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## Airdrie Recognizes Community Volunteers

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – The City of Airdrie is encouraging residents to nominate their friends and neighbours who are making a difference in the community by volunteering in some capacity. The Volunteers of the Year Award acknowledges outstanding contributions of Airdrie’s volunteers.

“Research shows that a person who volunteers in the community tends to be happier, healthier, satisfied with life,” says Clay Aragon, Family Community Support Services (FCSS) Coordinator for the City of Airdrie. “Although it is widely acknowledged that volunteers provide a lot of benefits to the community, it is less widely known that those who volunteers have better overall social, physical and mental well-being than those that do not volunteer. It is for these reasons that the City would like to recognize the contributions of volunteers in the community,” added Clay Aragon.

Residents can be nominated for the Volunteers of the Year Award by filling out an application online at [http://www.airdrie.ca/social\\_planning/volunteer\\_of\\_the\\_year.cfm](http://www.airdrie.ca/social_planning/volunteer_of_the_year.cfm).

The volunteer nomination categories are as follows:

- 1. Leader of Tomorrow Award:** The Leader of Tomorrow Award recognizes a youth (11 to 18 years) who have shown leadership in the City of Airdrie through his/her volunteer involvement.
- 2. Ambassador Award:** This Award is conferred to an Airdrie Citizen (proprietor) or a business entity that has made an outstanding contribution in promoting the City of Airdrie as a place for community and opportunity through volunteerism and philanthropy.
- 3. Soul of Airdrie Award:** This Award is 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. Volunteer Advocate Award:** The Volunteer Advocate Award is conferred to a not-for-profit organization, a volunteer-comprised grassroots committee and/or a community group that has demonstrated community leadership by engaging citizens through volunteerism.

**Nomination deadline is March 30, 2012.** Any individual, organization, association or business in Airdrie may be nominated for these awards. Previous award recipients are exempt from future nominations, however, previously nominated individuals may be nominated again. To learn more about the nomination criteria, please visit us online at [www.airdrie.ca](http://www.airdrie.ca).

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