



The GenNext Volunteer Awards have been established to honour and celebrate a number of volunteers, aged 20 to 39, for their exceptional work in United Way's geographic region. In its fourth year, the GenNext Volunteer Awards have recognized the contributions of 34 dynamic young people. This year 10 exceptional volunteers will be celebrated. Winners emulate the true spirit of volunteerism and are recognized for their passion, dedication and community impact.

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### **Volunteer Excellence Award** (TIE)

The volunteer serves as an inspiration in volunteerism and community development. This person has devoted countless hours to one or more organizations or initiatives and has helped to improve lives, strengthen community and truly exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism.



The first winner is: Anastasia Faggioni

- Anastasia has volunteered as a Tae-Kwon-Do instructor and abroad in Costa Rica
- She is a health care volunteer at Health Sciences North and at the North-East Cancer Center in the chemotherapy room
- She has also volunteered two summers at the Children's Treatment Center and one summer at Camp Quality



The second winner is: Dan Denoble

- Dan has been a volunteer with Camp Quality Northern Ontario for over 11 years
- His roles include planning committee member, programming coordinator and fundraising coordinator
- Additionally, Dan volunteered over 900 hours as a companion and volunteers at the Camp Quality national level

### **Active Living and Wellbeing Award**

The volunteer dedicates time to supporting sports teams, health promotion and/or active living. This person promotes wellbeing in mind, body and spirit.



The winner is: Stephanie Bonin

- Stephanie has been a volunteer coach for Sudbury Lady Wolves Hockey for 4 years
  - She spends countless hours, most weekends and several nights a week with her players
  - Finally, she is also a member of the Laurentian University Voyageurs and acts as a mentor and role model for younger players

### **Animal Welfare Award**

The volunteer dedicates their time to the protection, care and fair treatment of animals. This person advocates for animal wellbeing and humane conditions.



The winner is: Hope Lumbis

- Hope started volunteering at the age of 9 at a local pet store
  - She has been a volunteer with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program since 2002 and became the youngest Evaluator for the program in Northern Ontario
    - In 2011 she founded Magical Paws Pet Therapy with her mother and acts as the Senior Evaluator. In addition to her own weekly visits, Hope recruits and mentors new volunteers, hosts workshops as well as participates in the dog rescue section of SAINTS

### **Arts and Culture Award**

The volunteer actively participates in arts and culture projects, programs or events. This person has been a significant contributor to their community's arts and culture sector.



The winner is: Maggie Wood

- Maggie is an active volunteer of the Sudbury Theatre Centre
  - She is a graduate of Students on Stage and is now an ambassador for the program
    - She strives to be a leader and mentor for young children performing for the first time

## **Mentorship Award** (TIE)

The volunteer leads by example to inspire and guide others. This person has made significant contributions to a group, organization or individual within the community to assist in the personal development of others.



The first winner is: Arielle Bieniek

- Arielle created, fundraised and bestowed the Building Momentum Bursary (a value of \$1000) to be bestowed on a single parent entering a program at Cambrian College
- She is an active volunteer for St. John Ambulance in the capacity of advanced medical responder, public relations, recruitment officer and training officer
- She is also a volunteer at Health Sciences North assisting in the hydrotherapy clinic with children



The second winner is: Jason McKeddie

- Jason has been a Big Brother with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sudbury for 3 years
- He has gone above and beyond for his 'Little' – attending medical appointments here and down South, visits once a week, and is part of an amazing support system
- He also volunteers for the Canadian Red Cross, North Shore Search and Rescue, Health Sciences North, Greater Sudbury Police Services and more

## **Social Justice Award**

The volunteer advocates for equal opportunity and individual rights. This person has had a profound influence on the lives of marginalized groups.



The winner is: Melanie Dionne

- Melanie helped start up the Breakfast program at École secondaire MacDonald Cartier and received a Humanitarian Award for her involvement
- She is a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Sudbury Sunrisers helping to organize fundraisers and silent auctions for local charities, preparing the weekly newsletter and volunteering at the Elgin Street Mission

## **Environmental Advocacy Award**

The volunteer plays an instrumental role in strengthening an environmental initiative. This person has had an influence in keeping their community clean, green and healthy.



The winner is: Melanie Cropp

- Melanie is an active volunteer of the Canadian Red Cross – assisting with the Senior Transportation Program, Personal Disaster Assistance, Out of the Cold Weather Shelters and more
- She volunteer for Angels in Pink – supporting the Pink Glove Party, Boob Tour and making greeting cards
- Finally she is a Bet on Green volunteer – volunteering for shoreline cleanups, tree planting, the Better World Books Campaign and more

## **Leadership Award**

The volunteer demonstrates initiative in strengthening their community. This person has demonstrated integrity, commitment, passion and creativity within a leadership role.



The winner is: Charlotte Diotte

- Charlotte has been a member of Scouts Canada for over 12 years and has volunteered in a number of capacities including Venturer Advisor, Area Youth Commissioner, Area Commissioner and Camp Wilabosca Committee Member
- She demonstrates leadership by working with young people to build skills and confidence
- She was also instrumental in bringing Scouts back to the Valley area