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MEDIA RELEASE

Volunteer MBC Recognizes Volunteers at 4th Annual Awards Event

April 14, 2014 – Brampton, ON – After the formal proceedings of Volunteer MBC's 5th Annual General Meeting last Thursday, the room filled with cheers and celebration as eleven (11) award recipients were recognized for their exemplary efforts and voluntary achievements at the volunteer centre's 4th Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Event.

Those recognized were as follows:

- **Craig Ross** (Community Living Mississauga), recipient of the John Huether Award for Volunteering Excellence;
- **Bill Goursky** (United Way of Peel Region), recipient of the Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award;
- **Dawn Pegus** (Supportive Housing in Peel/Peel Youth Village), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Donelda Chemello** (Bethell Hospice), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Frank Godon** (The BRIDGE), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Eugene Wilson** (City of Brampton), recipient of the Leader in Volunteer Engagement Award;
- **Mars Canada Inc.** (Caledon Community Services), recipient of the Corporate Volunteer Engagement Award;
- **Abeera Shahid** (Volunteer MBC), recipient of the Leader of Tomorrow Award;
- **Ruhi Kokal**, recipient of the ChangeTheWorld Recognition Award (individual category);
- **Team REBEL 2013** recipient of the ChangeTheWorld Recognition Award (school/youth group category).

A special presentation was also made to honour **Bonnie Yagar**, Volunteer MBC's Past President, to recognize her dedication and expertise as one of the centre's founding Steering Committee members. The Bonnie Yagar Award for Community Engagement Leadership was introduced to recognize an individual who is able to drive and mobilize community service organizations via his/her exceptional board leadership capacity.

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“All of the volunteers that we are recognizing today are shining examples of how just one person can make such a profound difference in our community,” said Jake Dheer, Station Manager of Rogers TV Peel and keynote speaker of the Awards ceremony. “Giving your time and talents helps build the capacity of community service organizations, for without volunteers many of these organizations would simply not be able to exist.”

“We truly believe that volunteers help communities grow,” said Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC. “This year’s celebration also recognizes Volunteer MBC’s 5th year of operation, and it has been our pleasure to help connect volunteers with community service organization members so they can continue to deliver their much-needed programs and services in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. Congratulations to all of this year’s Award recipients!”

The celebrative event was held at the Greenbriar Recreation Centre in Brampton and wouldn’t have been made possible without the generous support of a number of people and organizations including: the City of Brampton (venue); The Award Store (Volunteer Recognition Awards Program); Dreams Convention Centre (table linens); Pallett Valo LLP (Bonnie Yagar Award for Community Engagement & Breakfast sponsor); Community Living Mississauga (Leader of Tomorrow Award sponsor); IMC Ilic Management Consultants (Leader in Volunteer Engagement Award sponsor); Mohawk Inn & Conference Centre (Door Prize); KKP-North York (Annual Report printing); *Rogers TV Peel Region* (video coverage); *snapt Brampton* and *Brampton Guardian* (media sponsors); Jonathan M. Cox (photographer); and in-kind donations by a number of individuals.

Everyone enjoyed a delectable breakfast served by Volunteer MBC volunteers, and entertainment by *Between Intervals*, an acoustic duo consisting of Kavya Rajith (lead singer) and Chris Tyms (lead guitarist), who are students attending Fletcher’s Meadow Secondary School. Kevin Sutton, a spoken word poet, also shared his message about volunteerism and giving back to help others. Ebony Wright, Volunteer MBC’s Coordinator of Volunteer Engagement, also shared her heart-felt volunteer story and how it has helped her in her personal life.

Photos of the event can be found on Volunteer MBC’s Flickr account under the set titled “Volunteer MBC’s 4th Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Event & 5th Annual General Meeting” at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/volunteermbc/sets/>.

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Volunteer MBC is a volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon. The centre offers a referral and matching service for volunteer placement within the community for all ages. They also provide education and support for volunteers and community service agencies and organizations, and serve the corporate community with various programming services that engage individual and team volunteering. Additionally, the centre strives to be a strong voice to support and promote volunteerism.

For more information about Volunteer MBC, to access their on-line volunteer opportunities database, and to find more details on the centre's three convenient locations in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, visit www.volunteermbc.org.

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*Photo caption:
This year's recipients of Volunteer MBC's
Volunteer Recognition Awards Program.*

*Photo credit: Jonathan M. Cox
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*Photo caption: Bonnie Yagar, Past President of Volunteer MBC,
being presented with an award in her honour – the Bonnie Yagar Award
for Community Engagement Leadership.*

*Photo credit: Jonathan M. Cox
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