

Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received — only what you have given.

— St. Francis of Assisi

- **Make new friends**
- **Share your skills**
- **Learn something new**
- **Help someone feel better**
- **Be part of a team**
- **Demonstrate commitment**
- **Explore a career**

Mission

The Catholic Children's Aid Society, on behalf of the Catholic community, is committed to providing social services that protect children and strengthen family life.

We Value:

- Human Dignity
- The Courage and Integrity to Take a Stand
- Partnership and Teamwork
- Cultural, Racial and Individual Differences
- Professional Excellence

You can make a world of a difference to a young person in need!

Share your time, skills, and ideas by volunteering with us! You will join a community of over 350 volunteers who reach out to help thousands of children and families across Toronto. No matter who you are, or how busy your life is, your involvement will help CCAS make Toronto a better place for children and youth!



Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto
2206 Eglinton Ave., Toronto, ON M1L 4S7
Tel: 416-395-1500 | Fax: 416-395-1581
www.torontoccas.org



For the Love
of Children



*Volunteering to
Make a Difference!*



Volunteer Services Mission Statement

Engaging the community on an ongoing basis, and in every possible way, is an integral part of the Catholic Children's Aid Society's (CCAS) Mission to protect children and strengthen family life. Volunteers are partners with staff, foster caregivers, families, children and youth in carrying out the Society's Mission. Fulfillment of this vision of giving in partnership contributes to the creation of a better community for all.

www.torontoccas.org



“

When I was six years old, I lived in a foster home and often relied on the kindness of volunteer drivers to get me from point A to point B. For about a year or so, we were driven home by a nice, older woman, whom I fondly refer to as Ms. Daisy. Through those drives, I learned what it means to be selfless, what it means to make a commitment and what it means to be compassionate. Of course, these lessons became clearer as years passed and I became older...

— Maureen Spillane, CCAS Former Youth In Care

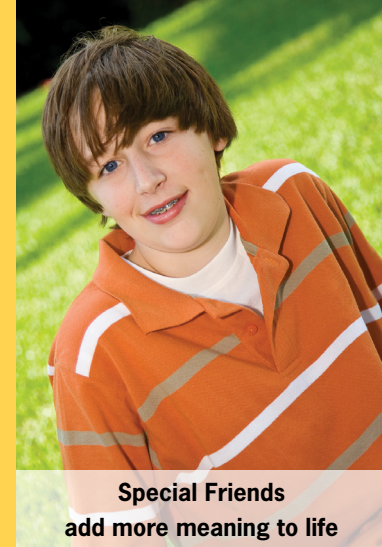
Kindness Driven Home



Working with
CCAS children and families

Each year, an average of 18,500 children and 7,500 families benefit from CCAS services. Almost 1,700 children are also cared for annually in CCAS foster homes, group homes, treatment facilities and independence homes. They come into our care for a number of reasons, such as abuse, neglect, parent illness, or chronic medical needs. They range from newborn babies to 16 years of age.

Volunteers are a great asset in providing assistance to CCAS clients. Your help strengthens families and facilitates their move towards health, safety and self-sufficiency. Your impact on children's lives has amazing results: you help improve their self-esteem, provide positive role modeling, emotional support, and help them feel special.



Special Friends
add more meaning to life

“

Being a special friend has been an inspiration. I have been given the opportunity to encourage Matthew to envision possibilities in his future. The experience has been very rewarding.

— Paul Westergaard, CCAS Special Friend Volunteer

Paul is attending medical school. I'm thrilled that Matthew is friends with such a positive role model. Paul teaches him the right morals, that you need to be responsible for your own actions, and that your own behaviour affects your future.

— Colleen, Matthew's Mother

Learn how volunteering with CCAS will be a rewarding and memorable experience

How much time should I commit? This depends on the volunteer role you select. It can range from three or four hours per month to 15 or 20. We can help you make a realistic time commitment that fits your schedule. Short-term commitment is also possible for special projects which require occasional help.

How do I find the right volunteer role?

Choose a position that interests you. We have plenty of opportunities for you to take on new challenges. A few of these roles are described in this pamphlet and should provide you with an idea of how you can help. You can also call us to suggest a volunteer role that may be helpful.

Do I receive any support and training?

Our Volunteer Services are run by staff who inspire, train and support all volunteers. You will have the benefit of attending orientation sessions for new volunteers. You may also receive additional orientation (e.g. Drivers

and Child Access Volunteers), or specialized training to develop skills necessary for a particular assignment. Ongoing training and professional support are also offered in the form of workshops, seminars and supervision. Each year in May, CCAS Volunteer Services hosts a special recognition event to honour our volunteers.

What's the benefit of volunteering? You will gain personal satisfaction from helping others, new skills, knowledge and experience. This will also enhance your resumé and our reference letters can support your employment or university applications.

How do I proceed next? Call 416-395-1500 and ask to speak with the Supervisor of Volunteer Services in the branch closest to you. Branch locations are listed at the back of this pamphlet. The Supervisor will provide more information on how to proceed next.

A sampling of volunteer positions that may be perfect for your skills and interests...

Child Access Program Assistant: If you enjoy working with children and families, you will find it rewarding to bring children in care and their birth families together for access visits. In this role, you will create a safe and welcoming environment for the children and help monitor the visits. You will also assist families when visits do not happen as planned and provide feedback to your supervisor. This program operates on Saturdays.

Special Friend: Do you like planning age-appropriate events that are educational and recreational? Would you like to help a young person boost their self-confidence? As a Special Friend you will be spending time with a young person on a regular basis, serving as a role model and providing emotional support. You will be financially reimbursed for this role.

Tutor: Do you have academic skills to share? Do you enjoy teaching and communicating ideas? By modeling positive approaches to

school work, tutoring can help a young person experience success in learning.

Life Skills Coach: Does youth advocacy interest you? Do you want to assist youth with job hunting, or teach them how to cook nutritious meals? In this role you will help youth prepare for independent living.

Parent Aide: Are you interested in providing support and companionship to a parent? Some parents can benefit from a relationship with a volunteer who helps them strengthen their self-confidence. In this role you may also assist parents with household management and provide child care relief.

Driver: Are you an experienced driver with your own car and enjoy working with children? Your transportation services will enable children and youth to visit with family, attend professional appointments or group activities. Mileage and parking expenses will be reimbursed.

An opportunity to feel good about making a positive impact...

Life Book Assistant: Are you creative and love to tell a story? Life books chronicle the story of children in CCAS care. You will assist staff in researching documents and obtaining information from the child's family and community members to create life books that preserve valuable memories.

Research and Evaluation Aide: Do you enjoy researching and have an eye for detail? Are you a writer who is good at summarizing facts? In this role, you will assist staff by reading client files (including children who have been adopted through our agency) to complete written summaries of their social histories.

Administrative Support: Do you like meeting new people and enjoy multi-tasking? In this role, you will provide support to various CCAS departments by organizing information, inputting data, compiling statistics, preparing mailings and providing telephone reception.

Team Assistant: Do you enjoy meeting new people and supporting a team? You will assist a team of front-line workers and support staff who work with clients in our community. This includes providing companionship and support to children while they await meetings.

Communications Assistant: Are you creative and interested in new media? Do you enjoy organizing events? Do you want to learn how HTML newsletters are designed, or how to write articles for our newsletter and website? You will assist a highly energetic team with various promotional activities ranging from event management to website development.

Hope for Children Foundation Assistant: Do you want to help raise funds for those in need? You will assist with various fundraising activities and events. This includes helping scholarship recipients, building donor relations, and producing communications material.