

April 20, 2011 / For Immediate Release

## Recognizing Community Volunteers

AIRDRIE, AB - On April 20, 2011, community leaders, volunteer award nominees and their guests were invited to partake in the National Volunteer Month celebration at the Town and Country Centre for the bestowment of the Volunteer 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.”

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

1. **Connor Lengkeek – 2011 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. **Dick Buchanan, Air-Alta Insurance – 2011 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. **Donelda Johnson – 2011 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. **Bethany Airdrie – 2011 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.

“The City of Airdrie truly believes in the power of volunteerism; this is why on March 7, Council proclaimed April as Volunteer Month.” says Aragon. Overall, the City received very positive responses to the event. The City received 18 nominations in total: three for the Leader of Tomorrow Award; three for the Airdrie Ambassador Award; nine for the Soul of Airdrie Award; and three for the Volunteer Advocate Award.

This year’s event was made possible by the contributions of staff and volunteers and the funding supports of the City of Airdrie.

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