



Pamela Vorstermans-Agar

Saskatoon, SK

2008 SASW Scholarship Award

The SASW Student Scholarship is awarded to a social work student in recognition of their contribution to the community. The student's community service is beyond the immediate requirements of education or employment and could be activities related to the professional association, group, or volunteer work.

Pamela's volunteer experience began in the summer of 2005 when she and her husband worked as construction hands on a Habitat for Humanity building, recognizing that communities can work together to make changes for those disadvantaged. During that same summer, she volunteered at a summer camp with Family Services Saskatoon, accompanying youth on outings. That fall, Pamela approached a teacher about helping in the classroom to explore the possibility of becoming a teacher. During this volunteer work, at Dundonald Elementary, she found she was more interested in what was driving the behaviour of young people and her focus shifted to social work.

In the past year, Pamela has continued to maintain her long term relationship with a student she encourages and supports through Big Brothers as an In-School Mentor. Pamela has also continued her work on the Saskatoon Social Work Student Society as the SWITCH Liaison and participated in development and organization of the SWSS Student Community volunteer Award.

Pamela's largest contribution in the past year however, has been her dedication to SWITCH (Student wellness initiative Toward Community Health). Pamela's volunteering spans from working weekly shifts at the clinic to being the Human Resources Coordinator on the SWITCH Council. As a volunteer, Pamela has contributed to SWITCH in many ways such as helping with the organization of SWITCH's Annual Golf Tournament, promoting and educating students and the public about SWITCH, and training/coordinating shift supervisors. Most recently, Pamela co-planned and is currently co-managing the SWITCH Mental Health Initiative, a new program that provides counselling to SWITCH clients.

In addition to her continued volunteering, this last year Pamela began volunteering at the Royal University Hospital as a visitor for palliative care patients.

The depth of Pamela's volunteer experience, her commitment to community, and vulnerable people through her work, is phenomenal.