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**Local Durham woman dreams big to raise funds and awareness for
Huntington disease**

Celebrating National Volunteer Week: April 12-18, 2015

(KITCHENER, ON) March 24, 2015 – Volunteers are at the heart of the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC). Our volunteers tell a powerful story of caring people who pull together to improve the quality of life for Canadians impacted by Huntington disease (HD). To celebrate National Volunteer Week (April 12-18) the Huntington Society of Canada is honouring local volunteer Bunny Clark’s volunteer work in Ontario’s Durham region and the impact she makes in the HD community.

Bunny Clark knows just how much devastation Huntington disease can create within a family. Her late husband, who carried the gene, had 16 siblings. She’s seen many of them pass away. Now the next generation is developing symptoms — Bunny has been helping take care of a nephew in the later stages of HD and her own daughter has tested positive for the gene.

So a few years ago, she set her sights on creating a local HSC chapter in Ontario’s Durham region to raise awareness, educate healthcare professionals and connect families dealing with the disease.

“When you feel like you’re the only one that suffers from something, it can be pretty devastating and isolating,” Bunny says. “But when you feel like you’ve got somebody else that you can relate to, that’s in the same boat, I think it gives you strength. I think it gives you a little bit of strength and some motivation. And really, in the end, it gives you hope.”

The new group’s first undertaking was organizing a fundraising walk in 2014. It attracted 250 people, raising a whopping \$21,000 and a hefty dose of excitement among all the participants that showed up.

For this year’s walk taking place May 24, she wants to double those numbers. She already has several mayors and councillors in the region signed up, plus a couple of local celebrities. “I dream big,” Bunny laughs. “What the heck. If you’re going to do it, you might as well go all the way, right?”

The Huntington Society of Canada would like to thank each and every one of our over 10,000 volunteers across the country. Their hard work and dedication is deeply appreciated by the Society.

Now in its 73rd year, National Volunteer Week is all about recognizing the hardworking volunteers that make a difference in Canada. It has grown to be the largest celebration of civic participation in Canada. Help us celebrate National Volunteer Week in Canada. Volunteers are part of the ripple effect.

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Huntington disease (HD) is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend. HD causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington’s become less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.



The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with Huntington disease across Canada.

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