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*The future rests in our helping hands*

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Volunteer MBC Recognizes Volunteers at 5th Annual Awards Event

**April 17, 2015 – Brampton, ON** – Each year during National Volunteer Week (April 12 to 18), Volunteer MBC along with community service organization members, supporters and friends gather together to celebrate exemplary volunteers in the community. This year, Volunteer MBC celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Event on Tuesday, April 14.

The morning was devoted to recognizing volunteers, and volunteer engagement professionals, for all the work that they do. Twelve (12) individuals and groups were presented with Awards to thank them for their continuous engagement and efforts in the community.

Those recognized were as follows:

- **Greg Symons** (Community Living Mississauga), recipient of the John Huether Award for Volunteering Excellence;
- **Winston Meyer** (Community Door Services Network), recipient of the Bonnie Yagar Award for Community Engagement Leadership;
- **Shirley Daniels** (The Riverwood Conservancy), recipient of the Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award;
- **Renan Orquiza** (Credit Valley Conservation), recipient of the Newcomer Gem Volunteer Award;
- **Khadijat Animashaun** (Erin Mills Youth Centre), recipient of the Leader of Tomorrow Award;
- **Rev. David Mercer** (The BRIDGE Prison Ministry), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Luc Filion** (Canadian Red Cross – Meals on Wheels Program), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Neil Morris** (Bethell Hospice) recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Marianthi Karras** (Seva Food Bank), recipient of the Leader in Volunteer Engagement Award;
- **The Symons Group – ScotiaMcLeod** (Community Living Mississauga), recipient of the Corporate Volunteer Engagement Award;
- **Tiffany Yeh**, recipient of the ChangeTheWorld Recognition Award; and
- **Step Up Youth Volunteer Ambassadors** (SUYVA), recipient of the ChangeTheWorld Recognition Award.

“All of this year’s Award recipients and nominees are exceptional examples of how just one person can make such a profound difference in our community,” said Arno Ilic, Volunteer MBC’s Board President.

“As our Award program continues to grow momentum, we are very pleased to be receiving an increase of nominations and are astounded by the tremendous contributions of the individuals who give their time and talents to support community service organizations.”

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“We truly believe that volunteers are magical,” said Carine Strong, Volunteer MBC’s Executive Director. “On behalf of our entire team at Volunteer MBC, we extend congratulations to all of the amazing volunteers who make magic happen every day in our community. It is through their selfless dedication that many of the much-needed programs and services in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon can be provided.”

The celebrative event was held at the Chinguacousy Park Ski Club in Brampton and wouldn’t have been made possible without the generous support of a number of individuals and organizations. The venue was sponsored by the City of Brampton. Award sponsors included: The Award Store; Pallett Valo LLP; IMC Ilic Management Consultants; Toronto West KOA Campground; and Sukhjit Singh. Other sponsors and supporters included: Bonnie Yagar; COBS Bread (Mississauga locations); Jonathan Cox Photography; Scotiabank – Orangeville; Van Houtte; the Mohawk Inn & Conference Centre; *snapd Brampton*; and Rogers TV Peel Region.

Special thanks also to Jake Dheer, Senior Operations Manager at Rogers TV for Peel Region, Simcoe, Grey, Bruce and Dufferin Counties, who was the Emcee of the event; Lily Ostos and Cody Palmer-Almond who provided musical entertainment; the Awards Judging Committee; and Bob and Carine Strong, along with the Volunteer MBC team, who provided catering for the breakfast.

Photos of the event can be found on Volunteer MBC’s Flickr account under the set titled “Volunteer MBC’s 5th Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Event” at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/volunteermbc/sets/>.

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](http://www.volunteermbc.org).

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*Photos follow.*

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

*Photo credit: Jonathan Cox  
(www.JMCoxPhotography.com)*



*Photo caption:  
Event Emcee: Jake Dheer, Senior Operations Manager at Rogers TV for Peel Region, Simcoe, Grey, Bruce and Dufferin Counties & Volunteer MBC's Board Vice President.*

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