

Lending a helping hand

Campus Food Bank marks decade of service

Faculty and staff from Memorial's St. John's campus and the Marine Institute are being asked to dig a little deeper into their cupboards this summer and support the Campus Food Bank.

The volunteer-run centre, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, wants to ensure its shelves are well stocked with healthy items for anyone who might need some extra help.

"We're a year round operation," said Pradeep Bobby, president of the food bank's board of directors and a project engineer with C-CORE. "We serve staff, faculty, students and alumni. We need donations all the time. The summer months are a time when the food bank is in most need of support."

It's also a time when donations from some employees tend to ease off as people take vacations. There's also the misconception that since the majority of students and employees are away from the university this time of the year, donations are not needed.

"That's not the case," Mr. Bobby said. "The summer may be quieter but we still get people who need help."

Tucked away in the basement of the Corte Real Building, which is located adjacent to the Burton's Pond Apartments, the Campus Food Bank opened its doors in 1996. It was set up by Judy Rose, the former employee assistance program co-ordinator here at Memorial, Paul Thornhill, the then-president of the students union, and Noel Veitch, who is now a retired education professor.

Its mission was – and remains – simple: to provide an emergency food service to those in need.

"We're here if you need us," Mr. Veitch said recently. "That was our motto then and that's what it is today."

And, that need has never been greater. During 2005,

more than 3,300 clients visited the centre to receive hampers. Volunteers don't ask clients about their financial situation – they simply want to help keep healthy food on tables. In turn, clients simply need to provide their MCP and student number to receive a hamper.

The Campus Food Bank receives most of its donations from the Community Food Sharing Association, which distributes food to similar groups around the province.

Although donations tend to drop off during the summer, Mr. Bobby said his group does receive tremendous support at other times of the year. University employees regularly collect donations within their own departments and units and some have raised money for the food bank, which is a registered charity. As well, the food bank benefits every time employees and students toss drink containers into recycling bins.

"The money collected goes to the food bank," said Mr. Bobby. "It is one of our biggest sources of income. We have an agreement with Evergreen Recycling and the university. As Memorial moves to having more recycling containers, this source of revenue has the potential to grow."

Meantime, Mr. Bobby said the Campus Food Bank is currently accepting donations from faculty, staff and retirees so they can meet the demand from their clients during the fall.

The Campus Food Bank is open Monday and



Photo by Chris Hammond

Pradeep Bobby (L) and Noel Veitch, volunteers with the Campus Food Bank are surrounded by some of the items collected during the 12 Days of Christmas in July Food Drive recently held at Memorial. More than 20 departments and student groups took part in the event. The Division of Marketing and Communications and the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development collected the most items and accumulated a whopping 1,448 points to win a Subway luncheon for staff members.

Thursday from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and 7-8 p.m., as well as Sunday from 4-5 p.m. For more information, e-mail foodbank@mun.ca or call 737-3467.

Well done!

Memorial is thriving with interesting employees who are doing all sorts of great things – everything from making our university a better place to work, winning awards for professional achievement and volunteering in our communities. The Communicator salutes these co-workers for creating a cause for applause! Tell us about your awards or achievements. Send an e-mail to jeffg@mun.ca or call 737-2142.

Doreen Whalen, longtime director of the Division of Lifelong Learning, received an honorary membership to the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) in late May. She was honoured for her outstanding contribution to the fields of adult learning and continuing education during her extensive career. The award comes on the cusp of her retirement. She's eligible to retire in November, marking more than 36 years of service with Memorial. To read more about her top award, visit http://today.mun.ca/news.php?news_id=2123



graduate students, \$600 of which is provided by Grad Studies. There are no changes to those awards. To find out more about WAMUN, visit www.mun.ca/wamun/

Michael Hollahan, a biomedical technologist III, with Technical Services was one of more than 20 volunteers from Memorial who were featured on a special website for Volunteer Week 2006. For five years, he's been a familiar face at the St. John's YM-YWCA, volunteering in the conditioning centre and providing assistance to people on how to use the gym equipment. Mr. Hollahan is just one of hundreds of employees here at Memorial who volunteer with countless groups and organizations. Read his and others stories online at www.mun.ca/marcomm/volunteers.php.



Though both runs are over, T-shirts are still on sale. They cost \$12 and can be purchased by calling 737-8562. Meanwhile, CEP is holding its annual walk for Special Olympics in September. To register, call Phil Smith at 737-2046 or Mr. Fifield at 737-2047.

On June 8, at the annual general meeting of the Human Resources Professionals of Newfoundland and Labrador (HRPNL), Lisa Curran (centre), employee relations officer, Department of Human Resources, received her Certified Human Resources Professional designation. She was also presented with the Award for Human Resources Excellence, recognizing that she received the highest mark in the province on her exam. Ms. Curran accepted her award from Diane Wiesenthal, president of the Canadian Council of Human Resources Associations and Joe Bouzanne, president of the HRPNL.



The Women's Association of Memorial University of Newfoundland (WAMUN) recently voted to increase its four undergraduate scholarships from \$900 to \$1,000. The scholarships are open to all undergrads, including medical students. Two of those scholarships – the Faculty/Staff Scholarship and the Undergraduate Scholarship – will also no longer have a financial need component. Both will now be based on academic merit only. That means dependents of faculty and staff will no longer need to demonstrate financial need, however they must still apply for the Faculty/Staff Scholarship through the Office of Scholarships and Awards. WAMUN also annually presents four scholarships, valued at \$1,200 each for

Campus Enforcement and Patrol (CEP) has raised nearly \$5,000 for Special Olympics by selling T-shirts and collecting donations. Once again this year, members of the unit took part in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run here in this province, which was held June 9. Congrats as well to Investigations Officer **Jeff Fifield** who not only represented Memorial but this province during the final leg of the Torch Run for the Summer Games for Special Olympics July 17-19 in Manitoba.