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MEDIA RELEASE

Volunteers Recognized for their Contributions at Volunteer MBC's Inaugural Event

May 3, 2012 – Brampton, ON – Volunteer MBC's Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, April 19. After the formal proceedings of the meeting, the room filled with celebration and cheer as eleven award recipients were recognized for their exemplary efforts and voluntary achievements at the volunteer centre's Inaugural Volunteer Recognition Awards Event.

Those recognized were as follows:

- **Marc Lachance** (Spectra Community Support Services), recipient of the John Huether Award for Volunteering Excellence;
- **Anne Walton** (Caledon Community Services), recipient of the Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award (2010);
- **Mike McGinnis** (Vita Centre), recipient of the Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award (2011);
- **Bijumon Peter** (Volunteer MBC), recipient of the Newcomer Gem Volunteer Award;
- **Vigen Ngo** (The Riverwood Conservancy), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **James Metson** (Bethell Hospice), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Barbara MacTaggart** (Vita Centre), recipient of the Helping Hands Recognition Certificate;
- **Michelle Stubbs** (Caledon Community Services), recipient of the Leader in Volunteer Management Award;
- **Mississauga Fruit Tree**, recipient of the Leader in Volunteer Engagement Award;
- **Ann Mansur**, recipient of the ChangeTheWorld Recognition Award (individual category);
- **St. Augustine Secondary School, Brampton** recipient of the ChangeTheWorld Recognition Award (school category).

"No matter where we go, once people have had an opportunity to give back to our community, the volunteers get back as much as the organizations and the people that they serve," stated MP Eve Adams, Mississauga - Brampton South and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

"On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, I genuinely would like to thank you for all of the work that you do every day and for all of the contributions that you are making. Congratulations!"

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“In Caledon we are fond of saying that we are a community of communities, but in reality, Caledon, much like the rest of Peel and Canada, is a community of volunteers,” stated Richard Paterak, Acting Mayor for the Town of Caledon. “Those that volunteer and those that manage volunteers all understand that our society as we know it would come to a grinding halt without the efforts that are put in by so many people. It’s not just the work that you do, it’s that human touch and on behalf of the Town of Caledon, I thank you all for all that you do.”

The celebrative event was held at the Brampton Lawn Bowling Club on Vodden Street East next to the Century Gardens Recreation Centre and wouldn’t have been made possible without the generous support of a number of people and organizations including the City of Brampton (venue); ACCESS: Allowing Children a Chance at Education, Inc. (award sponsor); Peel Volunteer Administrator’s Network (award sponsor); Daniel Design (program sponsor); SLiCK Solutions – Marketing, Design & Gifts (décor sponsor); Dreams Convention Centre (linen sponsor); and charitable donations by a number of individuals.

“We are very delighted to provide this opportunity to recognize volunteers and organizations for their amazing contributions to our community,” stated Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC. “This first event has been a lot of work for our entire team and for all of our volunteers at the centre, but it’s been so worth it to see the joy on all of the recipients’ faces and to set the foundation for our Awards Program for years to come.”

Attendees of the event were welcomed by a room filled with sunflowers to honor the many volunteers who bring sunshine daily into the lives of so many people in this community, along with a delectable continental breakfast. Entertainment was provided by Arlene Paculan, a singer/musician from the Mississauga area and the event was MC’d by Sukhjit Singh, who although he just recently moved to Canada and the Peel area, has been involving himself in many volunteer roles including being an ambassador for the volunteer centre.

Volunteer MBC is a volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon and 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 and to access their on-line volunteer opportunities database, visit www.volunteermbc.org. Photos of the event can be viewed on-line at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/volunteermbc/sets/>

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Photo Caption: (from left to right) Anne Walton (Caledon Community Services), recipient of the Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award (2010); and Carine Strong, Volunteer MBC's Executive Director.

Photo Credit: Jonathan Cox



Photo Caption: MP Eve Adams, Mississauga - Brampton South and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, bringing greetings to the attendees and congratulations to the award recipients.

Photo credit: Gustavo Osterling