



**Media Release** – For Immediate Release Monday, April 10, 2017

## **County seeking nominations for Kind Heart Awards Program**

As a way of recognizing individuals who have performed a good deed or act of kindness to help another resident in need, the County recently launched the Kind Heart Awards Program. Awards will be given to individuals who are nominated by another resident for their selfless contributions to the community.

“These awards ensure that those who do good deeds do not go unnoticed. They also foster community spirit and inspire residents to help out when others need them,” said Kathleen Turner, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Director.

On Friday, Area Councillor Daryl Beeston hand delivered the first Kind Heart Award to Norma Jean Steeves, who was nominated by her neighbour for helping out during an extended illness. Good deeds performed by Norma include shoveling the neighbour’s walkway and driveway, mowing the lawn, and bringing by meals and desserts. “Norma just offers this help and shows up when she sees a need. She never has to be asked, nor does she expect anything in return,” stated the neighbour who nominated her.

The County is encouraging all residents to participate in the program by ensuring deserving people are nominated. Nominees will receive a letter of recognition, certificate, small gift and a pin. Nominees will be also recognized in County publications including the Kind Heart Program webpage, County Connections newsletters, and on its social media sites.

The acts of kindness eligible for nomination will be diverse, and the County is hoping to receive nominations for a wide variety of good deeds. An award will be given out for any act that helps another resident in need. A few examples include shoveling after a winter storm, driving an elderly neighbour to an appointment, or helping bring in a crop.

“We strongly encourage anyone who has received assistance from another resident to go online and fill in the nomination form,” added Turner. “The nomination process is extremely quick and easy, and the recognition your nominee will receive will make your effort well worthwhile.”

All residents living within County of Grande Prairie boundaries are eligible to participate. The program is ongoing, and there is no deadline for nominations.

For further information or to access an online nomination form, go to [www.countygp.ab.ca/kindheartprogram](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/kindheartprogram) or call FCSS at 780-532-9727.

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