



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA

In its efforts to encourage social responsibility of the University of Rijeka, and all of its members, the Foundation of the University of Rijeka celebrates the International Volunteer Day by organising a volunteer action for university employees. Celebrating International Volunteer Day presents one of the attempts of the Foundation of the University of Rijeka to encourage employees of the University of Rijeka to actively contribute to the community in which they live and work but also to fulfil one of its program goals - contribute to the development of civil society.

Last year, the volunteers from the University of Rijeka, invested their free time into decorating the facilities of the Neurosurgery Clinic at the Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka. The Neurosurgery Clinic treats a large number of road traffic victims and other neurological patients. Even though the Clinic needed serious construction work or operating equipment in order to improve the quality of neurosurgical patient care, in collaboration with the Association for the Development of Neurosurgery *Neurochirurgia Fluminensis*, volunteers did as much as they could to improve the conditions at the Clinic and painted doors and woodwork. In addition, the Academy of Applied Arts in Rijeka donated nine student graphics which the volunteers used to decorate the hospital rooms and hallways.

This year, the academic volunteers will visit the Department for children with visual impairments at a local primary school and participate in the workshop for making tactile picture books for children who have almost no teaching material. The first specialised children's library of this kind in Croatia was opened within the Department in December 2008 in Rijeka with the aim to collect as many books for children with visual impairments. Special emphasis is given to tactile picture books because there are very expensive and hard to find on the market. Volunteers will first attend a workshop to receive training how to make tactile picture books and educational work sheets, and then make them on their own.