

MELODEE APRIL COLLINS: ELEMENTARY AWARD RECIPIENT

Melodee Collins, a 12 year old St. Mary's School student, has touched the lives of many people during her time as a volunteer. She is a sweet and gentle young lady whose smile is said to be contagious. Melodee has devoted her volunteer time to helping a wide range of people and organizations; she has completed about 220 hours of hospital visits, participated as a child representative in the Downtown L.A. meetings, and face painted and sang at the Coaldale Summer Games. Perhaps the largest project in which Melodee committed both time and energy was the Norman Nelson Fund-raiser, a project intended to focus attention on lung disease, asthma, and emphysema. Not only has Melodee raised approximately \$1500.00 on her own through private canvassing, but she simultaneously highlighted the great impact young people can have by volunteering. Melodee's compassion and understanding of people and their needs is incredible for one so young. She has distinguished herself as not only a valuable member of today's volunteer corps, but as a qualified Leader of Tomorrow.

BRAD GREVE: ELEMENTARY AWARD RECIPIENT

Brad Greve, an 11 year old student from Galbraith Elementary School, has been nominated due to the incredible amount of time and energy which he has devoted to his school. As a natural leader, Brad is both gentle and non-threatening. As early as grade three, Brad developed an awareness and understanding of computers and various software packages. Unlike other students his age, instead of learning just for himself, Brad shared his knowledge with peers and teachers alike. In one instance, Brad devoted over two months to creating a farewell presentation for one of the teachers who was taking a leave of absence. This presentation not only gives us a glimpse into the compassionate nature of Brad, but also served to technologically motivate both the students and staff at his school. In another instance, Brad assisted one of his teachers in educating the staff of Mike Mountain Horse School about the multimedia software program HyperStudio. Whether he was helping his fellow students or teaching a teacher, Brad has always been able to impart knowledge without judging. He is a selfless young man who, when he found out about his Leader of Tomorrow nomination, said, "I don't need an award for something I love to do, but thank you very much anyway." He is a true Leader.

DANIEL TOTH: ELEMENTARY AWARD RECIPIENT

Daniel Toth, a nine year old student at Westminster School, is a young man who is always willing to lend a helping hand. Not only is he often the first to ask what he can do to be of assistance, but he goes out of his way to find things which need to be done. Daniel currently volunteers for the Boys' and Girls' Club of Lethbridge. During his time with this organization he has distinguished himself as a true leader; leading by example, he is always positive and willing to help. In addition, Daniel has been recognized as the club's "star of the week" on numerous different occasions due to his willingness to volunteer both during and outside regular club hours. Daniel has said that he really wants to make a difference in the lives of others. By continuing in the manner in which he has started-by volunteering both his time and his energy-there is no doubt that his kindness and caring will touch the lives of many people.

RODD J. LAING: JUNIOR HIGH AWARD RECIPIENT

Rodd J. Laing, a 13 year old Noble Central School student, has devoted numerous hours of his young life to volunteerism. Raised in a family in which volunteerism can be said to be a part of daily life, Rodd has willingly committed himself to this family tradition. A love of sports has led Rodd to volunteer extensively for sports organizations and sporting events; 95 hours during the 1996 Alberta Winter Games, 50 hours for the Southern Alberta Summer Games, and numerous hours for both the Coulee Kickers Soccer Association and the Picture Butte Minor Hockey. In addition to his enthusiasm for sports, Rod is a very community minded young man who has generously donated over 800 hours to the St. John Ambulance during the renovation of their building. He is also an active member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, volunteering over 200 hours during the past four years. A cadet core was developed as a result of Rodd's involvement in the Brigade. In the last three years Rodd has donated almost 1,300 hours of volunteer time to organizations and special events. Anyone, regardless of age, could be proud of this achievement-that Rodd is thirteen years old, and has accomplished this, offers testament to the inevitable impact he will have on volunteerism in years to come.

DANI MYHRE: JUNIOR HIGH AWARD RECIPIENT

Dani Myhre, a 14 year old Gilbert Paterson student, has been an active member of her school volunteer corp. As a successful leader, she is a positive representation of youth in Lethbridge. Although Dani is a relatively new member of the volunteer corps, she has had a lasting impact on both her school and our community. Seeing that her school was in need of an area that would foster a positive social environment amongst students and staff, Dani lead the way in Gilbert Paterson's determination to raise enough money to build a Student Centre. Dani not only personally raised over \$600 in sponsorship, but she was instrumental in raising over \$55,000 for both the Centre and other student projects. In addition to her great success in fundraising, Dani assisted in media presentations regarding the project and acted as a school spokesperson at the grand opening for the Centre. Dani also volunteers at College Value Mall with the Gilbert Paterson Community School's business partnership program, sings at Lodges, assists with small children at her church and does many worthwhile projects with the Girl Guides of Canada. Dani has demonstrated exactly how much of an impact one person can have on a community. Not only does she always look for the positive in a situation, but she is dedicated to doing the best she can in whatever she puts her mind to. Dani will leave a lasting impression on our community.

KATE McELRAVY: HIGH SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENT

Kate McElravy is a 17 year old student at Lethbridge Collegiate Institute whose volunteer background is more extensive than most adults four times her age. Between 1992 and 1998 she has worn many different hats: from Girl Guide group leader to canvasser to church board member, Kate brings an enthusiastic attitude to everything she attempts. While participating in weekly visits with the elderly, Kate displayed an uncanny depth of compassion and understanding for someone of such a young age. Within her academic environment, she has distinguished herself as an integral member of its volunteer activities. By providing counseling and leadership through both the Student's Alive and the Peer Support programs, Kate has become an important member of the student support network. In all of her volunteer roles, one thing has held fast-Kate's ability to lead-not only her peers, but often her supervisors as well. The most noted volunteer role which best illuminates Kate's leadership abilities is that of Church Board Member. On the first year that a teenager was included on the board, Kate's great success ensured that a teen's voice will continue to be a part of the collective voice of the board. In addition, Kate has most recently been asked by her church to lead worship. In the words of her pastor, "it is an indication of her exceptional gifts that adults are asking her to lead them in worship when she is not yet old enough to vote."

DIANA DUNN: HIGH SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENT

Diana Dunn, a 17 year old Winston Churchill High School student, has been actively involved in the voluntary sector for the past five years. Diana's volunteer background is both diverse and far reaching, extending well beyond the limits of her daily life. Diana's earliest volunteer experience was as a member of the World Wildlife; from 1993 to 1998 she has maintained a letter writing campaign urging politicians to adopt environmental legislation. At the school level, Diana has selflessly given her time in a variety of capacities which include, but are not limited to, Leadership Workshop Organizer, grade 11 Students Council Representative, vice-president Students Council, member of the Graduation Committee, and fundraising activities for the National Honour Society. In addition, many volunteer hours have been devoted to numerous other organizations, such as the Alberta Winter Games, Encounters Canada, and the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre. Throughout Diana's volunteer experiences she has displayed incredible leadership qualities. Often assuming the primary organizational roles within committees and groups, she leads by example, enticing others to follow in her footsteps. By proving "that fun is where you find it," Diana has shown herself to be not only an important member of her volunteer organizations, but has assured her placement as a true Leader of Tomorrow.

ALISON J. L. CALDER: POST SECONDARY AWARD RECIPIENT

Alison Calder, a 21 year old University of Lethbridge student, has an extensive and diverse volunteer background; whether she is refereeing sporting events or coordinating teen volunteers, Alison's volunteer work is said to exemplify "dedication, commitment, and excellence." As a teen volunteer, Alison acted as an Assistant Coach for the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron #504. During this same time period, she also found the time to actively participate as a referee in both basketball and volleyball tournaments for Harry Ainlay High School. In these early years of volunteering, Alison was creating the foundation upon which future leadership skills would be developed. Alison's most recent experience as both a Peer Tutor and a Teen Volunteer Coordinator has left an indelible impression on both teens and supervisors alike. Between 1994 and 1995 Alison took it upon herself to offer aid to numerous students who were struggling academically; not only did she help them attain higher grades, but she offered them the motivation and support needed to increase their personal self-confidence. In her capacity as Teen Volunteer Coordinator, Alison has successfully managed over fifty teen volunteers, completed teen evaluations, and prepared training materials. In addition, Alison has independently revamped and enhanced the training program for teens on the Medical-Surgical Units and has developed a new program on the Maternal-Child Unit. Whether it is her history as a teen volunteer, or if it is merely her innate ability to understand the special needs of this volunteer segment, Alison's embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism inspires teens to strive for excellence in their own daily lives.

JASON DEMERS: POST SECONDARY AWARD RECIPIENT

Jason Demers is currently a Bachelor of Management student at the University of Lethbridge. Throughout his university career, Jason has dedicated himself to improving the quality of life for his fellow students. The most noted voluntary activity in which Jason was instrumental is the implementation of the University's "Safewalk" program. By successfully recruiting and training over forty volunteers, he helped make the campus a much safer environment for students who must stay after dark. Jason's volunteer interests go far beyond the boundaries of his personal life; as a volunteer for the World Citizen Centre, he was actively involved in the organization, set up and implementation of an extremely successful Latino dance. In addition, Jason has dedicated numerous hours of service to the Lethbridge Community Volunteer Centre. In his capacity as fund-development volunteer, Jason has not only amassed a great deal of information regarding foundations to which the C.V.C. could turn to for funding, but he has developed and maintained a data base program which contains all of his research information. Since moving to Lethbridge, while maintaining his full-time student status and often working part-time, Jason has devoted over 450 hours to a variety of volunteer projects and organizations. With his future career plans involving fundraising for educational institutions and causes, it can be said that Jason is very committed to not-for-profit organizations and volunteerism's needs in general.