updated regularly) and continue to our [centralized landing page](#). Navigate through the free learnings and shared resources as a volunteer or as an organization.





## Volunteer Champions 1st Quarter Awards!

*On the heels of National Volunteer Week, we continue to celebrate all volunteers by recognizing our most recent Award Winning Volunteer Champions!*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Award Category</b>	<b>Volunteering Experience</b>
Emily Strike	Youth + Students Social Service	SickKids Hospital Ambassador, CF Dream Team Member, Community Basketball (previous)
Lakysa Moonemalle	Youth + Students Social Service	Youth Programs Team (Volunteer Markham)
Manha Yusuf	Youth + Students Social Service	Mental health, 360 kids, yellow brick house, in from the cold, Ontario humane society, Rose of Sharon
Tauseef Raaz	Newcomer Community	Volunteer Markham
George Sheen	Patron Community	Fighting Blindness Canada; Thornhill Seniors Camera Club
Stephanie Pollard	Community	WSMHA (Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association)
Rehana Doobay	Social Service	Yellow Brick House
Kenneth Li	Social Service	Big Brothers Big Sisters of York
Sue Drummond	Community	WSMHA (Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association)
Lily Ing	Community	Markham/Unionville Terry Fox Run, 351 Silver Star Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, Markham Regional Ringette
Shanta Sunderason	Social Service	In addition to running a youth social group, Shaunta started a community volunteer group of over 200 members for distributing PPE items and essential goods to people and kids in need.
<b>Q1 Team Award:</b> MICAH (Markham Inter-Church Committee for Affordable Housing)		

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## Celebrate Volunteer Recognition Year Round

This year Volunteer Markham launched a recognition program to acknowledge outstanding volunteers in three categories: Social Services Support, Community Spirit, Global Spirit and a new Team Award. 40 nominees were recognized in the 1st Quarter and 11 Awards winners were selected! Please do take a moment to say thank you to someone you know that is making a difference in their community.



Nominees must be received by the 17th of each for that month's review. All nominees will be considered for the quarterly CHAMPIONS AWARD. Every nominee will receive recognition from Volunteer Markham including a listing on our website. Our next Volunteer Champions will be recognized in July!

It's just a [click away](#) to see a list of our first quarter volunteer nominees, see our Award Winners or to recognize someone you know that is making a difference.

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### **NEWS: Bill Pang, MPP Markham/Unionville Introduces Private Member Bill 270: The Bill proclaims the first seven days of June in each year as Senior Volunteer Appreciation Week.**



Volunteer Markham and local stakeholders joined MPP Pang to learn more about this Private Member Bill [here](#) that would declare the first week of June as Senior Volunteer Appreciation Week and encourage everyone to wear yellow in support of this.

*"Our seniors across Ontario have helped build our province," said Pang. "Throughout their working years and into retirement, seniors have proceeded to lend a helping hand to our communities through their volunteer work. It is time to recognize them for their tireless effort."*

Our community benefits from the skills and experience our seniors share while at the same time the volunteer benefits from a sense of belonging and contributing.

*"I hope that through this Private Member's Bill, it will further strengthen the relationship our*

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communities have with our senior volunteers and encourage our seniors to continue volunteering,” Pang said. “I look forward to speaking more about Bill 270 in the Legislative Chamber, and sharing the Bill to constituents of Markham-Unionville and communities all across Ontario.” Billy Pang, MPP Markham/Unionville.

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## Recently Posted Volunteer Opportunities

**Pathways to Education** is looking for a **Francophone Research Support Volunteer** [\(See posting\)](#)

**CHATS** is looking for **Hungarian Telephone Reassurance Volunteers** to chat with seniors [\(See posting\)](#)

**Nanny Angel Network** is looking for **Nanny Angel Child Care Providers**. [\(See posting\)](#)

**Cyber Seniors** is looking for **Tech and Phone Support Volunteers** [\(See posting\)](#)

**Royal City Soccer Club** is looking for **Summer Soccer Camp Volunteers** [\(See posting\)](#)

**Pink Cars** is looking for a volunteer **Translators** to help communicate with Seniors when securing their vaccinations. [\(See posting\)](#)

**Habitat for Humanity** is looking for **Re-Store and Build Volunteers** [\(See posting\)](#)

**Yellow Brick House** is looking for a **Volunteer Graphic Designer**. [\(See posting\)](#)

**Mentality Me** is recruiting **Volunteer Writers/Collaborators** [\(See posting\)](#)

**Check often:** Check **Volunteer Markham's** [Database](#) for organizations needing volunteers and volunteer opportunities. This free, easily accessible database is your connection to the community!

Sign up here for the GTA Volunteer Centre's [Volunteer Drivers](#) 'matching' service' which addresses the most needed opportunity in our community and gets volunteers into their roles quickly (in York Region over 200 screened potential volunteers have been referred to organizations that continue to sign up).

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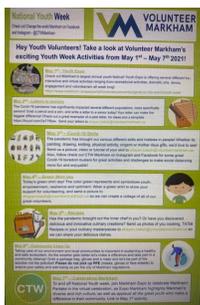
**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING:** With the many and ongoing changes to your ability to volunteer, why not consider going it alone? You can always connect with us here at Volunteer Markham for more information or suggestions on how to coordinate your own initiative or consider helping your community with one of the following ideas:

- Volunteers who sew are needed to make Masks and Scrub Caps
- Community Clean Ups (Select a location you enjoy visiting and head out to clean it up. Please ensure to wear proper protective gear and DO NOT pick up PPE).
- Community Food Drives
- Community Connector (reach out to your neighbours to let them know you are available to help them)
- Letter writing (writing letters to seniors to help fight social isolation)

**COLLABORATE WITH VOLUNTEER MARKHAM ON YOUR NEXT PROJECT!**

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## Change the World Markham Youth Update



**HIGHLIGHT: YOUTH WEEK: May 1 - 7th, 2021.** National Youth Week runs May 1 to 7 each year and is dedicated to the celebration of youth and their active participation in their community. National Youth Week is not a program, but rather a movement. It is driven by what happens in local communities across Canada. Celebrate with CTW Markham, check out their [Youth Week Calendar](#), get engaged with this strong group of leaders and stay tuned for daily “Boredom Busters” on their social media.

We are thrilled to introduce our team to you virtually. Meet our [Change the World Markham Youth Ambassadors!](#) You can now meet our team on our website at [About Us: Volunteer Markham.ca](#). Stay tuned as the youth build this page to support youth volunteerism in our community!



119 Posts  
168 Followers  
181 Following

**ChangeTheWorld (Markham)**  
Nonprofit Organization  
→ volunteerism | engaging youth  
• use our hashtag | [#ctwmarkham](#)  
• visit our home at  
[VolunteerMarkham.ca](#) and...more  
[volunteermarkham.ca/](#)

### [CTWMarkham Youth Ambassadors Welcome Video](#)

The CTWMarkham team has been working throughout the pandemic and continues to build support opportunities, engagement initiatives and community unity while at the same time advocating for youth volunteerism.

Currently the team created a unified front and has focused on a few key goals. The team has met and is exploring opportunities with the Believe Initiative (led by Sarah Wells, Olympian) and Future Majority (to partner and support youth initiatives locally). So stay tuned on these potential initiatives and some exciting events during **Youth Week** (first week of May).

CTW is excited to launch the new youth based discussion program raising awareness of mental health. Follow [Markham Mental Health for Youth](#) or reach out to join!



**Stay connected (Facebook and Instagram)!** If you are a youth looking for volunteer hours or your organization is interested in working with CTW Markham, please connect with us at [hello@volunteemarkham.ca](mailto:hello@volunteemarkham.ca)

**NEWS:** Join us in CONGRATULATING our very own CTW Markham's Ambassador **Lakysa** for recently being awarded as a Volunteer Champion!

*"Hi my name is Lakysa and I am 17 years old. I have been volunteering with volunteer Markham for almost a year. I have enjoyed working with the youth programs team to support the community! Volunteer Markham has helped me make a difference even during this unexpected time of quarantine. Working with the team has been enjoyable and beneficial. If anyone is considering to join volunteer Markham I would highly recommend it. I am excited to receive this award!"*

**Lakysa Moonemalle  
Champion Award**



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## VOLUNTEER MARKHAM'S FIRST EVER ONLINE AUCTION

**Raises over \$6000!**



**And just like that...it was over! Thank you to all our donors and participants for helping us raise over \$6000 through our first ever fundraising event!**

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## Volunteer Markham's Annual General Meeting

Volunteer Markham will be holding its Annual General Meeting virtually again this year. Stay tuned on Social Media or email us for a link to join us on June 21, 2021 at 6pm.

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## Partner Spotlight: 360 Kids Nightstop Program



**By Samantha Le**

Imagine that you're 16 years old, the school day is almost over and you have nowhere to go. You were forced to leave home the night before, to protect yourself from the ongoing emotional abuse inflicted from your parents. You stayed with a friend the night before but unfortunately, your friend isn't available to take you in today.

You look outside the classroom window. It's cold. A Winter chill still lingers as Spring attempts to make itself present. You can feel your anxiety starting to sink in as you watch the minutes on the clock pass, knowing that once that bell rings you no longer have somewhere safe to go.

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The school day is over. You stand outside and feel the cool wind sharply whipping against your cheeks. Where will you sleep tonight? What will you do when you get hungry? Where will you keep warm?

It is situations like these that make the 360°kids Nightstop program an essential service for youth in our community.

360°kids is a registered charity organization that offers programs and support services to youth all across York Region. The Nightstop program is an emergency housing initiative that provides a safety net for youth forced to leave their home.

Nightstop offers young people aged 16 to 26 emergency accommodation by placing them in a safe and warm home for the night with a vetted and approved community volunteer.

Nightstop Host Volunteers open up a spare bedroom in their home to provide accommodation to a young person in need, offering them a safe, positive and caring environment.

While the program has been operating for over 30 years in the United Kingdom, 360°kids is the first accredited organization in Canada to be able to provide Nightstop services. The program prevents young people from sleeping on the streets, “couch surfing” between friends’ homes, and staying in unsuitable accommodations where they would be at risk of abuse.

Now more than ever, we are looking for community members to help youth in need. Many youth clients we work with are experiencing even greater adversity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Youth that already struggled with being stuck in a harmful home environment with no access to safe housing; now face the unique worry of finding access to a bathroom as a result of many shops closing down or functioning at a reduced capacity. All of this combined, has resulted in many of our youth struggling with their mental health and feeling isolated.

Nightstop Host Volunteers not only provide youth with access to safe housing, food, bathroom and laundry facilities, but also access to a caring heart, a listening ear, and someone to talk to – something absolutely necessary during a time when many of our youth are feeling disconnected.

Prior to the pandemic, the program operated on a night-by-night basis, however in order to reduce the movement a guest makes between host homes and therefore minimize risks associated with the pandemic, the program has had to make temporary adjustments. We now ask Host Volunteers if they can accommodate a youth guest for one to two weeks at a time. Many of the program’s onboarding practices have also shifted to a virtual format and youth are asked to get tested for COVID-19 prior to receiving placement; all in the hopes of reducing risks of exposure to both youth and families.

Volunteering as a Host for Nightstop is a unique and innovative way to get involved in your community that allows you to witness the direct impact you are making on a young person’s life.

Another way for community members to get involved with Nightstop is to volunteer for the program as a Volunteer Driver. Participating as a Volunteer Driver is a great alternative for community members who would like to get involved however do not have a spare bedroom in their home or do not have the availability to host. The program looks for Volunteer Drivers to be able to provide support in transporting Nightstop guests to and from school, work, and Host Volunteer homes when needed.

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Finally, you can also support the Nightstop program by donating to 360°kids directly on our website [www.360kids.ca](http://www.360kids.ca) to ensure that we have the funds needed to keep this essential community initiative up and running during these turbulent times.

The program welcomes applications to volunteer throughout the year however, it is now when volunteers are needed most. The program relies on the strength and involvement of community members in order to be able to offer such an invaluable service to youth in York Region.

Visit [www.nightstop.ca](http://www.nightstop.ca) to learn more or attend a Volunteer Information Session on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-2pm or from 7pm-8pm. Email [nightstop@360kids.ca](mailto:nightstop@360kids.ca) to register for either session.