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MEDIA RELEASE

Volunteers Recognized at Volunteer Centre's Celebration Event

December 12, 2012 – Brampton, ON – On Wednesday, December 5, Volunteer MBC invited the Region of Peel community to attend their Annual Open House and to join in on the celebration of International Volunteer Day (IVD). IVD, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly, is a day that celebrates the efforts of those who have made an important contribution to society by giving their time as volunteers.

“Thank you so very much for being part of this event today,” said Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC. “We are thrilled to celebrate our 4th year anniversary, and to recognize all of the individuals who dedicate their time as volunteers. Our volunteers are our stars, we are so grateful to them. Without their help and contributions there would be no way that we could have done all that we have for the Peel Region community.”

During the event, Volunteer MBC acknowledged the contributions of 90 individuals who have volunteered over the past year at the centre. Together, using their skills and talents, they have assisted the centre with the delivery of various programs and services including helping to spread the message about the benefits of volunteering.

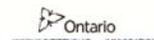
One of the highlights of the event was a presentation by the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN), of which Ms. Strong is the Chair. The OVCN presented the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal to Philip Manzano, Director of Good Movement. This commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada

“When I look at youth as leaders, they thrive through adversity, which can be such a challenge,” said Manon Germain, Network Coordinator for the OVCN. “Philip co-founded the Good Movement in 2010, which is an unincorporated non-profit group that devotes its time and effort to alleviating the pressures that homeless youth face throughout Peel Region. Good Movement placed third in the Canada's Next Top Young Philanthropist competition in 2011, organized by One Dream Foundation and Rogers.”

Mr. Manzano leads by example, and his volunteer contributions are truly exemplary. With support from the United Way of Peel Region, through a Youth in Action grant, Mr. Manzano and the Good Movement team developed a one-day workshop celebrating youth action and philanthropy titled “The Fish Project”.

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In addition, this past April he contributed his time to the “Ride for Community Change” event, which was organized by the OVCN, Volunteer MBC and the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The event was the official launch of the *2012 ChangeTheWorld – Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge*. This past summer, Mr. Manzano helped Volunteer MBC to design a new Youth Volunteer Ambassador Program for Peel Region and he continues to volunteer with the centre. He is driven to shift youth’s vision of volunteering from something you ‘have’ to do to something you ‘get’ to do.

“It is an honour to be part of Volunteer MBC’s small, but mighty team that affects so many people throughout Peel Region,” said Philip Manzano. “Volunteer MBC is doing such an amazing job at connecting volunteers with organizations and causes. Through their Youth Volunteer Ambassador Program, we are able to engage youth leaders in making a difference in our local community, and beyond.”

The event also featured a silent auction of various items and gifts for all ages, with proceeds raised to support the United Way of Peel Region. The fundraiser was a big success, with further details being announced in the coming days.

Photos of the celebration event can be viewed at: www.flickr.com/photos/volunteermbc/sets. Please go to the set titled “Volunteer MBC Annual Open House - December 5, 2012”.

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: (From left to right) Manon Germain, Network Coordinator for the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network; Philip Manzano, Director of Good Movement and a 2012 recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal (centre); and Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC and Chair of the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network.

Photo credit: Jonathan Cox



Photo Caption: Ninety (90) "Volunteer Stars" line the wall of Volunteer MBC, the local volunteer centre. These volunteers were recognized during the event for the contributions of their time and talents to the centre in 2012.

Photo Credit: Sharon Clark-Koufis

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