

Blue Wave team springs into action for National Volunteer Week

FirstOntario's employee volunteers continue to rack up hours all in the name of a good deed

Niagara, ON, April 8, 2019 – The world is a better place thanks to those who choose to use what free time they have to help others, to make a difference and to make their communities a better place. FirstOntario Credit Union's Blue Wave employee volunteer team has the same goals.

In honour of April's National Volunteer Week, the Blue Wave team is out in full force and will be spending Saturday at St. Catharines' Community Care, to lend a hand and give the facility a spring makeover, as part of their first-ever *Community First Days*.

"It means a lot to us to be out in our communities and helping those who need it. Our volunteers take pride in the role they play in our student nutrition programs, in giving back through fundraisers, initiatives and by being a part of the bigger picture and supporting organizations like Community Care," said Lloyd Smith, Interim CEO, FirstOntario Credit Union.

"Our new *Community First Days* allow us to round up a larger group to tackle a bigger project. Our Blue Wave Committee came up with the idea – this is something they want to do."

The volunteer team concept began in 2010 with just 10 volunteers. Now almost 12,000 hours later, close to 300 volunteers across all of FirstOntario's regions decide how they will spend their time. There is a dedicated group of Niagara locals who have already reached at least one milestone or 96 volunteer hours. Once a volunteer hits this number, FirstOntario makes a \$500 donation to the charity of their choice. The Blue Wave is stronger than ever!

About FirstOntario Credit Union

FirstOntario has been serving Members in the Golden Horseshoe, Niagara Region and Southwestern regions of Ontario since 1939. Our credit union now has over 126,000 Members and more than \$5.4 billion in assets under management. Everyone is welcome to be part of FirstOntario for financial services including daily transactions, mortgages, lines of credit, loans and investments. FirstOntario profits are invested into the communities we serve through support for entrepreneurs, competitive rates and charitable pursuits including our award winning student nutrition program. Learn more about us today at FirstOntario.com.

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