

2016 Good Citizen Award Recipients

Dorothy Betcha



Dorothy Bechta has been a dedicated, reliable volunteer with the Auxiliary to St. Joseph's Care Group, St. Joseph's Hospital site, for more than 10 years. She assists with the Auxiliary fundraising team. Dorothy is manager at Hogarth Riverview Manor's gift shop and assistant manager at St. Joseph's Hospital's gift shop. She also serves on the committee that presents bursaries to students at Confederation College and Lakehead University. Dorothy serves as treasurer for the diocesan Catholic Women's League (CWL), and for St. Andrews Parish she is on the CWL executive, the Finance Council, and is a member of the church choir.

Ashley Blundon

Ashley Blundon began her volunteer career with Autism Ontario Thunder Bay and District Chapter in 2010. She held the position of vice-president of the chapter Leadership Council, continued as chapter president for two years and treasurer for a one-year term. As chair of the Leadership Council, Ashley was responsible for the management and motivation of council members. She also served as the liaison with the Autism Ontario provincial office and attended President Council meetings in Toronto. She led many fund-raising activities, special events, and social learning opportunities for children and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. Ashley was the Wilderness Discovery Camp opportunity coordinator for many years. Ashley has served the Autism Ontario Thunder Bay and District Chapter and our community well, helping to ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.



David Catlin

David Catlin was a resident of the Northwest Regional Centre when it was located at Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital (LPH) and started his volunteer experience with Farms and Garden Services in 1995. In the winter months, he shovels snow and maintains safe entrances to Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. In the summer, he assists with gardening tasks as well as moving grass on the hospital grounds. David is hard working, dependable and always willing to lend a helping hand. He is friendly and outgoing, and initiates conversation with staff, clients and volunteers, making them feel welcome. David moved into the community in 2002 but continues to come to the LPH every day for the past 21 years for a total of 31,200 volunteer hours. David's commitment and compassion have made a great contribution to Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital.

Dr. Bob Chaudhuri



Dr. Bob Chaudhuri joined the board of directors of the Brain Injury Association of Thunder Bay (BIATBA) in January of 2015 as a person living with the effects of an acquired brain injury. Following his injury, he completed his specialty in psychiatry and two post-doctoral fellowships. Dr. Bob is an inspiration to the people he works with at BIATBA. He continues to volunteer his time in research and helping people to learn from his perspective and dedicates his time to supporting individuals who are living with brain injuries. Dr. Bob is always willing to promote medical education through his research which he does as a volunteer. He is a member of numerous associations including the Handicapped Action Group Inc. (HAGI - board of directors), Patients Advocating Change and Empowerment (PACE), and Foster Kids Memberships. He has been an invited lecturer at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and an invited speaker to the Society for Studies of Psychiatry and Culture in St. Paul, Minnesota as well as numerous other groups. Dr. Chaudhuri has made a significant contribution to people dealing with acquired brain injury in Thunder Bay.

Florence Fontaine

For more than 10 years Florence has been a committed and dedicated volunteer at the Oliver Road Community Centre. She volunteers at many fundraisers hosted by the centre which generate the funds necessary to continue to serve the public. Florence has been secretary of the association for several years. She co-chairs the annual winter carnival and helps set up many of the carnival games and activities. Florence also belongs to the Ladies Auxiliary and helps at special events by making perogies, donating baking and selling raffle tickets. Florence willingly gives of her time for the betterment of the Oliver Road Community Centre.



Lois Gagnon



For the past five years, Lois Gagnon has regularly welcomed a gentleman with a disability to stay at her home to give his caregiver a break. He participates in household activities and they enjoy outings such as picnics, yard sales, bowling, music and dancing. After the devastating flood in May 2012, Lois invited the gentleman to stay at her home for several weeks while his house was being repaired. This generosity allowed his caregiver peace of mind. Throughout her lifetime, Lois has volunteered in various capacities for many organizations such as Wesway, Lutheran Care, Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. Her volunteerism, and her hospitality, are commendable.

Diane Gauthier



Diane Gauthier has been a volunteer for the Children's Aid Society since 2002. In those 14 years, Diane has been one of those quiet, behind the scenes volunteers. She is part of the Advisory Board and contributes to all the events the organization holds. She has helped with the Christmas programs, helped build a gazebo, assisted with grant writing, assisted with the foundation's quiz night and cuddled babies on the Neo Natal Intensive Care unit. Diane has contributed more than 1000 hours of volunteer support. When the Society needs someone who exudes care and compassion for the children and families, who believes in the work, mission statement and values, Diane can always be counted on. She also finds the time to volunteer for Thunder Bay Adventure Trails and Thunder Bay Superior Riders. Diane is an asset to the Children's Aid Society and the Thunder Bay community.

Lana Lang



Lana Lang is a retired teacher who took on a project of planning and designing an empty lot of land into a beautiful, tranquil, healing flower garden, with a view and sound of running water from the river nearby. The area is known as the Cancer Hope and Memory Garden and it is located at the corner of Balmoral and William Street. Lana and small group of volunteers start early in spring and work through to late fall to maintain and look after the garden for everyone to enjoy. Whether you are running, walking, or in wheelchair, all can enjoy the scent of flowers and the sight of beautiful colours in the peaceful walkway.

Betty-Ann Luoto

Betty-Ann Luoto joined the Thunder Bay Society of Ballet and Dance in 2002. Through the years she has volunteered by working fundraisers, attending meetings and spending countless hours at the local dance festival. The society raises money to enhance the dance community and dancers. It also provides over \$7000 in scholarships to deserving students. Betty-Ann plays a big role in the fund raising efforts. She joined the Festival of Music and the Arts board of directors and is its dance liaison. Often unnoticed, Betty-Ann is that person back stage who cheers every dancer on, giving pep talks or doling out hugs. Every dancer knows to go to Betty-Ann when they need help. She is also well respected by parents and studio owners. Betty-Ann continues to give many hours of her time so the Thunder Bay dance community can continue to grow. The children love her and that is her biggest reward.



Christine Marchand



Christine Marchand is a valued volunteer with St. Joseph's Care Group. She has been a committed, caring and compassionate volunteer for more than 13 years. Christine is an active volunteer at St. Joseph's Heritage (Bethammi Nursing Home), Hogarth Riverview Manor and Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. She also volunteers with Hospice Northwest providing end of life care. Christine is a past member of St. Joseph's Care Group Volunteer Services Advisory Committee. She assists residents living at Bethammi Nursing Home ensuring they have a good meal with a wonderful companion. Christine assisted at Hogarth Riverview Manor with the move of residents from city seniors' homes for the aged to their new home at the Manor. Residents enjoy Christine's warm and kind personality as she assists those who may need help or a friend to talk to. She touches the lives of the residents as she truly cares for them. Christine promotes the mission, vision and core values of St. Joseph's Care group with her commitment to serve.

Sylvie Mayo

Sylvie Mayo has volunteered with the Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association for 20 years, Camp Quality for 14 years and Our Kids Count for 5 years. She works relentlessly at any task that will help children have a better and fulfilling life. She has volunteered selling tickets for the Kiwanis Club, Our Kids Count and other organizations. She organized a large event, the "Grumpy Grandpa Day," to raise funds for the Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association and the farm where its programs are carried out. Sylvie is a great volunteer for the community's children.



Twyla Oleksuk



With two children as Zorya Ukrainian Dancers, it didn't take long to Twyla Oleksuk to become a volunteer. Her interest in sewing and her expertise as a seamstress had her involved with the costume portion of Zorya's operation. In 2005, she accepted the position of costume coordinator. Twyla patiently and lovingly ensures that all dancers have the costume pieces and headwear as needed for each dance, for each region in the Ukraine. She has spent countless hours sewing costumes, organizing and carting costumes around for fittings. Since 2005 she has outfitted about 100 dancers each year. In addition to her costume duties, Twyla became a member of Zorya's board of directors and has continued to volunteer her time and talents to the present day. A few words describing Twyla are patient, talented, dedicated and hard worker. Her dedication has definitely provided the Zorya Dancers and the community of Thunder Bay with a meaningful voluntary contribution.

John Ongaro

John Ongaro has been a member of the Summer in the Parks Advisory Committee since 2000, and has been the master of ceremonies (MC) for Summer in the Parks since 1998. John's involvement includes developing the events, selecting the musical talent along with his fellow committee members, and being the MC every summer. These events have touched the lives of more than 250,000 people over the years. John's leadership and dedication have helped grow this event into a successful concert series at Marina Park, attracting 18,000 people annually. The program now includes a great mix of artisans, vendors, community groups and children's activities. Through his efforts, John has made a significant contribution to the music scene in Thunder Bay.



Valerie Patton

Valerie Patton has been involved with various aspects of music within the city of Thunder Bay for several decades. Her selflessness and hard work have truly made a difference to the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and by extension, the community of Thunder Bay. Valerie is probably best known for her lovely soprano voice but as well as singing, she also generously helps the symphony in many other ways. For the past seven years, Valerie has folded and stapled about 1,500 "Curtain Call" programmes before each concert. She volunteers for days at a time to do the large-scale mail-outs to members of the community for fundraising and subscription campaigns. At concerts, Val sells tickets and works at the merchandise tables. Her humming presence brightens up the office, as she always has a smile and a kind word to spare for everyone. The TBSO greatly appreciates the time, efforts and talents of Valerie Patton.



Susan Raynak

Susan Raynak has been a dedicated palliative care volunteer with Hospice Northwest for the past six years. Her warm, compassionate demeanor fits naturally into her client work where she is a companion and support to people who are journeying through the final stages of a life-limiting illness. She has also supported people who have lost a loved one and are struggling with that loss. Susan intuitively recognizes the right time to apply her quick wit and sense of humour to bring a smile to the faces of those around her. She has been an active member of our Hike for Hospice Committee where she participates in the planning and implementation of that annual fundraising event. She actively seeks out sponsorships and donations as well as recruiting hikers. As a retired educator, Susan continues to enjoy teaching and does so by acting as a hospice volunteer in palliative simulation labs at Lakehead University. There, fourth-year nursing students learn how to engage sensitively and respectfully with their dying patients and their caregivers. Susan is always happy to speak on public information panels where she explains her role as a Hospice Northwest volunteer and the value of the service to clients, caregivers and health care professionals. Her commitment to hospice palliative care is commendable and very much appreciated.

Deborah Roberts

Deborah Roberts has been volunteering for the past five years for Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services as a direct service volunteer providing on-scene emotional support, practical support and community referrals to victims who require services. Deborah makes a significant contribution at monthly volunteer meetings and is an active member of the fundraising committee. She is a role model, sharing her experience and knowledge with new volunteers. She is reliable, well organized, an excellent communicator, a peer motivator and problem solver. Her strong sense of community values combined with her quick wit and genuine interest in other make her an invaluable volunteer.



Riita Rossi

Riita Rossi is a retired nurse who has volunteered with the Red Cross as a Personal Disaster Assistant (PDA) responder for the past 9 years. A personal disaster typically affects a single family. It could be a house fire or sewage backup. When personal disasters strike, the Canadian Red Cross provides food, shelter, clothing and essential supplies to those in need. Whenever available, Riita has been quick to respond when called day or night. She is reliable, caring and dedicated in her efforts, and is effective and efficient with those she helps. Riita contributes in many ways to the Red Cross Disaster Management program. It is through the dedication of volunteers like Riita that the Red Cross and the City of Thunder Bay are successful in their organized response to large and small scale disasters. Riita will give as much time as possible during large scale emergencies in whatever capacity is required. She has helped with registration and personal services as well as repatriation at the end of a response. Behind the scenes, Riita answers the phone at the branch office, prepares kits for large scale responses, helps with clean-up when a response is over and supports positions for such large scale responses as Hurricane Katrina and the Haiti Earthquake. Riita was involved as a Personal Disaster Assistant with the 2011 and 2012 forest fire evacuations from Sandy Lake, the flood in 2012 in Thunder Bay, and the flood evacuations in 2013 and 2014 from Kashechewan and Attawapiskat.



Denise Wallace

Denise Wallace is the Vice President and Search Manager Trainer for the Lakehead Search and Rescue Unit (LSRU). As such, she manages searches for lost people within the city and region. She also manages child find services for the Teddy Bear Picnic at Vickers Park, and for the Canada Day Celebration at Prince Arthur's Landing. Denise is the coordinator/trainer for Project Life Saver locally and in Winnipeg. She also gives survival and search technique training to LSRU members, the general public and corporations. Denise has many achievements related to search and rescue. From the Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association she has received the

Volunteer of the Year Award. She earned Train the Trainer certification for Ground SAR (search and rescue). Denise has promoted Project Life Saver which assists people who wander with dementia or other conditions. On behalf of LSRU, she has coordinated the outdoor survival course for aviation students at Confederation College. Denise has co-authored a search techniques manual and participated on medal-winning SARScene competitive teams. Denise Wallace has worked tirelessly for education and training related to search and rescue - making our area a safer place to enjoy.

Laura Wiita

Laura Wiita saw that there was a need, got busy and organized a group called "New Connections". She built on the concept of widows helping widows. Laura meets with her friends regularly, ones a month for noon lunches and card playing, or just socializing. Laura served as chairperson for the group for 16 years. Last year after celebrating her 90th birthday she decided to step down to past chair. The New Connections group would like to thank Laura for the many years of dedication, leadership, loyalty and friendship.



Kelly Robertson and Dorothy Lawrence

Kelly Robertson and Dorothy Lawrence have made an impact in our community through volunteering to raise funds for people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). They have been actively involved in almost every fundraising campaign that the MS Society has held since they began their volunteer service almost 10 years ago. The funds from these campaigns stay in Thunder Bay to help MS patients, so there is direct benefit to the local community. Kelly, with her aunt Dorothy, can be seen all over the city at MS fundraising events. They sell carnations during the three-day Carnation Campaign. They go to craft sales, grocery stores and street fairs for the 50/50 raffles. Outside the liquor and beer stores, Kelly and Dorothy can be seen on the Multiple Sclerosis Tag Days. They also volunteer at the A & W Restaurant "Cruisin' for a Cause" days where they assist with the car show and the car wash. The MS Society and the people of Thunder Bay are fortunate to have these hard working supporters.

Canadian Corps of Voyageurs



The Canadian Corps of Voyageurs (CCV) has been actively contributing entertainment at Fort William Historical Park to locals and visitors from all over the world for 40 years. Known for their enthusiasm and commitment, they strive to share their knowledge of history and their belief in the importance of volunteerism. Some of the events and programs involving heritage interpretations of activities were the Fort Wayne Indiana's war of 1812, the Feast of the Hunters Moon Quiatenon, the 75th Anniversary of Quetico Provincial Park, HRM Queen Elizabeth's visit to Toronto and

Winnipeg in 1984, the Battle of Waterloo, Stoney Creek Battle House, the 200th Anniversary of Red River Settlement in Winnipeg in 2012 and the 200th Anniversary Queenston Heights. CCV contributed to local events such as the opening ceremonies of the Canadian Summer Games in 1981, the world Nordic Games in 1995, Kamview Bike Race, Multiple Sclerosis Walk and Relay for Life. Members of CCV are great ambassadors for Thunder Bay and our region.

Interlink Choir



The Interlink Choir has been bringing seniors and children together in Thunder Bay for 25 years. The choir is a unique inter-generational program that unites children and seniors through music and communication by the exchange of letters, poetry and art work. The choir complements the school curriculum and provides students with musical training they might not otherwise receive. There are currently four original members,

one of whom is approaching 101 years young. The choir has performed at many special events including the Nordic Games, the Scott Tournament of Hearts, the Dorion 100th Anniversary celebrations, and has appeared with The Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and the Fort William Male Choir. The choir also performs at seniors' homes throughout the city. Through Interlink, students and seniors gain a new appreciation for each other's talents, abilities ideas and dreams.

Pioneer Ridge-Roman Catholic Mass Volunteer Group

Upon moving into a long-term care setting such as Pioneer Ridge, individuals are confronted with several losses which include their homes, their possessions, and most times, their ability to attend their regular church services with their church community. Long-term-care residents have to conquer the feeling of loneliness, loss and boredom on a daily basis. Participating in a religious service can be a tremendous comfort. At Pioneer Ridge, the Roman Catholic Mass volunteers provide this comfort to the residents by listening in and joining in on remembered songs and prayers. The volunteers help the residents experience the spiritual uplifting that they enjoyed before admission to the Home. The Roman Catholic volunteers' commitment to ensure that residents can attend Mass every second Wednesday morning has been a great asset to the Home for 17 years. They are a kind and compassionate group of individuals who also share their talents. They sing in the choir and play instruments to ensure that the Mass is enjoyed by all. Their hard work and dedication are great assets to Pioneer Ridge residents.

Set Up Crew – Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre

The Set Up Crew at the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre is an integral part of the centre's team. Every week, a number of volunteers set up for regular activities including the weekly dances, Saturday bingo and Sunday entertainment. The crew also sets up for other events and special fundraisers such as the Harvest Craft Market, where every room in the building is utilized. It is important to note that often the Set Up Crew is not seen doing their work, but they indirectly touch the lives of the many older adults who come to the centre to enjoy the activities. Without the volunteer crew, setting up for various events would put a lot of extra work on the staff as well as on the event organizers. The members of the Set Up Crew have changed since its inception 25 years ago, but the hard work and dedication remain the same. This group helps to facilitate inclusion and social engagement for the senior members of our community.



Thunder Bay Clown Club

In 2015, the Thunder Bay Clown Club celebrated 50 years of clowning in Thunder Bay, regionally and internationally. The club has provided entertainment and fundraising assistance to a multitude of groups including the George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Camp Quality, the Rotary Club, Hospice Northwest, the Special Olympics, Wesway, the Christmas Cheer Fund, the Gay Pride Parade, the Alzheimer Society, the Salvation Army, and Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association. The club has provided workshops for scout groups, girl guide groups, service clubs, 4-H clubs, community theatre groups, schools, churches and recreation centres. The club has shared good will and laughter all over the globe in places like Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Rwanda, Kenya, the Caribbean, Iceland, Alaska, Peru, China as well as North and South America. The Thunder Bay Clown Club has been vital to local fundraising efforts as well as being ambassadors to the world.



Thunder Bay Martial Arts Council

In 2001, representatives from the various martial arts groups in Thunder Bay did something unique. They formed the Martial Arts Council - the world's first community-based organization of martial arts disciplines, dedicated to promote the benefits of martial arts in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. At city council and in the provincial and federal legislatures, Thunder Bay was declared "The Martial Arts Capital of Canada". The encouragement of local groups of all ages and abilities has led to Thunder Bay having one of Canada's highest rates of participation in martial arts per capita. As well as the health benefits, there have been tourism and economic impacts related to the many martial arts events held in the city over the past 15 years. The Martial Arts Council avidly supported the construction of the popular Tai Chi Park and Moon Gate at the waterfront - visible reminders that Thunder Bay is active as "The Martial Arts Capital of Canada".



Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps

The Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps was created in 1993 as a non-profit organization with the main goal of increasing the cadets' confidence by preparing them for community involvement, promoting good citizenship and developing leadership skills, along with providing an introduction to policing. The cadets learn the motto "Lead by Example" by broadening their knowledge and self-discipline through fun educational activities and community volunteerism. Some of the events where the cadets volunteer each year are the Terry Fox Run, Police Memorial Service, Empty Bowls Caring Hearts Dinner, Legion Poppy Sales, Remembrance Day Parade, Rotary Christmas Parade, Stuff a Cruiser, Polar Bear Plunge, and the Military Craft and Yard Sale. They also participate in the Adopt a Road clean-up when they clean Balmoral Street from William Street to Oliver Road twice annually. Each year, the Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps cadets volunteer a combined total of about 500 hours, thus showing their dedication to this community and living up to their motto.



2016 Spirit of Thunder Bay Award Recipients

Wendy Addison



Wendy is a retired teacher who became actively involved with Canadian Red Cross, Thunder Bay Branch in 2001. She is available at any emergency, day or night, to clients who face disaster. Wendy is a reliable, caring and dedicated volunteer who is extremely efficient in her role as supervisor of the Disaster Management ERT (Emergency Response Team). She is also on call for the Personal Disaster Assistance Team and contributes hundreds of hours doing Personal Preparedness workshops. During Northern Ontario floods, Wendy

schedules and manages shelter and reception centres and books flights and accommodations for everyone who assists with the disaster team. Wendy maintains all files and organizes volunteer training workshops. From 2006 through 2015 Wendy participated in flood and fire disaster responses for Thunder Bay, Sandy Lake, Kashechewan, Attawapiskat and the whole of James Bay.

Wendy Cook

For more than 12 years, Wendy Cook has made outstanding contributions to our community. She has been an exemplary volunteer with Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services, a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week service providing on-site assistance to victims of crime. Wendy's team members, and the victims she helps, value her pleasant and approachable nature and her compassion for others. Her support is offered day or night through the victim's most difficult and vulnerable moments. Wendy also volunteered for the Catholic Family Development Centre for 8 years, helping vulnerable women. She is a compassionate and capable volunteer who is much appreciated by any organization for which she provides her help and time.

Bill Davis



Bill Davis has been a member of Masonic Lodges for 34 years. In that time, he served as Worshipful Master with Kaministiquia Masonic Lodge, Terrace Bay Lodge and Connaught Lodge. Bill was elected District Deputy Grand Master of Algoma District in 2012. Bill has also been a member of the Scottish Rite of Canada Superior Lodge of Perfection in the Valley of Thunder Bay since 1985. In 2007 he was presented as Honouree Inspector General 33 in Ottawa and was made the Active Member of the Valley of Thunder Bay in Windsor this past year.

The Scottish Rite charitable foundation is funded by members, families and friends. The funds are directed to medical research into areas of dyslexia and autism in children and neuro degenerative diseases including Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Bill is currently a member of Lakehead Shrine Club Khartoum Temple and has been since 1986, and served as president of the Lakehead Shrine Club in 2015. Bill is a member of both the Clown Unit and the Pipe Band. He has worked tirelessly with the annual Shrine Circus and many other fund raising efforts that are directed to send local children and their parents to the various Shriners hospitals for treatment. The Shriners also support over 22 Shrine hospitals throughout North America that provide specific healthcare to children 18 and under at no charge. Bill remains a very active member and continues to serve on the Executive. Bill also volunteers for the Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Drive, is a member of the United Travelers Association, a member of the Thunder Bay Pipes and Drums and also an active member of St. Michaels and All Angels Anglican Church.

Warren Giertuga



Warren Giertuga has been involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics for 17 years. He is a zone coordinator and involved with the Operations Committee. In his role, he leads not only the Correctional Centre campaign but the Zone and he does this with integrity, enthusiasm and most importantly vision. It is through his cultivation of a strong team and willingness to lead, encourage, motivate and challenge that Warren was inducted into the Special Olympics Ontario Sponsors and Benefactors Hall of Fame. He is the first correctional officer to be inducted into this prestigious group. Warren is a correctional officer at the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre with 26 years of experience. In 2014 he led the first ever "Conquer the Mud Run" in Thunder Bay, raising funds for the Special Olympics which had over 400 participants. He was also integral to other fundraising projects such as Boston Pizza's "Police Serving You" event; the 5th Annual Polar Plunge with 250 participants this year, and he has worked tirelessly to have "Hero Bears" made and approved which are now sold across the province. Warren is the driving force behind the success of Special Olympics in Corrections and he has devised new and innovative ways to raise funds, allow for participants to have fun, and increase the profile of corrections. Warren continues to be involved in all these endeavours. His leadership, willingness to rise to the challenge, commitment to excellence and dedication to the cause have resulted in ever increasing participation and donations.

Mary-Alice Isaac



Mary-Alice Isaac joined the Auxiliary to St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) in 2006, as the fundraising chair. She continues to organize yearly events that have allowed the auxiliary to make substantial contribution to the well-being of the clients of SJCG. With Mary-Alice's strong leadership and commitment, the Auxiliary was able to contribute \$80,000.00 to the SJCG last year, the auxiliary's largest donation to date. Last year Mary-Alice spearheaded a new fundraiser; the Angels of Light Campaign, volunteering hundreds of hours in the planning and execution of this event. Mary-Alice also volunteers for St. Joseph's Foundation. In 2010 she joined the Benny Birch Committee and assisted with volunteering at the entrance gates, the cake booth and ticket selling. She also assisted in developing activities for the children's playground. Mary-Alice has volunteered in the larger community as well. In 1995 when the Nordic Games came to Thunder Bay, she organized and prepared the educational activities for the schools of Northwestern Ontario relating to the games and volunteered at the gates and at the Nordic Store. Mary-Alice has volunteered with the Catholic Women's League at St. Agnes Parish, served on the Executive Committee and volunteered with fundraising efforts for several years. Mary-Alice was part of the Fundraising Committee for the new St. Agnes church in 1982, arranging for publishing the St. Agnes Cookbook. Since 2006 Mary-Alice has been on the Seniors Lunch Committee where seniors are provided lunch once a month. Mary-Alice puts her heart and soul into all projects she's involved with and is very passionate about the cause. The Auxiliary is very grateful for Mary-Alice's loyalty and dedication.

Mike Belliveau

Mike moved to Thunder Bay in 1987 from Amherst, Nova Scotia and immediately got involved in community volunteering, coaching hockey, baseball, and high school basketball. He served 8 years as president of the Port Arthur Continentals baseball club, helping and guiding youth in the community. Mike served as a leader for local fundraising events such as chairing the Dragon Boat Festival committee and bringing the Corporate Relay to Shelter House as a fundraising event. For United Way Thunder Bay he has served as president, first vice-president, secretary, and on the Personal Campaign Team, Community Capacity Building, and the Nishwaaswi Committee. Mike has also served on the board of directors for Shelter House and the Advisory Committee to Confederation College for Entrepreneurship. In 2012 Mike was awarded Industry Canada's Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for 20 years' service in community economic development.



Armand Colosimo



Armand has been a member of the board of directors with the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) for 45 years. He has provided outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in addressing and raising awareness for the need for home health care in the District of Thunder Bay. Armand has helped VON grow from a home care organization with only two nurses, to an organization with over 125 employees. His strong belief in the programs has helped the VON become a vital health care provider in Thunder Bay. Armand took on the role of attendance councillor which involved setting up programs to improve the education of young mothers who come from all over the world. In addition to the VON, Armand is committed to assisting youth and seniors in our community. He is also a board member for YES Employment Services and has developed many programs for this organization. Armand's outstanding commitment and dedication to our city for so many years has made him an invaluable asset to the community.

Gordie Garriock



Gordie Garriock has been a member of the Rotary Club of Thunder Bay for 21 years and has played a major role in the development of health care in the region with funds raised from the Annual Rotary House Lottery. The Rotary Club has donated more than \$2 million to Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre with help from Gordie's volunteer involvement. Gordie is instrumental in arranging all media advertising for the Annual Rotary House Lottery. Gordie was a Community Volunteer, appointed by the CEO of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Center, as a member of the Steering Committee for the Centre's 5-year plan. Gordie also participated on the organizing committee for the Inaugural "Save a Heart Ball" helping to raise money for Thunder Bay's first stand-alone angioplasty unit at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. Over the last 5 years, the ball has raised in excess of \$500,000. Gordie was previous chair of the Cardiac and Vascular Surgery Committee, specifically to arrange for a stand-alone angioplasty unit for the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Center and in 2007, the provincial minister of health announced a pilot project to bring life saving angioplasty to Thunder Bay. In June of 2015, the 10th Anniversary of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Center, a new Vascular Surgery Department became a reality. Gordie Garriock was instrumental in making it happen.

Kevin Holloway

Kevin Holloway has been involved as a volunteer with health care philanthropy since 1995. He started volunteering with the Northern Cancer Research Foundation and later became a director on its board. When the Northern Cancer Research Foundation integrated and became the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation, Kevin continued volunteering as chair of the board of directors. Kevin has been very active in the Governance, Finance and Audit as well as the

Grants Committees. This kind of prolonged dedication has shown a true passion and desire to benefit the community. Last Christmas, Kevin arranged for some of his colleagues who play musical instruments to volunteer and play seasonal music in the lobby of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre to help raise funds. Over the past 20 years, Kevin has integrated himself into several aspects of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation. He has been an active member of the board of directors and is chair of the Grants Committee. He takes time to make sure he is aware of all activities and events that are happening in the hospital or as part of the foundation events teams. He always attends our community events with a smile. Kevin never looks for recognition or praise but simply loves being part of our community and giving back.

Michael Lewkin

In his governance role as a board member and current chair of the Canadian Mental Health Association - Thunder Bay Branch (CMHA), Michael Lewkin has supported the evolution of a community-based mental health service that focuses on possibility and the hope of recovery. His tireless volunteer hours helped shape the policy direction of the organization, and his achievements have impacted the lives of the people served by CMHA. In his 20 years of dedicated service to the organization, Michael has served as president and past president locally, and 6 years as a provincial director for CMHC Ontario Division, becoming provincial board chair in 2015. Michael also serves on the CMHA National Fund Development Advisory Committee. Without the leadership of volunteers like Michael, community-based organizations would be challenged to have significant impacts on the communities they serve. CMHA is grateful for his Michael's contributions.

Bernice Bryson



Bernice is a caring, kind and energetic lady who has been a member of Broadway United Church's board of directors and chair of the Memorial Committee for 31 years. She was Sunday School Teacher for 10 years as well as member of the church choir and church cleaner. She convened the church's Christmas Tea for 2 years. Once a month for 18 years, Bernice organized the making and selling of perogies at the church. In the wider community Bernice has volunteered at Shelter House, and she collects and delivers canned goods to Florence Booth House, the Salvation Army's shelter for homeless women. She served 10 years with the Children's Music Festival and has helped at the George Jeffrey Children's Centre. She has assisted the West Thunder Dancers and helped residents at Grandview Lodge during Bingos. Once a month she volunteers at Kakabeka Legion breakfasts and for 25 years she has been a volunteer for the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

Randy Creighton



Randy Creighton has been on the Board of Directors of Vickers Heights Community Centre for 30 years, 25 years as President. Randy helps to maintain the building and manage programs. He has taught computer skills to members of the community centre. Randy also coordinated the placement of bulletin boards at Vickers Heights residents' mailboxes. Randy has also been a scout leader for 23 years, working with different age groups in scouting and has been on the Grey Wolf Camp Committee for 20 years. He has graciously provided a website for the Scouts, Girl Guides and Kakabeka Legion, enabling members of those groups to utilize technology. Randy has been a member of the Hymers Fair board of directors for 10 years. During the fair, he supervises the site and does whatever work is necessary to make it a success. Provincially, he is Hymers' representative at the Ontario agricultural meetings. Randy is also a member of Friends of the Library at Victoriaville, selling books in the Bookstore. He enjoys interacting with customers, helping them to recycle or reuse books while raising funds for the library. Randy was responsible for establishing an Information Radio at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, to provide weather, travel and other information within the City and to other areas of Northwestern Ontario. For 20 years, Randy was president of the North Neebing Credit Union, assisting members to manage their finances. Through the Anglican Church, Randy has served 8 years on the Camp Gitchagomee Committee. He buys the groceries and does general maintenance tasks, allowing the camp leaders to concentrate on the children and the programs each summer. Volunteering is an integral part of Randy's personality and lifestyle, exemplifying the spirit of Thunder Bay.

Ryan Gibson



In 2010, Staff Sergeant Ryan Gibson started volunteering with the Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps helping teach drill to cadets. As a Staff Sergeant, he felt that using his knowledge to teach the cadets about policing and helping them to become positive role models in the community would be rewarding. Later in 2011 he became the commanding officer. Ryan has become a valued advocate for the group; he works tirelessly to have officers at the weekly meetings to provide an educational experience about policing and when he is teaching the cadets, they are always engaged. He has participated in the Nova Scotia training camp and he also organizes the firearms training at the police station each year. He has built a good rapport with the Cadets with his jovial personality; this is evident by the lineup of cadets wanting to talk to him at the end of each Corps meeting. This staff sergeant and father of three young boys has also been volunteering with Special Olympics for four years, helping to organize the Torch Run, Mud Run and Polar Bear Plunge. In 2014 he received the Rising Flame Award for his volunteer involvement. He is also the fundraising chair for this year's Can Am Games. Ryan also volunteers with coaching minor football. He has been doing this for over thirteen years and has coached the St. Patrick's High School senior football team for the last two years. He volunteered for St. John Ambulance

and has also trained the drill team at the Ontario Police College. Currently he is on the Female Thunderwolves Basketball board of directors, helping to fundraise and promote girls' basketball. Ryan is the treasurer on the Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps' board of directors. Staff Sergeant Ryan Gibson is a well-respected member of our community who has dedicated over fifteen years of cumulative volunteer contributions, and he exemplifies the spirit of Thunder Bay.

Hayla Huk



It is through Hayla Huk's dedication and inspiration as Administrator for the Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group that Chaban has achieved its growth and cultural attributes through the years, enabling Chaban to showcase entertainment for the community in multiple venues each year. As stage manager for many years, she ensured that every year's culminating performance ran smoothly for the Thunder Bay audience's enjoyment. Nearly all Chaban shows at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium had Hayla on the headset calling cues to the technical team and stage crew; her contributions were always behind the scene, but evident in every show. Hayla has held many vital positions within the Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group for over 30 years. Most noteworthy are her years as executive administrator and co-administrator, and as Chaban's longest run stage manager. In her leadership role as administrator, Hayla guided the group to improve promotions, locally and nationally, enhancing Chaban's cultural integrity, in supporting traditional learning and its incorporation into dances and onto the stage. She enabled dancers to embrace their love of Ukrainian dance and culture. As stage manager, she stays amazingly calm with the most demanding of shows, changing cues for lights, music, props, flies, curtains, dancers and sets. She magically works through calls with the technical crew and performers; always calmly and respectfully. If you attend a Chaban performance, she'll be just behind the left curtain with her headset on.

Dr. Kathy Kortés Miller



Since 1998, Dr. Kathy Kortés Miller has been a palliative care champion in our community, working extensively with the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH) at Lakehead University and with Hospice Northwest. She initially became passionate about Hospice Northwest after experiencing the valuable contributions of hospice volunteers at St. Joseph's Hospital's Hospice Unit where she worked as a social worker. Kathy has been a consistent source of support and palliative care expertise to Hospice Northwest as well as building and growing the organization. She has represented Hospice Northwest at McMaster University for a provincial conference and at Bristol, England for an international conference. Because of her passion and skills, Hospice Northwest is recognized as a leader in community engagement exemplifying that palliative care is truly everybody's business.

2016 Youth Award Recipients

Akul Bector



Akul Bector has been involved in a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the City of Thunder Bay over the past three years. He devotes countless hours and enthusiasm into the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, providing hospitalized seniors with the motivation and companionship they require to regain their independence and to rehabilitate successfully. He inspires other volunteers with his keenness and enthusiasm. Akul's work with Superior Science, a summer camp program for youth, allows him to advocate for youth and provide engaging activities that assist in boosting self-esteem in a fun learning environment. He has also been very involved in City of Thunder Bay events such as Canada Day and Summer in the Parks. Akul has dedicated countless hours to other organizations such as Old Fort William, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Festival of India and the Alzheimer's Society. He has dedicated approximately 1000 hours of service to organizations which have benefitted from his passionate participation. Akul's positive energy has an immense impact on the community.

Chelsey Brassard

Chelsey Brassard is a Grade 12 French immersion student at St. Patrick's High School. Among the many organizations benefitting from Chelsey's volunteerism are Shelter House, Black Tigers Tae Kwan Do, Birch Beach Arts and Crafts, Paramount Live, Volunteer Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay LaCrosse, Canada Games Complex, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. She has planned activities; instructed crafts, swimming and Tae Kwan Do classes; worked in musical theatre; participated in coaching camps; assisted in fund raising and assisted patients in the Good Night Program at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. With each activity Chelsey has identified the benefits to the community and the sense of accomplishment she receives from her altruism. Chelsey has volunteered over 700 hours in the school and community, making her an ambassador for youth, modelling the importance of giving one's time to the community.



Cassandra Fenlon

Cassandra Fenlon is dedicated to serving others and providing opportunities for young people. She has been involved in the Girl Guide movement since she was five years old. Currently, she is the president of her ranger unit and volunteers several times each week as a junior leader. In 2013, she was selected to be a member of the Girls' Forum, a provincial youth initiative. There she was able to advocate for other young women while advising the provincial board of issues important to girl guides. After participating in the forum, Cassandra was inspired to initiate a similar project for Girl Guides in Thunder Bay. Cassandra has also planned and coordinated fundraising initiatives for the Northern Cancer Research Fund, Shelter House and for sponsoring a Syrian family. She also volunteers at the Thunder Bay Museum and the Dragon Boat Race Festival. Cassandra is a well-rounded young lady, excelling in academics and student leadership while being very active in our community.



Julie Hauth



Julie Hauth is 17 years of age and has been volunteering for the City of Thunder Bay Recreation and Culture Division for more than three years with the Kite Festival, Canada Day celebrations, Teddy Bear Picnic, Summer in the Park concert series and Exploring Our Routes. Her role at these events includes assisting at information booths, parking, crafts, children's activity stations, set-up and tear down and volunteer headquarters, among others. She is always available to greet visitors, provide assistance, support her fellow volunteers and introduce new people to volunteering. She takes an active role in recruiting family and friends to volunteer at events. Julie rarely has one volunteer job at an event. She is much more likely to fill in at every post throughout the event. Julie's dedication, leadership skills and commitment make her the epitome of a youth volunteer.

Heather Madussi

Heather Madussi is a full-time social work student at Lakehead University as well as a Community Friend volunteer for Wesway since October 2013. She volunteers at least once and often twice a month. Heather is always willing to take on new challenges and is eager to provide respite to a family in need and to spend quality time with the family's loved one who has special needs. The participant whom Heather supports did not have socialization in her life. Heather provides the support during walks outside, encouraging greetings to people, thus enhancing the intrinsic value of having friends in the community. Activities indoors could include acting out skits based on favourite television programmes. Heather welcomes change, has a positive attitude and easy-going nature-well suited to this role.



Abigail Proteau



Abigail (Abby) Proteau is a true ambassador for youth and a responsible citizen who contributes to the common good in our community. Abby has accumulated a total of 954 community hours throughout her high school career as well as many hours prior to entering high school. Numerous hours have been contributed to the Thunder Bay Minor Football Association. She is a role model for other females in a sport which is predominately led by males. Abby's leadership includes coaching and instructing. She works with youth, teaching them new skills that benefit them not only in their sport but in their everyday lives. Abby has volunteered at more than 35 programs for organizations including the Cancer Society, United Way, St. Anthony Church, Heart and Stroke Foundation and Shelter House. Her efforts have supported not only the youth in Thunder Bay, but also the sick, homeless and hungry. Abby's community involvement has benefitted and touched the lives of many in Thunder Bay.