

# Volunteer Advisory Team

## *Te Kāhui Hononga Tangata*

The **Volunteer Advisory Team** (VAT) exists to support Volunteer Services. It provides a means for Volunteer Services to obtain feedback from the Hospice's volunteer workforce about ideas they have, changes they are proposing, and solutions that work for volunteers.

The team includes five representatives. Each representative represents at least one grouping of volunteers based on location, role, gender, ethnicity, youth, students, retired, working, etc. The representatives take views and evidence-based ideas from their grouping/s to team meetings – the aim being to bring about positive change.

Mary Potter Hospice currently has over 660 volunteers who fulfil a wide variety of roles that assist in the effective running of the hospice and provide the Hospice with some \$1,000,000 worth of hours in unpaid work! Without its volunteers, Mary Potter Hospice would not be able to function as it does now.

Volunteer Services wants to understand what works for volunteers in their volunteering at the Hospice, and what could be done better to ensure that volunteers enjoy their role/s and feel valued – the Volunteer Advisory Team is a vehicle with which they will better be able to achieve this.

[volunteeradvisoryteam@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:volunteeradvisoryteam@marypotter.org.nz)

### **Current members of the VAT:**

#### **Sally Schoon**

I represent the MPH shop volunteers. I am part of a great team of some 8 multi-tasking volunteers each day working days / half days Monday to Saturday at the Thorndon Quay hospice shop, with our manager. My background is in education. I am a past president and honorary life member of the NZ Speech-language Therapists Association and a UNESCO fellowship recipient. Until 2020 I was volunteering each week at a local primary school supporting literacy and oral language skills in a new entrant classroom during story writing and reading. I am a Commander in the Order of St Lazarus and a former Rotarian.

#### **Ashwin Gulab**

I represent the male and ethnic cohorts on the Volunteer Advisory Team at MPH. I volunteer fortnightly on

Wednesday on reception. I am a retired professional telecommunications engineer. I worked in varied fields of engineering, management, business / capital planning and information technology support systems. I am a volunteer for the Wellington Indian Association with my current role being as Secretary on the Board that manages the property assets of the organisation. I was the team leader for a seismic strengthening project for the Association. I enjoy meeting people and helping others.

#### **Karen Gibson**

I am very excited to represent the group of volunteers who volunteer alongside working full-time. I have volunteered for the hospice for almost 20 years serving supper/dinner. I am born and bred Wellingtonian and love our city and community. I'm employed as an Executive Assistant and have worked within a wide range of sectors, including central Government, police, not-for-profit and private organisations.

#### **Alan Greenslade-Hibbert**

I arrived from the UK with my husband nearly four years ago. As a retired person, severally a probation officer, lawyer and teacher, I came to Aotearoa for a new adventure, to achieve a new lease of life, and I have certainly achieved that. I have been a volunteer with MPH almost since I landed. I volunteer with them as a biographer, a companion, and now am just on call for lunch duty if someone cannot make their shift.

#### **Sachi Taulelei**

Talofa lava, I started volunteering at MPH in 2018, after my mother received the most amazing care and support through the IPU. Initially volunteering on reception, I am now a volunteer biographer. I am proud of my Samoan and Japanese heritage and am a mum to two children (ages 13 and 10). I am actively involved in a number of initiatives to address equity, inclusion and diversity (mainly in the workplace). I work full time, leading a design team for a large corporate and also volunteer as a mentor and coach for masters graduates and emerging talent within the design industry. I love my volunteer work at the hospice - it's my connection to my mum, it keeps me grounded and reminds me to cherish every moment of every day, especially with the ones we love.

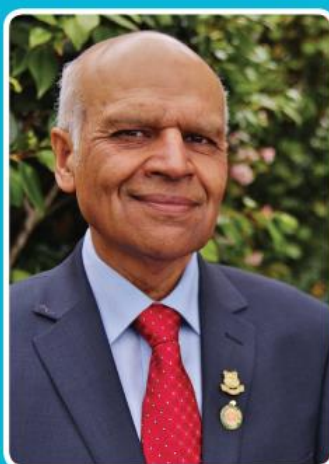


## Volunteer Advisory Team *Te Kāhui Hononga Tangata*

When Volunteer Services wants to know what volunteers think about a particular issue, we'll be in touch with you to make sure volunteer voices are represented.



Sally



Ashwin



Alan



Karen



Sachi

Contact

Opinion

Ngākau

Narrative

Empathy

Caring

Team