

Candystripers would li

The very successful Candy Stripers program whereby young girls voluntarily help nurses at the hospital and care home could have an uncertain future if a new adviser-coordinator is not found in the next few months.

Leona Paynter, who presently coordinates the 41 girls involved says the time spent and the cost of driving in and out of town

from her home in the Montney area is becoming too great.

"I am willing to start a new adviser. But I won't continue alone for another year to put it quite bluntly," Paynter said Wednesday.

She says she got involved with candy stripers four years ago when her own daughter Susan was a volunteer with the

organization.

Susan has gone on to nurse's training in Alberta and now is in her second year.

Paynter's records over the past four years show that about 40 per cent of the girls who have joined candy stripers locally have gone into the medical field when they finished high school.

OPEN TO BOYS

Candy stripers is open to both girls and boys 14 years old and over although efforts to get boys involved have been less than successful until now.

However girls have been quite enthusiastic about volunteering and numbers have gone up from 15 four years ago to the 41 at present. A few more could still be used.



CANDY STRIPERS Randi Hogenbom and Elaine Landry were at work in the paediatrics ward at the hospital Wednesday. Both girls are in grade 9 at Bert

Bowes school. Forty-one girls are presently helping nursing staff in the hospital and care home under the candy striper's program.

ike to meet new leader

To provide a volunteer on each of the five hospital wards and two for the care home seven days a week would require 49 people Paynter explains.

A present some wards go without a volunteer some days and some girls put in extra shifts to build up their record of hours.

Candy stripers are in the hospital and care home from 4 to 6pm every day. Each girl normally works one shift a week.

As unpaid volunteers the reward for their work is the satisfaction of helping people and the experience of having worked in a hospital situation which can be of benefit in obtaining work or getting into training programs when they finish school.

Part of the adviser's job is to keep track of the hours the participants work so they can be given the various awards that come with accumulated time.

The first award is a white cap after 20 hours service. Then at 75 hours they receive a pink band for the cap.

After 150 hours service they receive a pin shaped like a candy cane.

Following this they receive pins bearing their number of hours of service.

The girls spend 10 weeks at a particular station and then are rotated to another area. They work under the supervision of the nursing staff.

HELP NURSES

"The nurses assign the jobs. They are qualified to know the borderline between nursing procedure and what can be done by volunteers," Paynter explains.

Some of the jobs are washing and folding clothing, filling water jugs, handing out meal trays, making beds, reading to patients and helping them write letters, playing games with patients or just plain keeping them company.

New participants are

given a one day of intensive training to get them started before going into the hospital.

And no, they do not come around with the candy trolley. It is the hospital auxiliary that does that.

Candy stripers is supported by the hospital auxiliary which carries all

of the incidental costs of running the program, however.

It is a good training program for young volunteers and an important service to the community.

Anyone interested should contact Paynter at 827-3358.

Candy Stripers want new leader

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