THANK YOU for
MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!

11TH ANNUAL
VOLUNTEER IMPACT
AWARDS GALA
WEDNESDAY APRIL 13, 2016
WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM
Libro is owned by you. Our Owners make up the communities we work and play in so naturally, we give back to those communities.

VOLUNTEER ACTION CENTRE FUNDERS

We applaud you tonight (and every day, too).

PROUD GOLD SPONSOR

GALA SPONSOR: LIBRO

... And ALL Our Supporters
Welcome to the 11th Annual Volunteer Impact Awards Gala!

During National Volunteer Week each year, the Volunteer Impact Awards Gala honours select individuals, groups and local businesses for their volunteer contributions in Waterloo Region.

A panel of community members faced the difficult task of choosing the recipients of these Volunteer Impact Awards from 43 inspirational nominations. We would like to thank all those who took the time to nominate these outstanding individuals, businesses and organizations.

All the nominees, past and present, and the countless individuals and groups that volunteer in our community embody the true spirit of our country; they commit their time and talents for the benefit of others.

I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our generous sponsors and contributors this evening. Please enjoy this night of celebration!

Jane Hennig, Executive Director
Volunteer Action Centre of Kitchener Waterloo & Area
DINNER MENU

FIRST COURSE
Roasted Squash Duo Soup

MAIN COURSE
Lemon Herb Grilled Chicken
or
Poached Citrus Quinoa
Vegan/Lactose Free Option

DESSERT
White and Dark Chocolate Mousse Cake
or
Fruit Plate
Lactose Free Option

WINE
Jackson Triggs
Chardonnay and Cabernet

2016 Nominees

Linda Fabi
THEMUSEUM

Nancy Kauffman-Lambert
Alzheimer Society Waterloo
Wellington

Ruth Millard
CNIB

Judy Stephens-Wells
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

Maaz Yasin
University of Waterloo

Judith Stephens-Wells
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

April Merza
HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre

Verlyn Rowett
Planned Lifetime Networks

Recipient Awards Created by Local Artist

Rosemary Aicher—Drawn To Clay;
Kitchener, Ontario
2016 Nominees

Earl Schmidt
Canadian Cancer Society

Francophone Association of KW—(AFKW)

Kim Brenner
HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre

Muriel Curtis
Canadian Cancer Society

Carley Mezon
Parents for Community Living

Cindy Baronette
HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre

Judy De Witte
The Literacy Group

Shirley Bauman
The Literacy Group

Joan Young
HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre

Marnie Magna
HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre

Anthony (Tony) J. Giovinazzo
Family & Children’s Services of the Waterloo Region

Randy Farrell
City of Kitchener

Stroke Recovery Group KW Chapter
March of Dimes - Stroke Recovery Canada

Open Text
Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region

Bhavana Rahate
Nutrition for Learning

Frank Sharpe
Hospice of Waterloo Region

Barbara Spronk
Community Support Connections - Meals on Wheels

Dan Purcell
Linking Survivors with Survivors

Jeanette Rickets
Nutrition for Learning

Nicole Prendergast
Nutrition for Learning

Radu Secasan
ARTA Romanian Association

Nicholas Cloet
Sustainable Waterloo Region

GALA SCHEDULE

Hosted by Susan Cook-Scheerer
Rogers TV - ‘daytime’

Guests are welcome to view museum exhibits

5:00 pm  Cocktails and Silent Auction
Music by Stephen Schooley

6:15 pm  Recipients - Group Photo

6:30 pm  Dinner Service Begins

6:45 pm  Opening Remarks:
Martin Kihle, Libro Financial Group

8:15 pm  Guest Speaker:
Karen Redman, Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region

Award Presentations

9:15 pm  Closing Remarks:
Desmond Courtney, Board of Directors, Volunteer Action Center

Silent Auction Closes
Please visit our silent auction table with over 40 amazing items to bid on! Special thanks to all the individuals and organizations who have donated items for our silent auction.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS:

Arbonne  
Barbara Stefaniak  
Chicopee & Adventure Guide  
Cocoon Apothecary  
Drayton Entertainment  
Epicure - Suzanne Van Cleef  
GolfNorth  
Jack Astor’s  
Joanne Stewart  
Joseph Huxley  
Kitchener Golf  
Kitchener Rangers  
Kitchener Record  
KW Symphony  
Leslie Bamford  
Little Mushroom catering  
Leslie Bamford  
Louise Zessop  
MNP  
Moksha Yoga  
Neob Lavendar Boutique  
Paint by Munzy  
Playball Academy Canada  
Queen Street Yoga  
Rosemary Aicher  
Royal LePage Scharf Realty  
Shirley & Ron Levine  
Source for Sports  
Susan Brown  
Thalmic Labs  
VIA Rail  
Vincenzo’s  
Viqua  
Ziggy’s

A special thank you to the Volunteer Action Centre Board of Directors and Gala Committee Members* for taking the lead on the auction!

Alison Boyd  
Andrea Burgers*  
Dennis Coelho  
Desmond Courtney  
Heather Rennie*  
Jill Brush  
Kevin Kirk  
Kristin Fox*  
Mary McGuinness*  
Rob Howe  
Sarah Exel

High School Students can come learn how to get involved and get community involvement hours at the same time!

EPYC Impact Bootcamp 2016 is a workshop series created to give students a place to learn about volunteering in a fun, stress-free environment.

Youth will gain knowledge on how;
- they can personally make an impact
- to enhance their own personal and professional skills
- they can help their community.

All workshops are interactive and educational in a way that will motivate any youth to go forward into their community and help make a difference!

Tell others about EPYC: Empowering Proactive Youth and Communities.

Workshops:

All We Can Be - YMCA, Cmbg.  
Friday, April 22—10am - 3pm  
PD Day—great day to go!

Equality and Justice—KPL, Kit.  
Saturday, May 14—10am - 3pm

Just Do It—KPL, Kitchener  
Friday, May 20—3pm - 6pm  
Saturday May 21—3pm - 6pm

For more information on EPYC, Contact us at:

Volunteerkw.ca | uwcambridge.on.ca  
dianne@volunteerkw.ca | lily@uwcambridge.on.ca
9th Annual
ChangeTheWorld - Ontario
Youth Volunteer Challenge in
KW—April 10 to May 23, 2016

This call to action is for youth aged 14 to 18 years who volunteer through a wide variety of exciting community initiatives during the six week campaign each spring.

Youth who visit the YOUTH PAGE of volunteerkw.ca and search for positions or LOG IN their experience during the campaign will receive a certificate for their portfolios and/or be counted in our campaign!

Visit: YOUTH page of volunteerkw.ca

For more information on ChangeTheWorld Contact us at:
Volunteerkw.ca | dianne@volunteerkw.ca | ctw.ovcn.ca

OUR MISSION

Since 1982, the Volunteer Action Centre has served KW & the surrounding townships by building on our community’s capacity for volunteerism. Your support helps us to liaise potential volunteers from all sectors to our member agencies and organizations. We also provide professional development to volunteer managers in partnership with volunteer centres of Guelph and Cambridge to help best engage the thousands of volunteers who strengthen our community.

The Volunteer Action Centre of KW has over 160 local member organizations with up to 400 positions updated daily on our website. We also advocate and represent all our members in media and special events such as our Volunteer Fair at Conestoga Mall each Fall and in 2015-16 and we provided over 70 educational presentations to over 5000 people.

Thank you for YOUR support tonight—please know that all proceeds from the auction and ticket purchases will help us continue our work to connect talent to community.

151 Frederick St. , Suite 500
Kitchener Ontario
519-742-8610

Subscribe to our Weekly Updates!
Join our email list at: volunteerkw.ca
Volunteer Impact Award

To acknowledge an extraordinary contribution out of all the finalists. This person or group will have created a lasting impression on our community through their passion, inspiration and commitment.

Volunteer Impact: Lisa Himmelman—SkateABLE

“Lisa will continue to inspire many more local children with disabilities to learn how to skate, and give local community volunteers and students the unique opportunity to participate in this rewarding and highly successful program.”

Lisa discovered that there was a need for high quality recreational learn-to-skate programs suitable for children with physical and developmental disabilities. In 2013, Lisa sought to change this. Lisa is a true pioneer, building the SkateABLE™ organization and programs from the ground up.

There were many obstacles to overcome; Lisa built a team and worked to overcome all of the challenges, making SkateABLE™ a reality and the first program of its kind in Canada and the first skating organization to be affiliated with ParaSport Ontario. Lisa works tirelessly, volunteering endless numbers of hours to make sure SkateABLE™ runs properly and continues to grow.
Leadership Awards
To recognize a board member and a volunteer manager who exemplifies inspirational leadership and initiative.

Outstanding Leadership: Holly Mather—Young Carers Project
“Holly is dedicated to improving life for current and future Young Carers and she does it without ever asking for, or expecting, anything in return.”

Holly Mathers is the Chair of the Young Carers Project, a community collaborative that educates the public about the existence and needs of young carers. Having someone with lived experience around the table was a game-changer for the YCP, especially since it was someone so passionate, knowledgeable, committed, and driven. Holly’s contributions are truly remarkable—doing work that has been vital to the success of the YCP.

Volunteer Manager: Lou Murray Gorvett—Suppers at Stirling
“Lou is the glue that holds it all together. She provides leadership to a legion of volunteers and it’s no small feat.”

It’s important to Lou that those who arrive for a hot meal at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church every Saturday from November to end of April—are treated as guests, with dignity and respect. Lou creates a comfortable place for people to eat without question. Meals are served to guests and servers often join in to eat with them to engage in meaningful conversations. Each person has a voice and a story, and Lou patiently listens to them all. Lou’s passion for her work and the people she serves has her present every Saturday night to manage the masses of volunteers!

Youth Involvement Award
To recognize students, teachers, schools and adults who have made a significant contribution to positive youth engagement.

Outstanding Youth: Husayn Jamal—Federation of Canadian Secondary Students
“It consistently amazes me the amount of dedication that Husayn demonstrates in his work with the Federation.”

Husayn is involved with a multitude of youth organizations and is able to create real impact with everyone he serves. He has inspired youth across Canada and is an invaluable asset, dedicating upwards of 400 hours since he joined the Federation of Canadian Secondary Students in September of 2014.

Youth Organization: Bethany Evangelical Missionary Church—Nutrition for Learning
“Bethany Evangelical Missionary Church were volunteering in student nutrition long before Nutrition for Learning (1997)serving breakfast to the students for over 20 years.”

In 2014 the delivery model for the student nutrition program at Suddaby School changed in an effort to serve more students. The volunteers at Bethany didn’t miss a beat! They eagerly took on the new task of packaging food for bin programs across the Region and engaging students in the process. This dedicated group of volunteers meet weekly to package thousands of individual servings of nutritious food. Nutrition for Learning is thankful for this faithful group of volunteers!
Youth Involvement Award
To recognize students, teachers, schools and adults who have made a significant contribution to positive youth engagement.

Youth Mentorship: Dawna Whitehead
Strong Start Charitable Organization

“Dawna is a perfect Strong Start ambassador, because she embodies the attributes of a dedicated and passionate volunteer.”

Dawna Whitehead is one of Strong Start’s longest serving and most dedicated volunteers. She has been helping young children learn to read for more than 13 years as a Letters, Sounds and Words™ Volunteer Coach and received the Wilmot Township Citizen of the Year Award in 2013 for her involvement with Strong Start. Dawna is also the Site Co-ordinator for the program at Forest Glen P.S. Her passion for advancing Strong Start’s vision – that all children read – is what makes her invaluable and unique.

Hands on Awards
To recognize a volunteer who contributes significantly to improving the quality of life for others through hands-on work.

Special Event: Catherine Coulson—Canadian Cancer Society

“There aren’t many people who have the leadership qualities, communication skills, and first-hand experience with cancer that Catherine has, and that is why we are so lucky to have her on our team.”

Starting in 1997, Catherine joined our Unit Council as a member-at-large, and then became the President in 1999. From that time, until 2004, she supported other Council members and was a great leader. She has been the Event Chair of our Relay For Life KW event committee since 2012 and was also the Event Chair of our Relay For Life Cambridge event committee from 2012 to 2014. Chairing both of these committees was a huge commitment and a challenge, and Catherine took it on, doing a fantastic job. With her can-do attitude, Catherine is a great motivator and encourages her team to do their very best.
Hands on Awards
To recognize a volunteer who contributes significantly to improving the quality of life for others through hands-on work.

Caring Action: Sallie Gingrich—
Waterloo Public Library

“Conscientious, reliable, cheerful and committed are only a few other words that describe Sallie. She truly is an asset to our Visiting Library program…”

For 30 years, Sallie has been dedicated to the Visiting Library Service program at Waterloo Public Library. Residents at Woodland Terrace, for a period of 10 years, had books selected and brought to this retirement facility on a monthly basis. Sallie has since brought the joy of reading to the homes of five other seniors, visiting faithfully at least once per month.

While books may be the main reason for visiting customers, Sallie is another connection to the world for lonely and isolated seniors. Her friendly ways and the time she spends with her clients, brings them joy and a sense of belonging. For Sallie, volunteering is not about self-fulfillment – it’s more about making a difference in someone else’s life, giving back to

Group Involvement Awards
To recognize teams or groups that through their volunteer efforts, demonstrate a valuable investment in community.

Team Engaging Organization:
Stride Night Volunteers—
Community Justice Initiatives

“They are a committed group of volunteers and often plan their family schedules, work schedules and even holidays around Stride Night. The women in the institution appreciate the volunteers’ time and support.”

Stride volunteers constantly impress with their capacity to share themselves with a group of women that are often forgotten and even dismissed by society - women in jail. This dedicated group of volunteers go into the prison every week to listen, support and form healthy relationships with the women incarcerated at Grand Valley Institution. This takes an enormous amount of courage, a willingness to learn, an ability to meet people where they're at and to just ‘be present with a woman on her journey’. The women and volunteers look forward to spending time with each other at Stride Night every week for 52 weeks of the year. Over time, friendships are formed that may even follow a woman into the community, once she is released from prison.
**Group Involvement Awards**
To recognize teams or groups that, through their volunteer efforts, demonstrate a valuable investment in community.

**Large Group: Ancient Mariners Canoe Club—Lisaard House**
“They have taken the property surrounding our residential hospice and turned it into an oasis of blooms and beauty.”

Residents at Lisaard House have front row seats to an ever-changing view of flowers and shrubs that the Ancient Mariners have lovingly planted and cared for over the past 16 years. The volunteers themselves are engaging and willing to talk with visitors when they are present. The group is led by Nita Hunton. Nita is excellent at scheduling the group to cover every week of the spring, summer and fall to ensure the gardens are always at their best. They come prepared to work in all mother-nature can bring; rain or shine, they are committed to the gardens at Lisaard.

**Small Group: COPP Marketing and Design -**
“More than 100 local charities and non-profits participated in the movement and owe thanks to COPP Marketing.”

In 2015, COPP Marketing and Design volunteered to create and host a website for the GivingTuesday Waterloo Region movement. They also created graphics for the movement’s social media campaigns and consulted on writing media releases and developing other written communications. This was a unique contribution that was invaluable to the movement. This business took on a leadership role in the movement and helped to bring aboard additional business partners. The impact to GivingTuesday cannot be overestimated.

**Hands on Awards**
To recognize a volunteer who contributes significantly to improving the quality of life for others through hands-on work.

**Administrative Action: Marian Snyder—Strong Start Charitable Organization**
“Marian Snyder is an inspiration to all of the Strong Start staff, and a Volunteer Action Centre success story.”

Since joining Strong Start in June 2013, Marian invests more than 15 hours ever week. Lately she’s been donating even more of her time helping the Get Ready for School™ program team during their busiest time of the year. She is very detail oriented, which makes her a self-sufficient volunteer. Her keen eye picks up on typos or missing items in a game, which saves the organization time and money. She brings humour and sometimes her Service Dog, Peace, to the office as well. Marian is motivated in her role at Strong Start by the appreciation and camaraderie of the staff.

“The staff at Strong Start are wonderful and they treat me as a co-worker and as a competent individual.”

Her favourite moments at Strong Start are hearing about how the children benefit from the programs, interacting with the staff and other volunteers, being assigned work that she can confidently tackle, and even being included in special events such as a retirement party for one of the staff.

**Strong Start to reading™**
“Making a difference in the life of a child”