



United Way
of Peel Region

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way announces 2009 Youth Spirit Award Winners

MISSISSAUGA (January 29, 2010) — Children and youth across the region were recently recognized for their creativity and enthusiasm in raising funds and awareness for United Way. Several student groups received United Way 2009 Youth Spirit Awards, including the White Oaks Public School Outreach Club in Mississauga, which garnered two of the awards. The awards were presented to the winners at school assemblies or events throughout January.

The Youth Spirit Awards program is an initiative of United Way's Young Leaders Council, a group of young adults focused on creating a legacy of giving and volunteerism that will strengthen our community.

"The Youth Spirit Awards honour the inspiration and passion evident in youth-led campaigns," says Jennifer Szodo of United Way's Young Leaders Council. "Youth play a vital role in the building of a strong and vibrant community."

The following youth-led campaigns received Spirit Awards:

Biggest Bucks Award

This award is presented to the group that raises the most money.

*Secondary and Post Secondary Winner: **UTM Music Club***

The UTM Music Club in Mississauga raised \$1,100 for United Way through a variety of events including mini-concerts during lunch time at the university pub and a fundraising dinner.

*Elementary and Middle School Winner: **White Oaks Public School Outreach Club***

The White Oaks Public School Outreach Club in Mississauga raised \$3,000 through their "United for the Holidays" gift extravaganza. Students from grades 3 to 5 sold crafts at a school-wide craft show.

Uniquely Yours Award

This award is presented to the secondary or post-secondary group that holds the most creative and unique special event(s).

*Winner: **Chinguacousy Secondary School***

Chinguacousy Secondary School in Brampton raised money and increased awareness about United Way of Peel Region through a "Wii day" where students paid to play video games during lunch. They also performed hair and make-up mini-makeovers. In the end they raised \$350.

Helping Hands Award

This award is presented to the secondary or post-secondary group that holds an event focused on community issues with the most participants. Planning of the event should demonstrate extraordinary teamwork.

Winner: **Harold M. Brathwaite Secondary School**

The Introduction to Information and Communication Technology Course for English Language Learners class at Harold M. Brathwaite Secondary School in Brampton compiled a cookbook and held several United Way events, including a chili cook off, to increase awareness about United Way and the issues affecting our community.

Little Heroes Award

This award is presented to the middle or elementary school that demonstrates outstanding participation in its United Way campaign.

Winner: **White Oaks Public School Outreach Club**

White Oaks Public School Outreach Club in Mississauga consists of 130 students from grades 3 to 5. With the support of their teachers, they created 3,500 handmade gifts to sell at their "United for the Holidays" gift extravaganza. Their event raised an outstanding \$3,000 for United Way.

About the Awards

A group of Sheridan College artists and faculty from both the glass and ceramic disciplines created one-of-a-kind art pieces for the winners of this year's Youth Spirit Awards. The artists are Will Ruppel, Chris Tatarnic, David Thompson, Jen Van Herten, Sean Robinson, Marcelina Salazar and Mary McKenzie.

About United Way of Peel Region

United Way of Peel Region was established in 1967 and serves the communities of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga. Through its Community Fund, United Way invests in services, programs and initiatives that develop resilient people, grow strong families, and build vibrant neighborhoods and communities. The mission of United Way of Peel Region is to engage with our community, through partnerships, to ensure people are cared for, connected and included.