

2013 Seva Awardees

Kehar Singh Aujla Volunteer Grandparent

At 78, Kehar Singh Aujla shuffles between nine organizations. His routine starts at 5 in the morning and finishes at 9 in the evening. Aujla is a well known volunteer in the Burnaby community. He volunteers nearly everyday for nine community organizations in New Westminister and Burnaby in B.C. at the Sikh Temple of the Khalsa Diwan Society in New Westminister; with Citizen Support Services as a shopping buddy for those who need assistance on Mondays; at the information desk at Burnaby Hospital on Wednesdays; at the Burnaby Village Museum on Thursdays, and as a volunteer grandparent for a family with three young children on Saturdays.

Aujla, emigrated from India with his wife in 1996, and began volunteering in Burnaby a decade later. Aujla is also a Volunteer Grandparent, helps visitors find their way around Burnaby Hospital. It's a full schedule, often eating up more than 40



hours of his week. But, says Aujla, it never feels like work. And the rewards are more gratifying than numbers on a paycheque. "When I become shopping buddy for the physically challenged I pay money, I carry their stuff, I become their hands literally and it give me satisfaction to work for them," he said. "What we get, the thanks and the good wishes, I never got in my 51 years of working," said Aujla. Apart from being named Burnaby's citizen of the year, Aujla has also received a 2011 Seniors of Distinction Award for Healthy Living and a 2010 SFU Gerontology Senior Leadership Award. He has also been nominated for one of the Top 25 immigrants of Canada. He exemplifies the concept of selfless service.