



Tetra Society of North America

Hamilton/Halton Chapter

*Improving Quality of Life
for the Disabled*

What is the Tetra Society?

Tetra is a national non-profit, charitable society that helps people with disabilities enjoy fuller and more independent lives by building or modifying assistive devices that are not commercially available. Tetra's technical volunteers have customized existing products and created a wide variety of innovative new devices that have enriched many lives.

The solutions are often simple, but can change someone's life.

Who Can Benefit from Tetra?

People are not handicapped by their disabilities, but by obstacles or barriers in their environment. This unique program was developed in response to the difficulties that people with disabilities often experience in their search for greater independence and integration into their communities.

Tetra can help adults and children with chronic conditions and those temporarily disabled due to illness or injury. Tetra volunteers have created recreational aids, such as bike "buggies" for children, household and personal care aids, aids for school and the workplace, and mobility aids.

After assessing your request for assistance, we will match you with one or more of our technical volunteers who possess the appropriate skills to make or customize the assistive device you require.

If you live in the Halton area, or can come to Hamilton/Burlington, we will do our best to help you. Volunteer design services are provided free of charge. There may be a small charge to cover mileage and materials.

If you or someone you know lives with a disability and could benefit from a customized device that can't be found in the marketplace, we encourage you to contact Tetra Hamilton/Halton.

*Please note: Tetra will **not** provide lifts and hoists, prosthetics, braces, or medical devices, and other commercially available devices or services.*



Who Can Volunteer?

Tetra volunteers are typically people with creative, relevant skills who have an interest in volunteering in the community. Volunteers can be engineers, architects, technologists, trades people, or people who provide services to the disabled, such as occupational therapists, pedorthists, and other health professionals.

While it helps to have a technical background, Tetra is also looking for volunteers from other fields.

Volunteers attend monthly group meetings to brainstorm ideas on ongoing Tetra projects.

Individual projects are taken on as appropriate and the time commitment involved will vary. Volunteers work in consultation with our client members to design and create the device or modifications required. Tetra volunteers are free to market their inventions on their own.

It costs you nothing but your time to volunteer.

If you are interested in a rewarding and challenging opportunity to use your creativity and professional skills to make a difference in someone's life, then we urge you to contact us about volunteering.

Tetra's Screening Process

We take the safety of our members and volunteers very seriously. Our volunteer screening process includes an in-person interview and police records and reference checks. Tetra also screens requests for assistance before projects are assigned to volunteers.

Guidelines and policies are in place to reduce our volunteers' exposure to liability and to ensure that our clients receive safe and well-built devices.

How Do I Get in Touch with Tetra?

For additional information, please contact us at:

Tetra Hamilton/Halton
Sylvia Baliko
Tel: (905) 319-2843
Email: sbaliko1@sympatico.ca

Visit the Tetra Web site at:
www.tetrasociety.org

