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With this being my last year as Mayor, I am deeply proud of these people and groups over the years, as well as this year’s recipients, and I wish to offer my sincerest congratulations and thanks. You are setting an example through your outstanding efforts to make our community safer and more inclusive.

Mayor Keith Hobbs

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Pastor Mike McMahon and his team run a community soup kitchen project in Sault Ste. Marie. They work tirelessly to ensure no member of the community falls through the cracks. Out of the Cold is the culmination of four years of work with community partners to offer temporary shelter and support for individuals who cannot, for any reason, access any other overnight sheltering. Out of the Cold is the culmination of four years of work with community partners to offer temporary shelter and support for individuals who cannot, for any reason, access any other overnight sheltering. Last year, Out of the Cold sheltered between 10 and 13 people per night consistently over the winter, keeping them safe and connected to services. The program also provides transportation, clothing and laundry services. Staff and clients work together respectfully to create a sense of belonging, thus promoting community safety and well-being.

Sponsor: Union Gas

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT

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THUNDER BAY SITUATION TABLE/ NORTH WEST COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION NETWORK

For five years, Ron Kanutski has inspired countless people to take control of their lives and overcome the struggles that have kept them on the margins. At age 25, Ron found himself homeless and was rapidly aging, without a home or options for a better life. After almost 30 years ago he was walking a mile of 250 miles as part of his marathon exercise for struggles with substances. In addition to facilitating numerous breaking circles and mentoring youth and social workers, Ron has facilitated countless activities with community members. He wants everyone to feel free helping. That they are valued, and that they are part of something that contributes to the community. It is his best-known and most well-received role as a community organizer, friend, family man and mentor. Sponsor: Thunder Bay Police Service and Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council.

COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

RAHNE MEHAGAN

Dalton Shapwaykeesic was recognized in the Thunder Bay Police Centre Cup, a 15-year-old who faced many challenges in life. Despite these challenges, he continued to work hard and make positive contributions to his community. Dalton continues to work on his own to develop his leadership skills and contribute to his community and has successfully reduced risk of crime and victimization or harm to self or others. The Table collaboratively identifies existing risk factors that might contribute to outcomes. Individuals, groups, families and places with complex social and health needs that cannot be addressed by one service provider benefit from the collaborative approach of the Thunder Bay Police Service and Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council.

COLLABORATION

We believe community safety is everyone’s responsibility. We work in partnership to build on the strengths, skills and capacities of our community, bridge gaps and solve problems.

EVIDENCE-BASED

We use evidence to understand and address the risk factors of crime and victimization, promote protective factors, strategize plans, implement actions and evaluate results.

INCLUSION

We see diversity as a source of strength and resilience. The engagement and inclusion of diverse voices, experiences and approaches will help our community thrive.

COMPASSION

We recognize people have different challenges, circumstances and risks. We value dignity, equity and respect all our attitudes and actions, and support others without judgment.

COMMUNITY

We believe the creation of a safe, inclusive and welcoming community takes time, determination and perseverance. We are committed to sustainability and long-term success.