



### **Ever since we moved to Pickering...**

Ever since we moved to Pickering in 2001, I have been volunteering. I started at the Pickering Soccer Club as a coordinator – just collecting game sheets from coaches. I soon found myself on the Board of Directors looking after Mini Soccer, and am now in charge of our Indoor Program and our All Star Program. Over the years I also became a Guide Leader, a Trefoil Guild Member, a soccer coach, an All Star team co-manager, and a hockey team manager.

For the most part, when my friends and coworkers are relaxing at home, I'm either working on soccer, hockey or guiding, or attending soccer, hockey or guiding. So, one might ask, why do you do it then?

I can tell you, it's not for the pay – there isn't any... it's not for the recognition, for the most part, there isn't any. Then why?

Through volunteering, I have met many wonderful people who will be friends for years to come. I am able to contribute and shape what my community has to offer my children. I can be a positive role model for my children, and I can get to know their friends and friends' families. I can spend time with my family – my husband volunteers too – doing things together when today's families too often separate and go their own ways for their leisure activities.

But best of all, to know that I have helped a child in any way is wonderful – whether it is giving them confidence on the playing field, or teaching them new skills at Girl Guides, you remember them, and they remember you. All over this fine City, I see people who have affected me, and who I have affected, and it makes me smile.

You don't have to forget how to say "No" like me and many of the other members of the Pickering Soccer Club to get the benefit of volunteering. Volunteering can take as little as two hours a week as a soccer coach... believe me that small amount of commitment makes a HUGE difference in the eyes of our children.