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Recognizing Community Volunteers

AIRDRIE, AB - On April 21, 2010, community leaders, volunteer award nominees and their guests were invited to partake in the National Volunteer Week celebration at the Best Western Regency Inn Diamond Room for the bestowment of the Volunteers of the Year Award.

“It is so important to recognize volunteers who willingly sacrifice their time and energy, dedicating themselves to vital services in the community,” says Clay Aragon, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Coordinator, City of Airdrie. “Everyday someone in Airdrie is volunteering to make a difference. They volunteer because they believe in the importance of helping their neighbours, supporting causes they believe in, and contributing to their community.”

“2009 has been an amazing and busy year for Airdrie starting with the Airdrie Centennial festivities to the hosting of the Airdrie 55+ Summer Games and Air Show, volunteers from all walks of life in the community have been involved in making these events successful,” says Aragon. “As well, we have volunteers in the community who work behind the scenes either as governance board members in community associations or organizing food hampers for the Food Bank, these volunteers continue their community work today.”

Hosted by Marty Lawrence of *the Range 106.1 FM*, members of the Community Services Advisory Board and Deputy-Mayor Kelly Hegg announced and presented art pieces to the following award winners:

1. **Kirsten Dyck – 2010 Recipient of the Leader of Tomorrow Award.** The Leader of Tomorrow Award recognizes a youth who have shown leadership in Airdrie through his/her volunteer involvement.
2. **Pat Cashion, Vitreous Glass Inc. – 2010 Recipient of the Ambassador Award** – An award conferred to an Airdrie Citizen (proprietor) or a business entity making an outstanding contribution in promoting Airdrie as a place for community and opportunity through volunteerism and philanthropy.
3. **Murray Buchanan – 2010 Recipient of the Soul of Airdrie Award** – An award conferred to an Airdrie citizen who has made an outstanding contribution as a volunteer in the fields of art and culture, athletics, social and community services, and/or governance. This individual demonstrates a passion for helping others become resilient contributing members of the community.
4. **Airdrie Lioness Club – 2010 Recipient of the Volunteer Advocate Award** – An award conferred to a not-for-profit organization, a volunteer-comprised grassroots committee and/or a community group demonstrating community leadership by engaging citizens through volunteerism.

This year’s event was made possible by the contributions of staff and volunteers and the funding supports of the City of Airdrie, Volunteer Alberta and the Wild Rose foundation.

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