

McGregor Volunteers Reach 25,000 Hour Milestone for 2010

DURHAM, NH (November 11, 2010) - McGregor Memorial EMS volunteers have exceeded 25,000 hours of time volunteered so far this year and expect to set a record for the organization in 2010 by exceeding 27,000 hours. The organization will recognize this milestone by honoring its volunteers during its annual holiday dinner next Monday. McGregor has steadily seen the number of hours given by volunteers increase since 2005 when just over 9,000 hours were volunteered. This has occurred even as volunteer ambulance services throughout the United States are closing their doors due to an inability to recruit and retain volunteers.

Travis Fleury, who has been volunteering with McGregor since 2001, has watched the organization grow substantially over the past 9 years. Fleury says that when he started the organization responded to less than 1,000 calls annually, far less than the nearly 1,600 emergency responses expected in 2010. "More calls mean more demand placed on our volunteers who might be up responding to calls for much of the overnight hours but still need to work their full-time job the next morning."

Another McGregor volunteer, Tom Drungil is an administrator for the Oyster River School District during the day and acknowledges that the training and schedule can be grueling. "One thing that we're constantly reminded of throughout the training process is that our patients don't care if the people caring for them are paid or volunteer; what matters is that we're professional, compassionate, and most importantly know what we're doing." Drungil admits to occasionally being tired after a night of being on call but says that it's worth it, "You get to help a person during a really difficult time, perhaps even save their life. Where else do you get to do that?" According to Drungil, most patients do not even know that McGregor utilizes volunteers because of the professional level of care. This is reflected in the survey's which every patient transported by McGregor receives, "I had no idea that McGregor EMT's were primarily volunteers. At no time was I afraid or did I feel there was anyone but very competent people caring for me."

McGregor volunteers are all trained EMTs who have completed at least a 110 hour course followed by another 3-5 months of intensive in-house training. Over 20 of McGregor's EMTs have gone on to obtain credentials as Advanced Life Support Providers. McGregor also has a few dedicated non-medical, administrative volunteers who assist with fundraising and processing patient surveys.

McGregor Memorial EMS is a professional ambulance service which has been providing emergency medical care in the communities of Durham, Lee, Madbury and the University of New Hampshire for over forty years. They also offer community CPR courses at libraries throughout the Seacoast. For more information about McGregor EMS, learning CPR, or volunteering as an EMT visit www.mcgregorems.org or email membership@mcgregorems.org.

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