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MEDIA RELEASE

Volunteer MBC Recognizes Volunteers at 2nd Annual Awards Event

April 30, 2013 – Brampton, ON – Volunteer MBC's Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 23. After the formal proceedings of the meeting, the room filled with cheers and celebration as ten (10) award recipients were recognized for their exemplary efforts and voluntary achievements at the volunteer centre's 2nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Event.

Those recognized were as follows:

- **Kelly McDonald** (Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre), recipient of the John Huether Award for Volunteering Excellence;
- **Evelyn Carriere** (Alzheimer Society of Peel), recipient of the Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award;
- **Sukhjit Singh** (Volunteer MBC), recipient of the Newcomer Gem Volunteer Award;
- **Stephanie Hill** (The Riverwood Conservancy, Mississauga), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Kathleen Bell** (Mary Centre of the Archdiocese of Toronto, Brampton), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Marie Thompson** (Bethell Hospice, Caledon), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Robin Haley-Gillin** (The Riverwood Conservancy), recipient of the Leader in Volunteer Management Award;
- **Linda Bui**, recipient of the ChangeTheWorld Recognition Award (individual category);
- **Brampton Mayor's Youth Team (BMYT)** recipient of the ChangeTheWorld Recognition Award (school/youth group category).

A special presentation was also made to honour Julie Di Girolamo, who left our world much too early in November 2012, for her contributions to the volunteer engagement profession.

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“You don’t need a piece of paper to volunteer,” said Jake Dheer, Station Manager of Rogers TV Peel and keynote speaker at the event. “Giving your time and talents goes far beyond what years of studying can provide to you, what you receive in return for what you give of yourself is what matters the most and will greatly benefit you in all the years of your life.”

The celebrative event was held at the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre in Mississauga and wouldn’t have been made possible without the generous support of a number of people and organizations including the City of Mississauga (venue); The Award Store (recognition awards); Dreams Convention Centre (table linen); Pallett Valo LLP (award sponsor); Peel Volunteer Administrator’s Network (award sponsor); Rogers TV Peel Region (video coverage); Shilo Enterprises (award sponsor); SLiCK Solutions – Marketing, Design & Gifts (graphic design and room décor); Jonathan M.Cox (photographer); and in-kind donations by a number of individuals.

“We are delighted to provide this opportunity to recognize volunteers and organizations for their amazing contributions in our community,” said Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC. “Having our 2nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards event during National Volunteer Week really provides an opportune time to showcase the incredible talents and giving acts of individuals who are so well-deserving. Congratulations to all of this year’s recipients!”

Attendees of the event were welcomed by a room filled with colourful building blocks to mirror the theme of “Volunteer MBC builds blocks to build and connect our community...one volunteer at a time.” Attendees were invited to showcase their creativity by sharing their volunteer messages on small boxes with markers or crayons. The boxes will be displayed at Volunteer MBC’s Brampton Centre.

Everyone enjoyed a delectable breakfast served by Volunteer MBC volunteers, and entertainment by Ms. World Changer – Kanisha Charles, who is a spoken word poet and shared her message about ChangeTheWorld. Guest speakers also included Councillor Chris Fonseca, Ward 3 – City of Mississauga, and Philip Manzano, co-founder of Good Movement and Chair of Volunteer MBC’s Step Up Youth Volunteer Ambassador Committee. The event was Emcee’d by Sukhjit Singh, who was also an award recipient.

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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.

Photos of the event can be found on Volunteer MBC's Flickr account under the set titled "Volunteer MBC's 2nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Event & 2013 Annual General Meeting" at:

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

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.

- 30 -

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Photo caption: (utmost left) Councillor Chris Fonseca (Ward 3 - City of Mississauga); (utmost right) Carine Strong, Volunteer MBC's Executive Director; with this year's Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients.

*Photo credit: Jonathan M. Cox
(www.flickr.com/photos/jmcoxphotography/)*



Photo caption: Keynote speech by Jake Dheer, Station Manager of Rogers TV Peel, and newly elected Vice President of Volunteer MBC's Board of Directors (2013/2014).

*Photo credit: Jonathan M. Cox
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