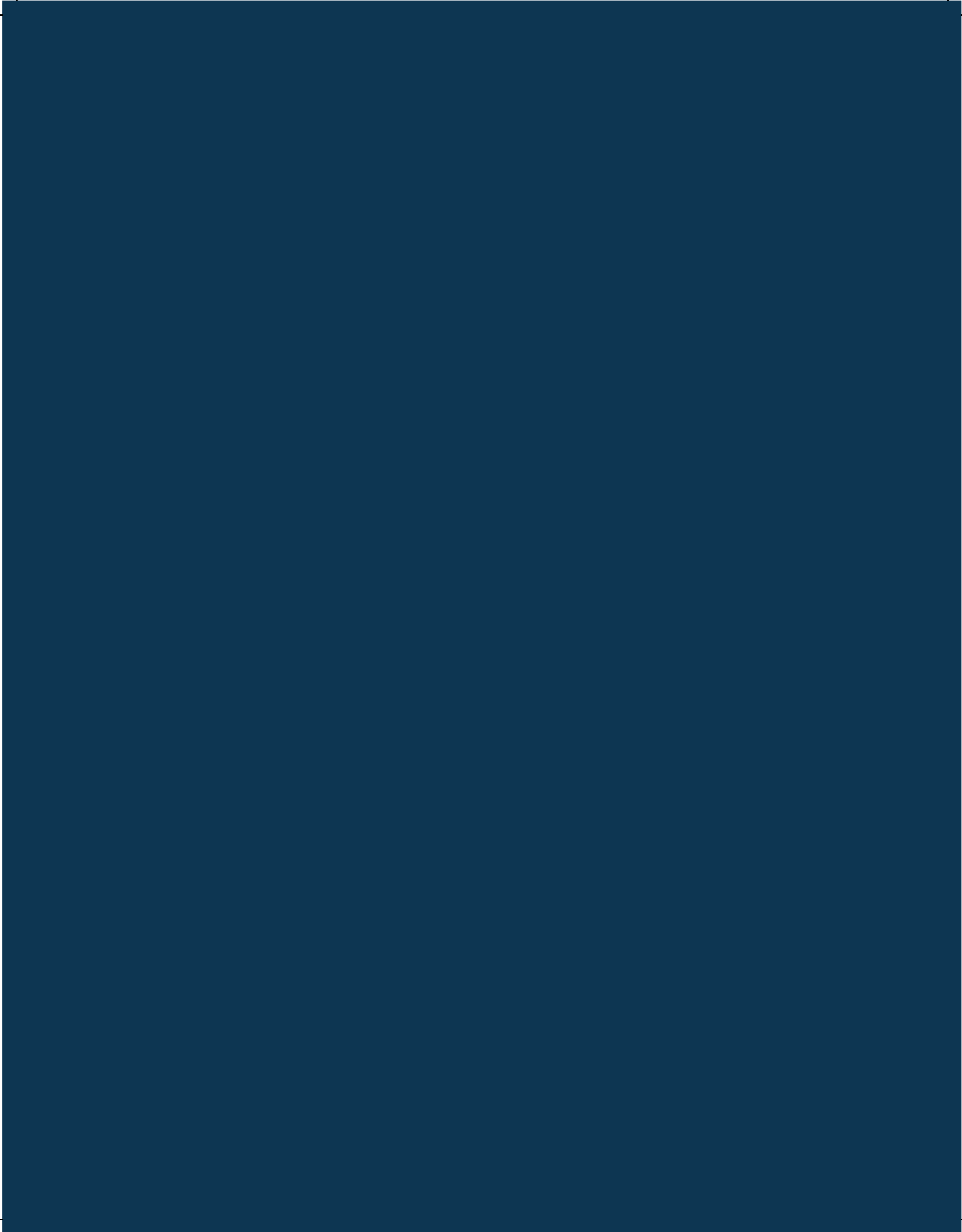


# Volunteer Awards Ceremony

2022



**HALIFAX**





# HRM Volunteer Awards Ceremony Agenda

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 101 Wyse Road, Dartmouth

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**6:30 p.m.**

**Registration opens for award recipients and guests**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Ceremony**

Host: Starr Cunningham

As you receive your award:

- A brief summary of your contributions will be read.
- A photo will be taken of you with the award, the Mayor and Councillor.

**8:30 p.m.**

**Reception**

- Light refreshments served.
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# DISTRICT 1



## **Louise Brooking-McDow**

Louise is a born leader who comes through for her community time and time again. Her organizational skills ensure everything flows well. During the pandemic, she was responsible for maintaining and following the ever-changing health protocols to keep the community hall open. Louise's pleasant approach to volunteering inspires others to get involved.

## **Andrea Forrest**

Andrea is a pillar of the community who has dedicated countless hours to ensuring the Windsor Junction Community Centre thrives during these uncertain times. Through her leadership and hard work, the centre has continued to provide a place for residents to safely gather and continue their long history of community spirit. From summer day camps to baseball games, Andrea's efforts have gifted our community an appreciated slice of normalcy over the last number of years. Her community is very thankful for all she does, and her legacy will persist through the future leaders she inspires.

## **Louise MacDonald**

Dedication and passion are why Louise has been nominated for a volunteer award. From her hard work organizing the community Christmas Tree Lighting event to her calm presence when COVID-19 restrictions quickly changed the event, she managed the ever-changing public health guidelines while also being choir instructor for the Joyful Sounds. Her smile, hard work, and dedication to her community inspires others to do better and to be kinder.

**Jackson McNeil**

Jackson is a fantastic Youth Leader who truly demonstrated great leadership skills well above his age level. He always has a positive attitude, is always prepared to help when needed, and takes initiative. Jackson is an exceptional role model to all.

**Lauren Peveril**

Lauren's passion for helping children shines through in her love of coaching volleyball and soccer. Lauren started a charity to help IWK patients and she participates on Student Council and in a student leadership association. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she volunteered at testing sites and assembled test kits. She has also volunteered with Hope for Wildlife, Feed Nova Scotia, Special Olympics, United Way, and Adsum House.

**Kirk Stephen**

Kirk has been a great volunteer and is currently the King Lion of the Fall River Lions Club. He also Chairs the weekly wing night fundraiser, which has raised over \$30,000 for the community. He also Chairs the Annual Fall River Lions Club Golf Tournament, which has raised over \$35,000 to help those in need. Volunteers like Kirk are rare in organizations and we value his hard work and determination.

**Barry Dalrymple**

There needs to be more people like Barry who value the community above all else. He works tirelessly to grow a sense of responsibility in all of us - to care for our seniors, protect our environment, engage our youth in sport, and revitalize community groups with an infusion of multi-generational members. Baseball is his passion. He keeps community spirit alive with more than 30 years of giving freely of his time. That is why he is a volunteer worthy of recognition.



# DISTRICT 2

## Wendy Vaughan MacKenzie

Wendy's innovation, vision and love of genealogy, artifacts, and community has placed her in the hearts of all. Wendy has brought history in the forefront for all of us to see, learn, and visit in a heritage structure. She has transformed a heritage building that once housed a few antique pieces of furniture into a museum where residents can learn about their genealogy. While she is a dedicated, caring and a self-starter, it is her quiet sense of respect for others that she encompasses as she strives to better our entire area.

### YOUTH

## Olivia Matheson

Olivia's empathy for others, paired with a desire to better her community, are shown in all she does. In 2017, Olivia started making handcrafted fabric poppies for "pay what you can" donations. Over the past five years, Olivia has made 2,500 poppies and raised almost \$14,000 for the Eastern Marine Royal Canadian Branch in Gaetz Brook. She also fundraises for the IWK Children's Hospital. Olivia is an excellent example of volunteerism that starts at an early age with tremendous results.

## Pat Wilcott

Pat has contributed to the community through various organizations for more than 45 years. Over the past 15 years, her volunteer time for the Cuddles & Comfort Quilting Program can be measured not in hours but in weeks during any given year. Not only has she contributed to this valued community program, but when a request is made for volunteers to set up an event, Pat is always a reliable person to call. She is always ready to be there and bring an entourage of help with her.







# DISTRICT 3

## **Anthony Brown**

Anthony's love of coaching and dedication to his community is apparent to all who meet him. He is always willing to help, no matter the task. Seeing young players run to him when they see him around town is a true indication of his dedication not only to the sport of soccer, but to the players he coaches. He is one of a kind and greatly appreciated.

## **Ahmed El Bouwab**

Hamada (aka Ahmed) has left his mark on the United DFC players he works with. He loves seeing his players develop and his dedication to his diverse team of teenage boys is outstanding! He is a positive role model who encourages the players to be respectful and give back to younger players as coaches and referees. United DFC is grateful for his service to the community.

## **Shyla Gupta**

This summer, Shyla founded her own online free tutoring program for children in grades 1-9 to give them the support they need during these difficult times. Last summer, Shyla co-founded a piano program to give children a chance to learn and explore music. She inspired children who had, just a few months ago, no prior experience playing instruments. Shyla is a "yes" person and takes initiative to find solutions to challenging situations. While balancing university and extracurricular activities, Shyla has given her time to volunteer at the N.S. Kiwanis Music Festival, IWK Children's Hospital, Halifax Public Libraries and coaches tennis to underprivileged children and athletes with special needs.

## **Peter Lee**

Peter is an incredible person who has dedicated his life to service. Over the past 30 years as a soccer coach in Dartmouth, Peter has touched the lives of countless players and helped them to achieve their dreams on and off the field. Peter would easily be considered one of the top soccer coaches in Nova Scotia and has earned this honour with his dedication, passion, and commitment to excellence.

## **Kelly Legato**

Kelly is a role model who serves her community as a volunteer in many capacities with multiple organizations. She is a selfless person who, as a team manager, makes the difficult role of coaching easier for those who choose to take it on. Kelly is also a long-serving volunteer Board member for the United DFC Soccer Club who has helped to found and grow the club and the sport of soccer in Dartmouth, Cole Harbour, and Eastern Passage. In addition to her empathy, emotional intelligence and social connections, Kelly stands out for her dependability and work ethic.

## **James MacDonald**

James has been a stable presence within the Citizens on Patrol program since 2017. He has helped shape the program and has spent countless hours training others. His commitment to public safety is apparent in all that he does. James has inspired other volunteers to further commit their time and energy to creating safer communities.

## **Renée Graziella Gandon-Thomas**

Graz Thomas was the Manager of the 2021 Auburn Drive High School Football Team - the undefeated provincial champions. It was Graz's contributions off the field and behind the scenes that led to the successful season that will stay with players and parents forever. With a personality larger than life and real compassion for the youth within her care, Graz left her mark on the 2021 Eagles. Thank you for your service Graz.

## **Dion Thomas-Hodges**

Coach Dion had a dream 10 years ago to build a quality high school football program that would bring home the provincial championship. Since then, Coach Dion and his coaching staff have worked tirelessly to build a program to enable hard working student athletes to strive towards that goal. This past season, Auburn Drive High School finally captured the provincial title with an undefeated record. Congratulations to Coach Dion and all of the volunteers that have contributed their time over the years to make this dream a reality.



# DISTRICT 4

## Scott Collens

Scott Collens began his time with United DFC as an integral part of the club design from the beginning. As a Board member, coach and dedicated volunteer from the Cole Harbour Soccer Club at the time of the merger, Scott was instrumental in developing the United DFC's communication strategy and tools, including every version of our website. What really made Scott stand out was his deep thinking around community soccer, our grassroots programming, and equity for all programs. Scott's insightful comments would always make the Board pause and reflect before confirming the path forward.

## Robin Veinotte

As Cole Harbour Rockets Basketball Club President, Robin has shown that he is committed to providing opportunities for youth to play and learn the game of basketball. It is nearly impossible to count the volunteer hours Robin has given to the club that benefits young athletes, coaches, and parents. Through his dedication to securing more gym access and recruiting volunteer coaches, he has undoubtedly helped make access to the sport easier in Cole Harbour and surrounding communities.

## John Zorychta

John has been a volunteer in the Cole Harbour soccer community for most of his life. He is always eager to help and has easily spent more hours in service to his community than most people volunteer in a lifetime. In more than 25 years of volunteering, John has made a significant impact and contribution to soccer in the Cole Harbour region and more recently, the entire Harbour East community both as a coach and behind the scenes.



## YOUTH

### **Shabad Kaur**

Shabad has all the qualities of a great leader. She arrives prepared and on time. She works well with others, demonstrates team effort, and communicates well with others. Shabad is a valuable member of our community.

### **Heather Ritchie**

Heather has volunteered everywhere she has lived and we are so fortunate that she now calls Dartmouth her home. As a soccer coach of 12-year-old boys, Heather shares her passion for sport and volunteering with her son and the junior coaches with whom she works. She is enthusiastic, kind, and fun. The sky is the limit for this passionate volunteer.

### **Peter Walker**

Peter is a dedicated soccer coach with unlimited potential. He stands out for his kindness, compassion, and commitment to the two large groups of elementary age boys he coaches multiple times a week. He is calm and collaborative and, as a coach and role model, he brings so much to his athletes and peers within the United DFC Skill Center Soccer Program.

# DISTRICT 5



# DISTRICT 6

## **Clark MacIntosh**

Clark has led efforts to bring ideas to reality through successful grant applications, resource creation, and ambitious and dynamic collaborations across community groups and disciplines. Clark is an educator, motivator, writer, caregiver, and inventor. A pillar of the queer community in Halifax and Dartmouth, Clark has made a significant impact to address heteronormativity in perinatal care, building a foundation for queer inclusive reproductive health services and support.

## **Jane Matthews**

Jane joined the United DFC Board just before COVID-19 began in 2020 and played a pivotal role in sustaining the club through its pandemic challenges and successes. Jane led with kindness and compassion while sharing her rich experience in project management and conflict resolution. Jane also volunteers at the team level and is greatly appreciated for all she does.

## **Liz McPhail**

As a servant leader, Liz gives back by imparting her extensive knowledge of soccer. Coaching female athletes at a stage of development where female role models are vital, Liz's patience, calm demeanor, and clear way of communicating to her players engages them. She encourages them to maintain the standards of a high-level team in a fun environment. This is a tough balancing act, but one that Liz achieves in style.

## **Greg Milner**

For twenty years, Greg has volunteered his time and energy as an administrator, fundraiser, and champion of St. George's Tennis Club. Greg's endless enthusiasm and tireless dedication inspires others to volunteer their time to the club. During the pandemic, Greg has stepped up once again to help put the club on a stronger administrative footing after a turbulent two years. These are the actions of a truly selfless person who has invested his heart and soul in the success of our club.







# DISTRICT 7

## Loukman Ghouti

Loukman is a kind, gracious, and warm-hearted soul who has contributed greatly to our community. He has generously donated over 3,000 hours to multiple organizations that serve our population. Loukman talks often about his role as an English tutor at ISANS. He enjoys meeting individuals from all over the world and learning about their stories, cultures, and traditions. This experience also allows him to support newcomers during their transition to Canadian life. Loukman continues to inspire others through his devotion to the welfare of others.

## Sarah Greening

Sarah is exceptional. From the beginning, Sarah has been wholeheartedly dedicated to the work of My Grandfather's Cat. Her kind nature and beautiful heart have made our adoption process seamless for countless seniors, terminally ill people and their families who need second forever homes for their beloved pets. Sarah selflessly gives her time to My Grandfather's Cat without asking for anything in return. She is an individual who could elevate any organization, and we are honoured that she has chosen us.

## Aline Maybank

Aline is the definition of a leader. From providing mental health crisis support through Kid's Help Phone, to in-person meal assistant for veterans at the QEII hospital, she is a volunteer to all. Her impact as a volunteer on the Nova Scotia community is extensive and diverse, positively impacting individuals of all ages, socioeconomic classes, and abilities. With over 500 volunteer hours from just this past year, Aline truly reflects the true essence of volunteerism.



## Aarushi Patil

Aarushi is an exceptional volunteer who is punctual, cares deeply about her work, and clearly wants to make a positive impact in her community. She treats the work she does very seriously, and I am sure she will use these skills to continue making positive change into the future.

## Linxi Zhang

Linxi is the first person you think of when Chinese students and immigrants are in trouble. She spends five hours a day answering thousands of messages in order not to miss anyone's questions. She goes out of her way to help people solve problems every day, such as "how come the fridge doesn't work?" to "what to do because I am being evicted by the landlord?". She has bought and distributed food, water, and other necessities to international students in quarantine. She explains love, help, and unity in her own way for the whole Chinese community. Linxi's leadership has more people joining in to spread help and love in Halifax.



# DISTRICT 8

## **Mustafa, Muhammed & Omar Antebi**

Mustafa Antebi and his sons, Omar and Muhammed, have been exceptional, dedicated, and compassionate volunteers with the Mobile Food Market for the last five years. They play an important role keeping our markets a safe, welcoming, and comfortable space for staff, customers, and other volunteers. They selflessly dedicate their time, energy, and insight to the Mobile Food Market and their friendly and hardworking attitudes spread to everyone around them. We are fortunate to have the Antebi family as some of our longest-running volunteers; they truly demonstrate and contribute to our values as an organization.

## **Lyn Barrett**

Lyn Barrett started volunteering at age 15 with the Red Cross. She continued to contribute to society by helping change the culture around violence against women by challenging so many of the myths around violence against women. Upon retirement, Lyn began volunteering at Northwood. For 15 years and with 15,000 hours, Lyn has given her heart, kindness, and knowledge to the Northwood community by running volunteer recreation programs and in her role as head receptionist. Lyn leads by being an example of an extraordinary human.

## **Sofia Julianne So**

Sofia has been an invaluable member of the Playing and Learning Together Program in Spryfield where she has worked tirelessly to provide an inclusive environment for youth living with Autism/ASD. Her dedication towards her work has greatly benefited these youths and their families. Sofia is truly a rising star, and her passion for everything she does is greatly reflected in her work with the community.

## Aimee Gasparetto

Aimee always goes above and beyond in her volunteer role with Nourish Nova Scotia by making a difference in the lives of our province's youngest citizens. Whether fundraising for the Blue Nose Charity Challenge, meeting with MLAs, or representing Nourish at the Nova Scotia Legislature, Aimee is always onside to support Nourish. We are so grateful for Aimee's dedication to supporting healthy, just and sustainable food futures for all children and youth in Nova Scotia.

## Heather Nicole McGrath

Heather volunteers in many areas of the community, such as youth sport, PTA, raising funds and awareness for cancer research, and Camp Brigadoon. Her dedication to Give to Live's annual Big Swim event is most impressive, with almost a decade of her commitment to an event that has raised over 1.5 million dollars to sponsor children to attend Camp Brigadoon. As Event Director, Heather pours countless hours and energy into the organization and operations of running an important event that benefits children, youth, and families in Atlantic Canada. Heather's commitment to service is unparalleled, and her dedication to community is inspiring.

## Jane Rafuse

Jane has been a tremendous supporter of the Bluenose Marathon as both a participant and volunteer. Her volunteer efforts have helped thousands of participants get ready for their race and the marathon would not be the success it is today without her dedication. Jane is also helpful, kind, and caring. Thank you Jane for all you continue to do.



## Mohammad Ehsan

Through his countless hours of volunteerism to the various causes he believes in passionately, Mohammad strives to give back to the community he loves. He firmly believes that only through volunteerism can one become part of the broader community. For newcomers like him, this is even more important. Through volunteerism, he is not only giving back, but also gaining so much in return. Being a volunteer makes us rich in heart through our deeds.

## Indrasena Weerasinghe

Dr. Weerasinghe has laid the foundation for Sri Lankans to learn Buddhism in Nova Scotia for the last 31 years.



## Kathleen Hall

Kathleen has spent countless hours over many years advocating for nature conservation, complete communities, and sustainable development through her volunteer service with the Williams Lake Conservation Company and with organizations in Our HRM Alliance and the Backlands Coalition. Having served the public as a lawyer through the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission, Kathleen now serves her community and the environment in her retirement. Thanks to her intervention and tenacity, we now have a wilderness park on a fragile landscape close to the urban core.

## Paul Hunt

Paul has impacted so many children for 50 years. All the kids of Spryfield and their parents benefitted by all "Huntsy" did to give children something to do. From organizing a ground hockey league for the kids of Elizabeth Sutherland School back in 1973, to tutoring students on his own time, to starting an ice hockey team for his school, these activities kept many children out of trouble. He showed the meaning of friendship and sportsmanship.

## Linda Stewart

Linda is caring, dedicated, and organized, which is an excellent combination in any volunteer. Linda is exceptional in that she takes time from her busy life to foster various animals through the SPCA and to help Halifax Community Learning Network students reach their goals. We are very fortunate to have her share her time with the Halifax Community Learning Network.



# DISTRICT 12

## **Bob Angus**

Bob is never too busy to meet with people to discuss and solve community concerns. Bob has been active in countless volunteer activities from the BLT Rails to Trails to input into our new BLT recreation centre. He is highly regarded as a community leader. Even though he is retired, Bob works hard and tirelessly for his community.

## **YOUTH**

## **Zoya Hussain**

Zoya demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment in all her volunteer activities. She can be absolutely counted on to be there. More importantly, Zoya brings a high level of focus and creativity no matter how busy her life or the stresses she may be under. Her incredible efforts have greatly benefited our community.

## **Kate Xinyi He**

Kate is an easily recognizable face in the competitive debate community through her coaching at Halifax West, her work in debate at Dalhousie University, and the hundreds of hours she has devoted to organizing events. She is committed to fostering debate in Nova Scotia through her work at the Nova Scotia Debating Society. She is a leader in the debate community and represents the Atlantic region in matters relating to intercollegiate debate.

## YOUTH

### **Sarah Finkle**

Sarah has an infectious laugh and an outgoing personality which lights up any room she enters. She has been involved with Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) since the age of ten and holds dear its values. She is currently the Junior Chair of their Board. Sarah works tirelessly to recruit new members and to provide enriching, meaningful experiences so all youth can grow as individuals and contribute to the greater community through leadership opportunities and service to others.

### **Sharon Jessup Joyce**

Sharon is a proactive leader and relentless community activist with infectious enthusiasm. She applies her considerable communication skills to connect people and organizations to create a common bond. Her love of life and the community motivates others to become involved and she creates a wave of voluntary effort that has made our community better.

### **Jim Steffens**

Jim has been a pillar of support for the Ronald McDonald House Charities Atlantic for over 21 years. As a maintenance volunteer, he has kept the facility safe and healthy for the families of sick children. Jim is able to keep a beautiful old building in great shape while leading our younger volunteers who witness his tireless efforts; over 4,200 volunteer hours is a testament to Jim's willingness to help those in need. We thank Jim for his gifts of time and talent while recognizing his commitment of putting others before himself. Being a volunteer is a badge of honor and Jim wears his proudly.



# DISTRICT 14

## YOUTH

### **Sean Bowes**

Sean always has a contagious, positive attitude. He goes above and beyond for anyone he meets. He is a stand-out member of the community who will impress everyone he meets with his kindness, versatility, and leadership. Sean is bright, lively, and an excellent role model for the children in the community. His contribution to the community is significant.

### **Luke Webb**

Luke is a team player who approaches everything he does with a positive attitude and 100% of his effort. Luke has exceptional initiative, patience, kindness, and leadership. His dedication to school programs, sports and summer volunteer programs is commendable. Luke is a valuable member of the community and will only continue to grow and contribute as the years go on.

### **Walter Fekeshazy**

Walter has truly demonstrated what it takes to bring a community together. Our community is better because of Walter's efforts. As result of his dedication, enthusiasm, and ambition, we have a community that we are proud of. Neighbours come together for a family skate, to play basketball or lawn bowling, to share books - all in a place where we can support one another and all driven by the selfless hours of dedication by Walter and his drive to put people first. We are proud of his hard work and dedication to helping people feel valued, safe, and cared about.

## YOUTH

### **Micaiah Aladejebi**

Micaiah believes in helping his community by volunteering and taking action for change. He is dedicated, hard-working, and always shows up on time ready to help. He is a great role model for other youth leaders as he guides them through the summer. Our community is a better place because of the hard work and time Micaiah has given in the youth leadership program – Go Team Halifax – and at different community events.

### **Ashley Butler**

Ashley's energy is contagious. The Sackville Business Association would like to thank Ashley for her volunteer service during these difficult last couple of years. Ashley's time and effort are appreciated in her current role of Chair. Ashley is one of the founding members of the Sackville Snow Days Winter Festivals and is an inspiration to our community.





# DISTRICT 16

## YOUTH

### **Daphnée de Lamirande**

Daphnée is an exceptional volunteer who has distinguished herself in the Acadian and Francophone communities by her strong commitment to youth engagement, Francophone pride, and young women's leadership. Daphnée gives a lot of her time and skillset to the Fédération des femmes acadiennes de la Nouvelle-Écosse, to the youth committee Jeunes femmes en action – Nouvelle-Écosse and to the Conseil Jeunesse Provincial.

### **Margaret Gullage**

Margaret has given incredible opportunities to so many Girl Guides. She became a Board Member of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and continues to support that organization. Margaret knows that being a part of her community means rolling up her sleeves and pitching in. She has spent a lifetime of giving in so many ways and always going above and beyond. Margaret is always looking for ways to mentor youth and to help those less fortunate. She is quick to step into leadership roles and motivate others.

### **Farhan Pir Muhammad**

Farhan is an integral member of Pakistani Canadian Association of Nova Scotia as their Treasurer. He has organized a Youth Career Guidance activity for over 50 youth and has helped launch the PCANS Youth Forum. Farhan has also led a membership drive to increase active membership from 40 to 150 members. Farhan is Vice-Chair of the Bedford Residents Association and Board member of The Institute of Internal Auditors. Despite working full-time, he spends hundreds of hours volunteering for the community.

**Abhay Nagar**

Abhay believes it is important to be committed and reliable. Abhay takes his volunteering very seriously and ensures that he is a good role model for children, youth, and staff. Abhay loves working with kids and always makes sure they are having fun and being safe at camp. The Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre is a better environment because of Abhay.

**Michael Ruan**

Michael is a dedicated volunteer and influential role model in the Chinese community in Nova Scotia. As former President of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Nova Scotia and former President of the Atlantic Canada Ping Pong Association, Michael has shown his charm and enthusiasm. He has organized many successful events to help immigrants live better in Canada and is actively involved in charitable and social well-being activities to help those in need. He contributes his time and energy and has spent more than 5,000 hours volunteering for these events. His selfless dedication has made life better in the Chinese community.

**Sonia Verabioff**

Sonia is one of the great tutors from the English Language Learning program at the Bedford Library since 2001. Living in a new country without knowing the language can be a tremendous challenge. However, it can provide a sense of belonging and comfort for newcomers to know that they can meet with someone in a safe place and ask for help. Sonia has been an enormous help to newcomers entering an English and Canadian culture, which showcases her compassion and understanding.

**Mitchell Zussman**

Mitchell is a person who has led both as a role model and behind the scenes. Mitchell has been involved in almost every aspect of running our synagogue for more than 20 years and as the head of our Cemetery Committee for 40 years. He has guided generations of Jewish families through our customs of burial and mourning, while ensuring that the space is a tranquil sanctuary for grief compassion. Mitchell is a model of kindness for generations who follow him.



# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

## YOUTH

### Asiah Sparks

Asiah is a vibrant, passionate, and deeply caring individual who has turned negative life experiences into opportunities to get involved in her community and make it better for those that follow behind her. She cares about cultivating a sense of community and inclusion and seeks out opportunities to make her community better. Our community is a better place because of the thousands of hours Asiah has committed to the Boys and Girls Club, Prince Andrew High Black Student Union, Darren Fisher's Youth Council, Imoni Tutoring Program, the School and Community Committee, and the Dartmouth North community. She is a powerful advocate for social justice and the first on the ground to lend a helping hand. Asiah is truly a community builder.

### Provincial Award Recipients

1. Lauren Peveril
2. Pat Wilcott
3. Asiah Sparks
4. Loukman Ghouti
5. Aline Maybank
6. Heather Nicole McGrath
7. Mohammad Ehsan
8. Daphnée de Lamirande
9. Margaret Gullage
10. Michael Ruan





# GROUP AWARDS

## GROUP AWARD 1

### English Conversation Group

The English Conversation Group volunteer team at Halifax Central Library have spent years devoting their time, energy, abilities, and enthusiasm to helping countless newcomers. While practising and improving spoken English is the primary goal, this group has also played a big role in welcoming newcomers to the Halifax community and helping them feel confident and settled in their new home.

## GROUP AWARD 2

### The Friends of First Lake Society

The Friends of First Lake Society is a volunteer community group that has operated for over 26 years around First Lake in Lower Sackville. They are working towards a water quality improvement plan, ongoing development of educational programs, and community clean ups in collaboration with local schools. They have constructed over \$1.25 million dollars of recreational trails in greenspace for the community.



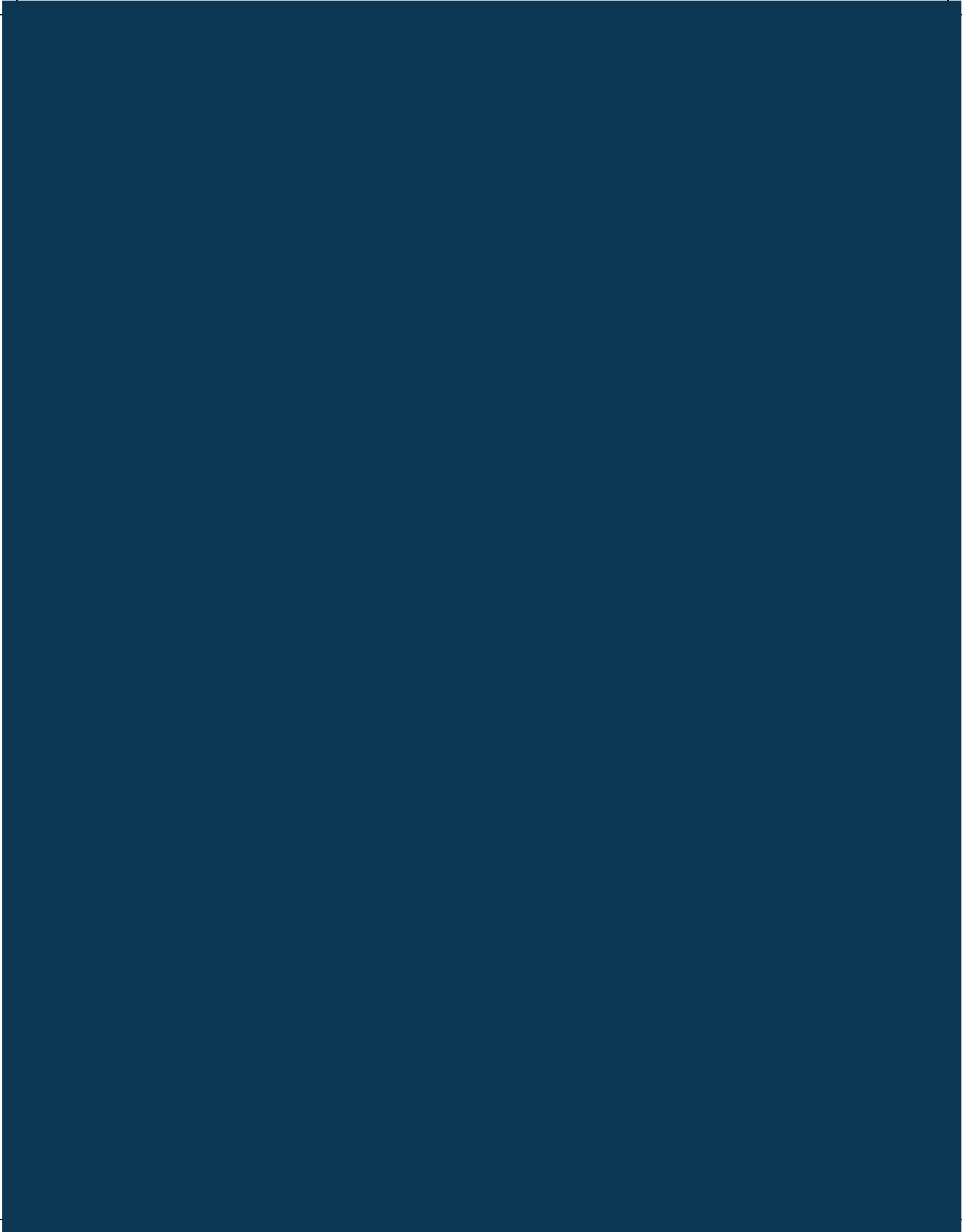
## YOUTH

### **Multicultural Drummers (Malaria Warriors)**

Multicultural Drummers are a family of drummers devoting their life to carrying their baby sister's memory. The group was founded by Dr. Olugu Ukpai after he unnecessarily lost his 16-month-old daughter, Goodness, to malaria in 2016. The family drums to raise and create awareness across schools and communities. They received the Heroes & Legends recognition from the Canadian Armed Forces and were the local stars at the 2018 Tattoo. Canada is a country of equity: giving voice and creating space for everyone to be heard. The drum is our voice. By this singular honour, you have lent your voice to our cause.

## YOUTH AWARD





**HALIFAX**