



On behalf of Community Safety & Well-Being Thunder Bay, I would like to offer sincere congratulations to all of our nominees and award recipients. Thank you for making our city a safer and more equitable place for all. It is a privilege to recognize the work that you are doing in our community.

JEFF UPTON

Chair, Community Safety & Well-Being Thunder Bay

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Community Hero Award:



Young Leader Award:



Outstanding Community Project Awards:



WELCOME!

Thunder Bay City Council is again pleased to be part of the Annual Mayor's Community Safety Awards. It is important that we highlight some of the great work being done by people and organizations across our community to make it a better place for all. This year's recipients represent the best of our city – their efforts make our community safer and more inclusive, and deserve to be celebrated!



YOUNG LEADER AWARD

TISHA DUNCAN



Tisha Duncan, Co-President, Regional Multicultural Youth Council (RMYC)

Tisha Duncan is an exemplary young leader, peer mentor, and role model with the Regional Multicultural Youth Council (RMYC). She organizes youth-led activities like Girl Power and

Band of Brothers day camps for kids in high-risk neighbourhoods, assists with RMYC’s after-school and tutoring programs, promotes RMYC’s peer mentoring and student ambassador programs, and helped launch Pathways to Education to encourage vulnerable students to stay in school. Tisha sees how social isolation, poverty, racism, and negative influences can lead to violence and reaches out to groups and agencies to help kids feel a sense of safety and belonging.

Sponsor: Generator



Personal Lens on Grief Committee – Hospice Northwest Team

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT A PERSONAL LENS ON GRIEF HOSPICE NORTHWEST

In April 2022, Hospice Northwest asked the community to share their grief experiences by taking a photo that shows what grief looks like to them. These images, together with a brief story page, created A Personal Lens on Grief, a month-long exhibit at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. There were three workshops associated with the event during three Saturdays in April: Grief Through Movement, Expressive Art, and a Movie Night showing the completed video. This project allowed viewers and visitors to witness the impacts of grief and create a community of support. The photos encouraged discussion about a difficult topic and gave Hospice Northwest a window to educate Thunder Bay about its grief support services.

Sponsor: Circle K



Co-Lead Coordinators Valerie Oosbag and Amelia Fox

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT NIIZHAAYEK ALLIANCE

Founded and led by 2SLGBTQ+ Indigiqueer youth, the non-profit Niizhaayek Alliance works to reduce the stigma and risks experienced by the 2SLGBTQ+ community. In addition to offering workshops, talks, sharing circles, and an annual Ontario-wide 2SLGBTQ+ youth gathering, the Alliance uses its platform to promote relevant 2SLGBTQ+ resources and events. Its podcast series, The In-Between People, features 2SLGBTQ+ Indigiqueer change-makers breaking new ground in healthcare, fashion, art, and performance. By creating safe spaces for youth to connect to positive role models, peers, and elders, while celebrating 2S identity and culture, Niizhaayek Alliance improves safety and well-being, and empowers 2SLGBTQ+ Indigiqueer youth.

Sponsor: GardaWorld



Carolyn Karle, Founder

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT TEAM DEK

Created by a grieving mother who lost her daughter to addiction, Team Dek brings together concerned citizens, care providers, affected family members, persons accessing services, and community leaders to find and create appropriate responses to the ongoing addiction crisis. The DEK Foundation is a grassroots, non-profit, volunteer-run organization that works tirelessly on numerous awareness and fundraising events through the year to help stop the stigma surrounding addiction, and carry out important advocacy efforts to increase resources and improve the lives of individuals and families battling addiction. Team DEK also supports existing organizations who meet the complex needs of vulnerable people – like donating lunches to the NorWest Community Health Centre Outreach Team for street delivery. Team DEK’s efforts contribute to the overall health and safety of the community.

Sponsor: Enbridge Gas Inc.



Elevate NWO Staff

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT LEADING THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS ELEVATE NWO

Elevate staff and leadership believe that individuals experiencing chronic homelessness can be successfully housed. With respect and dignity, Elevate coordinates support for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by ensuring that amenities, services, and health/harm reduction supports are delivered to sleeping rough locations. Approaching and supporting individuals compassionately can increase success in securing housing, and interventions are often assisted by peers with lived experience who receive an honorarium, recognition for their service, and important work experience. Community partners include: The City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Police Service, Thunder Bay District Health Unit Street Outreach Nursing, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Elizabeth Fry Society of NWO, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, NorWest Community Health Centre Outreach Team, Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board, and local businesses.

Sponsor: Matawa First Nations Management

COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

BRYAN TUCKER



Bryan Tucker, Advocate for ending the stigma of mental health, addictions and recovery

When Bryan Tucker saw inmates struggling with substance use, he helped form a weekly Men’s Addiction Support Group where he facilitates and, as a person in recovery, shares as a participant. To help break down

stigma and improve mental health for the corrections community, Bryan belongs to his workplace Health and Wellness Committee, and recently joined as a peer support volunteer for Boots on the Ground, joined the Thunder Bay Drug Awareness Committee, helped organize a Corrections Staff Family Day to promote mental health supports, and shared his own experience with mental health, addictions, and recovery on stage at the 2022 Rockin’ Recovery event.

Sponsor: Apex Investigation & Security

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

EQUITY

We understand that meeting the basic needs of people in our community is critical. These needs include equitable access to services, supports and opportunities to thrive and participate in decision making.

EMPATHY

Cultivating empathy creates connections that break down the “us and them” divide, and helps to build compassion for the challenges, circumstances and risks of diverse people in our community. We value dignity and respect and support others without judgment. We are open, honest and caring in our relationships.

EFFICACY

We know that safety and well-being requires a community effort based on evidence, and encourages upstream investment in the protective factors that keep people safe and well. We work in partnership and build on the strengths, skills and capacities of our community to bridge gaps and solve problems.

OUR COMMITMENT TO TRUTH, RECONCILIATION AND ANTI-RACISM

We are deeply committed to truth and reconciliation and will prioritize anti-racism efforts. We will further the Anti-Racism & Inclusion Accord and support its adoption by individuals and organizations across Thunder Bay.