Recruit Volunteers

by connecting with community and personal networks. Share stories and possibilities.

Here are some ideas for how to recruit volunteers:

Talk to your parent advisory council, religious organizations, seniors' clubs, cultural associations, Friendship Centres, service clubs, your local RHA, business associations, high schools and adult education centres (through Student Initiated Projects), local police and fire department, and any other group within your community.

Tap into your personal network to get the word out. Highlight the impact your program will have on the community if it is well-supported.

Look for passionate community members who are well-known by others. Start by talking to parents who fit this description - they may be able to help you build your volunteer network over time.
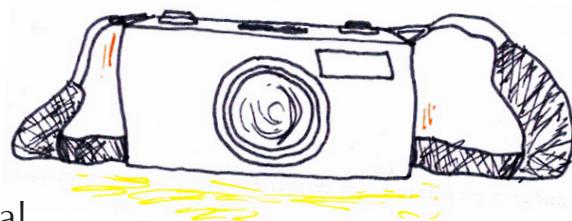
Advertise in local newspapers, service group newsletters and on your website. Send flyers home with students or post them at local community centres and stores.

Ask to speak at service group or business lunches and invite community members to special school events.

Create a set of resources to help share information about your program (see side-bar).

Consider School Board policies for volunteers in your school. Most schools require volunteers to complete a criminal record check and a child abuse registry check. Be ready to provide information to prospective volunteers about this process and decide how much assistance the school will provide.

Before you start!

Create a set of simple resources so that all staff can easily and quickly share information about your nutrition program. The set could include:

a one-page info sheet that describes your program, its location and volunteer tasks.

a few photographs from your program that can be shared widely with the public.

a short paragraph about your program that is ready for sending to newspapers or inserting into newsletters.

an entry on your school website about your program so that anyone looking for information will be able to find it.

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