THANK YOU
to all our
MAJOR FUNDERS
for your many
YEARS of
`INVESTING IN LOCAL
VOLUNTEERISM!`

Waterloo Region´s
VOLUNTEER IMPACT AWARDS
2019
THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH
BINGEMANS BALLROOM

#VIA2019

DON´T FORGET TO TWEET OR
INSTAGRAM US YOUR PICTURES
FROM THE NIGHT
@VOLUNTEERWR
Welcome to the Volunteer Impact Awards 2019

Volunteer Action Centre is pleased to present the Annual Volunteer Impact Awards as part of our National Volunteer Week 2019 celebrations. Our country is built on the contribution of volunteers and we are thrilled to be able to recognize the amazing volunteers celebrated this evening.

Nineteen select individuals, groups and organizations are being recognized for their outstanding contributions through their “investments in volunteerism” throughout Waterloo Region.

Thank you to our panel of community members who help with the difficult task of choosing from among the many impressive nominations. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who was nominated! Many thanks also, to those who took the time to nominate these outstanding individuals, and organizations as we simply couldn’t do it without you.

I would like to acknowledge the United Way Waterloo Region Communities and our area municipalities for their ongoing support of community volunteering and the work of the Volunteer Action Centre.

Finally, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our generous sponsors and contributors this evening. In particular I would like to acknowledge the sponsorship from The RaeLipskie Partnership in memory of Margaret Cowan a long standing community care giver and volunteer. This sponsorship, with those of Bingemans, Economical, VolunteerAttract, Toyota and some donors that have made it possible, in the 35th Anniversary year of the Volunteer Action Centre to recognize an additional five volunteers this evening. Thank You!

To all of you attending this evening, thank you for coming to help us recognize these wonderful volunteers. Please enjoy this night of celebration!

Jane Hennig
Executive Director
Volunteer Action Centre
DINNER MENU

APPETIZER
Garden Salad

MAIN ENTREE
Stuffed Chicken
Roasted Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables

VEGETARIAN
Quinoa
Red Pepper Puree
Deconstructed Ratatouille

DESSERT
Fruit Plate
German Chocolate Cake

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf Coffee, and Tea

So Thankful for our Sponsors!

GOLD
BINGEMANS

SILVER
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economical INSURANCE
RAE LIPSKIE PARTNERSHIP

BRONZE
JARDIN
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570 News
STAR METROLAND MEDIA
BINGEMANS

Be sure to visit: VolunteerWR.ca
### GALA SCHEDULE

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**  
Susan Cook-Scheerer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Cocktails &amp; Silent Auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Recipient Group Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45 PM</td>
<td>Dinner Service Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Award Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 PM</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>Silent Auction Closes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Gohar Sharif  
Alexandra Brown

**MUSICIAN**  
Nick Barkley

### 2019 AWARD NOMINEES

#### INDIVIDUAL INVOLVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Jonkman</td>
<td>Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Purdon</td>
<td>Cambridge Memorial Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Marx</td>
<td>Waterloo Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Barry</td>
<td>Community Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Hobson</td>
<td>Victim Services of Waterloo Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope MacDougall</td>
<td>National Service Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Linning</td>
<td>Cambridge Memorial Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Chandler</td>
<td>Community Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Penney</td>
<td>Kinbridge Community Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LEADERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gail Densmore</td>
<td>National Service Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gillian Hartshorn</td>
<td>Co-operators Insurance- Guelph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Mitic</td>
<td>Silverheights Neighbourhood Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marg Mannell</td>
<td>National Service Dogs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### GROUP INVOLVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bingo Volunteers</td>
<td>Bereaved Families of Ontario-Midwestern Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childmiding Volunteer Team</td>
<td>Monica Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Away Program</td>
<td>Hospice of Waterloo Region</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Every volunteer makes a difference.
Special thanks to the VAC Board and all the Contributors for making this fundraising portion of our Gala possible! ALL proceeds from today will help the Volunteer Action Centre of Waterloo Region, continue to offer the many services that grow more popular each year!

**SILENT AUCTION**

**THANK YOU to all our Contributors!**

AGO
BASF Canada Inc.,
Big Bliss
Canadian National Exhibition
Centre in the Square
City of Kitchener Golf
Drayton Theatre
Ennio's Pasta House
Euro Reflections
Famoso
GolfNorth
Golf’s Steak & Seafood
Kelsey’s Roadhouse – Wtloo
Ken Seiling—Region Museum
Kitchener Rangers
KW Symphony
Leslie Bamford
Little Mushroom
Marineland
Merry-Hill Golf Club
Modo Yoga
Pizza Pizza
Play with Clay
Café Pyrus
Queen Street Yoga
Seven Shores
Sports & Scholarships
Sydfit Health
THEMUSEUM
Three Kretans
Wellington Brewery
Williams Café
Local Artists (jewelry, art, wood)

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**VAC Board of Directors**

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Vice-President – Rob Howe
Treasurer – Ann de Sequeira**
Secretary – David Marsh**
Past Chair – Alison Boyd

Greg Boyd
Andrea Burgers**
Andrew Paylor
Madchen Funk

**Gala Committee Members**
In 2013 when she retired from the University of Waterloo, Linda made a three-year commitment to volunteer with KidSport. Six years later, Linda continues to support KidSport by generating grants for under-resourced children to participate in dance and sports.

Linda’s fundraising skills have been integral to increasing the number of children supported from 27 in 2013 to 290 in 2018. Earlier this spring, Linda was successful in convincing 100 women to donate a total of $20,000 to KidSport. This will ensure that up to 100 children in Kitchener and Waterloo will be able to participate in dance and sports programs. Undeniably, Linda has made an impact by volunteering her retirement time to KidSport.

Congratulations to Linda Kieswetter on receiving the Volunteer Impact Award!
Since 2007 volunteers from Eastwood Christian Fellowship, and friends, have volunteered on the third Monday of each month for Ray of Hope contributing more than 5000 volunteer hours and serving more than 30,000 nutritious meals to those struggling with poverty, addictions and mental health issues. They purchase groceries, cook nutritious meals, serve them and clean up. And they are known to go the extra mile. As a result, when an Eastwood Monday happens to fall on or close to a special holiday, guests can always expect additional treats, decorations, coloured food items - even costumes - to mark the occasion. Eastwood Mondays continue to draw the highest attendance each month. Rev. Bob Baumann remembers many cooking adventures from his own kitchen in the earlier years. His commitment has kept this group alive and well and continuing to serve. Eastwood is a compelling example of a church that doesn’t stay cloistered within their walls but moves out into their community to demonstrate concern and compassion in pragmatic and concrete ways.

Congratulations to Eastwood Christian Fellowship on receiving the Volunteer Impact Award!
INDIVIDUAL INVOLVEMENT

To recognize volunteers of all ages who significantly contribute to improving our community.

CARING PROGRAM AWARD—JEFF & JOHNNY
OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD—HAILEY, MARISSA, MEENA
MENTORSHIP AWARD—KASHIF MEMON
ORGANIZATION SUPPORT AWARD—DEAN & RAY
SPECIAL EVENT AWARD—DOUG SULLIVAN

SPONSORED BY: THE RAELIPSKE PARTNERSHIP
IN MEMORY OF MARGARET COWAN

VOLUNTEER IMPACT AWARD

EASTWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP—REV. BOB BAUMANN
KIDSPORT KW CHAPTER—LINDA KIESWETTER
VOLUNTEER MANAGER AWARD
To recognize a paid or unpaid manager of volunteers who enthusiastically leads to create a volunteer-friendly community.

SAMANTHA TREMMEL
REEP Green Solutions

REEP has been transformed in the 18 months Samantha has overseen its volunteer program. She has showcased her abilities as a highly efficient VOLUNTEER, Volunteer Coordinator. Her clear respect for all candidates and her strong motivation to support REEP's mission of sustainable living was exhibited by her concept for volunteer appreciation. The gift of stainless-steel straws and straw cleaners for all volunteers and staff is an example that reinforces the organization’s core mission of sustainable living.

REEP is a much stronger organization, thanks to Samantha’s work in helping to build its capacity and impact through the development of meaningful volunteer roles.

Congratulations to Samantha Tremmel on receiving the Volunteer Manager Award

CARING PROGRAM AWARD
To recognize a volunteer in a direct service role such as visiting, driving, serving meals, or recreation.

JEFF SILVER
Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank

Jeff Silver joined the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank (CSHFB) team in January 2018, when he was looking to give back during his retirement, as a server in the Community Pantry. Community Pantry volunteers directly serve about 40 families during a typical four-hour shift. Their role is to keep the shelves stocked and tidy, and to help the participants choose items. Jeff regularly works extra shifts, repairs broken equipment, suggests recipes and even helps people to their cars.

Jeff’s easy attitude puts participants at ease during what can be an uncomfortable experience. His kind words and uplifting spirit impact some program participants more deeply than the calories and the nourishment provided by CSHFB.

Congratulations to Jeff Silver on receiving the Caring Program Award
CARING PROGRAM AWARD
To recognize a volunteer in a direct service role such as visiting, driving, serving meals, or recreation.

JOHNNY MONTGOMERY | Ray of Hope

Johnny Montgomery has volunteered at the Ray of Hope Community Centre since March 2009. His primary role is to provide hospitality to those participating in Community Centre programs. His eagerness to learn has been invaluable. It is exhibited in his ability to build positive relationships and to serve the most vulnerable of guests.

Johnny is respected by volunteers and guests alike for his positive yet firm approach. He is always willing to help with whatever tasks are necessary, from cleaning up or loading shelves, to deescalating tense situations. Ten years of service this year - is what makes Johnny so outstanding and admired!

Congratulations to Johnny Montgomery on receiving the Caring Program Award

VOLUNTEER MANAGER AWARD
To recognize a paid or unpaid manager of volunteers who enthusiastically leads to create a volunteer-friendly community.

ASHLEY HENDRICKS | Victim Services of Waterloo Region

Since July 2018, Ashley has served as the Coordinator of Volunteer Crisis Responders, leading a team of dedicated volunteers who provide on-scene support to victims of crime and tragic circumstances.

Ashley is responsible for all aspects of volunteer management while providing direct service to clients and acting as the agency’s lead for victims of Human Trafficking. An average of some 67 volunteers have dedicated 20,000 hours of support over the past two years, a significant accomplishment at a time when volunteer recruitment and retention has been challenging. Ashley leads by example with her dedication to Victim Services of Waterloo Region and to the community we serve.

Congratulations to Ashley Hendricks on receiving the Volunteer Manager Award
OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

To recognize a board member or leadership volunteer who has supported community through organization leadership.

MARY LOU ROE | Community Coalition on Refugee and Immigrant Concerns

Mary Lou has been a tireless advocate for refugees and immigrants in our community and globally. She has been a member of CCORIC for approximately 10 years and has taken leadership roles in events and community forums that raise awareness of issues faced by immigrants and refugees in our community.

For example, last year CCORIC hosted a community forum on refugee family reunification. Mary Lou demonstrated her hands-on leadership by leading the arrangements for the forum and at the same time supervised others, reviewed the agenda, budget and materials for distribution. This year Mary Lou will head the entire World Refugee Day program which will include meetings with partner organizations such as schools, libraries, neighbourhood groups and refugee support groups. Her commitment is outstanding!

Congratulations to Mary Lou Roe on receiving the Outstanding Leadership Award

OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD

To recognize a high school or post-secondary student who exemplifies positive youth engagement and has made an outstanding contribution through their volunteering.

HAYLEE KEMSLEY | Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice

Haylee is a volunteer baker and one of the youngest volunteers at Lisaard House Hospice, a residential hospice that provides palliative care for individuals and care their families. She always checks with staff for any special needs or requests from family members of residents.

Although Lisaard House staff love being able to offer baked goods to anyone in their hospice, many residents are no longer eating solid foods. So Haylee adjusted her recipes to make extra soft cookies. Meanwhile, residents are able to enjoy Haylee’s other baking treats through the delicious scents. Every day she volunteers, she makes moments matter at a time when moments matter most.

Congratulations to Haylee Kemsley on receiving the Outstanding Youth Award
OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD
To recognize a high school or post-secondary student who exemplifies positive youth engagement and has made an outstanding contribution through their volunteering.

MARISA RANKIN | House of Friendship

Marissa is in her final year of an Honours Biology program at the University of Waterloo. Even though she is in a challenging academic program she always makes time to volunteer at the House of Friendship.

At school, in addition to her own school work, Marissa participates in a Science Outreach program with Elementary and Secondary students and is vice-president of the Bioinformatics Club. In 2018 she traveled to Peru where she volunteered for three weeks at a military clinic.

At the House of Friendship, Marissa volunteers twice a week in the Charles Street Men’s Shelter Kitchen where she helps prepare dessert, readies the dining room, serves dinner and helps with clean-up. Marissa is a volunteer who shines and excels in all she does.

Congratulations to Marisa Rankin on receiving the Outstanding Youth Award

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD
To recognize a board member or leadership volunteer who has supported community through organization leadership.

DAVID BRENNEMAN | Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation

David is a true leader who extends beyond his role as CAO for the Township of Woolwich because he believes strongly in giving back to the community. His commitment to community boards, committees and task forces is a testament to the vision he has for a thriving inclusive community. Some of these boards and committees include Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation, The Foodbank of Waterloo Region, Waterloo Region Tourism Marketing Corporation, Canada’s Technology Triangle, the Prosperity Council Creative Enterprise Task Force and Waterloo Region Crime Prevention - Youth Engagement Task Force. In addition, he participates broadly in events like the recent Coldest Night of the Year, raising funds personally and walking the 5K to raise awareness and support hungry, homeless, and hurting people and families. David rolls up his sleeves and gets the work done. His nominator, Lynne Short of KWCF has had the privilege of being on this board with David. “I am now in a staff position at KWCF, and David is the Past-Chair. In all instances, I have learned from him, been encouraged and pushed to do my best and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.” David truly exemplifies organizational leadership.

Congratulations to David Brenneman on receiving the Outstanding Leadership Award
LEADERSHIP CATEGORY

To recognize a board member and volunteer manager who exemplifies inspirational leadership and initiative.

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP — DAVID & MARY LOU VOLUNTEER MANAGER—ASHLEY & SAMANTHA

SPONSORED BY: ECONOMICAL INSURANCE

OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD

To recognize a high school or post-secondary student who exemplifies positive youth engagement and has made an outstanding contribution through their volunteering.

MEENA WASEEM | Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute

Meena demonstrated the best form of leadership when faced by personal challenge. Having volunteered with WAYVE (Wellness, Acceptance, Youth Voices and Empowerment) three hours per week since 2015, Meena used skills developed in that program to critically evaluate her school’s support systems after one of her friends experienced severe mental health issues.

Working together with guidance counsellors and in-school social workers, she and another student developed Cameron Height’s first Mental Health Assembly. The assembly resulted in over 50 students expressing their appreciation for the information provided and numerous others seeking counselling. In ensuing months, a Mental Health Advisory Committee has been implemented at the school.

Congratulations to Meena Waseem on receiving the Outstanding Youth Award.
MENTORSHIP AWARD
To recognize a teacher, mentor, or school that has made a significant impact to youth volunteering.

KASHIF MEMON | University of Waterloo

A highly respected advisor and lecturer in the Faculty of Science at the University of Waterloo, Kashif Menon has impacted the lives of approximately 3000 students since 2005.

Receiving numerous awards for teaching and mentorship, Kashif has also achieved highest co-op placement and highest employment levels among other programs in his faculty.

Kashif has used his skills and background to become an advocate for HeForShe initiatives both on and off campus. He volunteers as a mentor for Living and Learning Communities and for the Coalition of Muslim Women in Kitchener Waterloo.

Congratulation to Kashif Memon on receiving the Mentorship Award

MULTICULTURAL AWARD
To recognize an individual or team who is working with a grassroots or cultural group to create a welcoming community for newcomers and assist them to get settled in our Region.

EKRAM AL MOMANI | KW Women Empowerment Group

Ekram created a group for newcomer families to gather, share ideas and news about their settlement experiences and support each other through the journey.

Within a year, this group has grown to 80 participants with at least 40 regulars. Ekram facilitates communication amongst this group during her own time and has begun sharing on various social media tools. Not only does Ekram inspire and support immigrant females to create their own future in Canada with confidence, she provides the journey in a fun and grassroots way by creating inclusive activities like a book club and children’s drama group.

Congratulation to Ekram Al Momani on receiving the Multicultural Award
CITIZENSHIP AWARD

For an individual who has gone out of their way to bring people together to address issues for the wellbeing of their communities.

DAN CLEMENTS
Citizens for Cambridge

In 2017 Dan, with two other citizens, founded “For a Better Cambridge” to speak to issues in the Cambridge downtown area. Under Dan’s leadership the group evolved into a dedicated group of volunteers that worked collaboratively with the City, Region and social service agencies that support Cambridge. Dan has led initiatives that brought individuals from different groups together to tackle some of today’s biggest challenges. Two public meetings have been held on issues associated with the opioid crisis, each drawing several hundred concerned citizens. Dan was also instrumental in stimulating community support for a meal and drop-in centre program that is under development for citizens in need. He is currently one of the leaders of Citizens for Cambridge and continues to work for the betterment of the Cambridge community.

Congratulations to Dan Clements on receiving the Citizenship Award

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT AWARD

To recognize a volunteer in a support role such as reception, office, library support, or research focused.

DEAN SCHMIDT
House of Friendship

Dean Schmidt has contributed over 1400 hours in eight years to the House of Friendship Food Hamper Program, acting on a personal mission to do something for his community every day. He gives two days a week with the House of Friendship’s Food Hamper Program and three days a week at the Mennonite Central Committee’s Thrift Store on Kent.

At the Food Hamper Program, Dean works in the warehouse stocking shelves, bagging potatoes and generally doing whatever needs to be done. And he does it with a calmness that helps to reduce stress for others. Staff and volunteers at the House of Friendship believe they ‘have hit the jackpot with Dean!’

Congratulations to Dean Schmidt on receiving the Organization Support Award
RAY ROBBINS  | Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice

Ray Robbins has been the maintenance volunteer for Lisaard and Innisfree Hospice for over three years. In that time he has maintained facility infrastructure, painted rooms, built shelving, repaired clocks and so much more. This contribution has resulted in significant savings for the organization that can be used in other services residents and families.

While maintenance is the focus of Ray’s work he has also used his own initiative to complete a 10-hour Hospice Palliative Training program.

Residents, family members, volunteers and staff alike value Ray’s positive, gentle demeanor, describing him as “Ray of Sunshine.”

Congratulations to Ray Robbins on receiving the Organization Support Award

GRASSROOTS INVOLVEMENT

To recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to their community, cultural group or

CITIZENSHIP AWARD—Dan Clements
MULTICULTURAL AWARD—Ekram Al Momani
GROUP ENGAGEMENT AWARD

To recognize a group or team of 3 or more participants that provide valued support to a community organization.

VIDYARD

House of Friendship

They’re called Vidyardians. And at least twice a week since 2016, they have shown up at the House of Friendship’s Charles Street shelter to help prepare - and share - meals with residents.

Vidyardians are employees of Vidyard, a Kitchener-based software company. Their volunteer engagement with House of Friendship is largely due to the belief of its founder and CEO, Michael Litt, that it is essential to give back to the community in which you work and live; as a result, Vidyard provides space for its employees to be involved in not-for-profit programs that interest them. For House of Friendship that means groups of two to four Vidyardians attend the shelter twice a week to share meals with residents to break down stereotypes, bridge gaps and build positive connections with men confronted with homelessness. Vidyard employees make other significant contributions to HoF programs and other charities throughout Waterloo Region.

Congratulations to Vidyard on receiving the Volunteer Group Engagement Award

SPECIAL EVENT AWARD

To recognize an outstanding volunteer in a special event role.

DOUG SULLIVAN

House of Friendship

Doug Sullivan has supported the Potato Blitz, the Friendship Golf Tournament and the Christmas Hamper program for House of Friendship for over 16 years. His energy, passion, and enthusiasm make Doug stand out among other volunteers. While volunteering he brings life to the team and inspires everyone. As a result, he collects a significant number of donations and contributes to highly successful events and campaigns.

Because Doug provides his level of leadership, staff members can focus on other aspects of their work. Doug is a passionate advocate for the House of Friendship and encourages everyone to get involved in volunteering.

Congratulations to Doug Sullivan on receiving the Special Event Award
Bereaved Families of Ontario has a small but mighty board of incredibly smart and dedicated people here in their Midwestern Region. While these members always have the big picture of the organization at heart, they never hesitate to “dig deep in the trenches” to support the small staff team. The trust and confidence of the Board shows and alongside the staff, they help BFO to make a difference in the lives of families when they need it most.

Board Members L-R: Carol Baltaz, Kristina De Marzio, Breana Walker, David Marsh (missing), Susan Cadell, and Holly Gomes.

Congratulations to the Bereaved Families of Ontario–Midwestern Region on receiving the Board of Directors Award.