



February 14, 2017

Joint Media Release

Outstanding Service Recognized During 11th Annual Passionate Heart Awards Luncheon

A total of nine awards were distributed in four category areas during the annual Passionate Heart Awards luncheon today in Grande Prairie.

Sponsored by the Family Community Support Services (FCSS) in the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Wembley, Beaverlodge, and Hythe, the Passionate Heart Awards recognize outstanding contributions in the area of social services within the region.

“The Passionate Heart Awards Luncheon is a time where those who make taking care of others a priority get to gather to celebrate their colleagues,” said Kathleen Turner, County FCSS Director. “We get so busy in our work lives that we often forget that connecting with others who understand the work we are doing, is important for our own well-being. Today is about connecting and honouring the extraordinary compassion and care that the award recipients exhibit every day. Great people make for great events and this is a great event.”

“Every year, the FCSS partners in the area get together to go through the nomination submissions. Typically, awards recipients are nominated by their colleagues and clients, which makes the selection process extremely difficult. It is encouraging and heartwarming to see that their contributions are being noticed and appreciated,” said Angela Sutherland, City of Grande Prairie Community Social Development Manager. “We look forward to this event each year to celebrate the dedication, leadership and commitment that individuals, groups, organizations, and local businesses have in enhancing and strengthening the social fabric of our community.”

Recipients of the 2017 Passionate Heart awards include:

Passionate Heart Exceptional Service Award:

Andrew Lojczyc – Beaverlodge Elementary
Margo Whyte – Next Steps Employment
Lisa Cage- Ostaszewski – Beaverlodge Elementary
Tracy Kosik – Alberta Health Services
Wanda Burt – Canadian Mental Health Association

Passionate Heart Exceptional Team Award:

1. HIV North Outreach Team

Jenn Baird
Jessica Hubley

Taylor Hurley
Jennifer Spencer

Steve Robinson
Ellen Bowles

2. St. Patrick Catholic School Grande Prairie Staff

Jennifer Brown
Harriet Lidgett
Erin Coffin
Nancy Maxsom
Simone Dixon
Gayle Nanninga

Gwenda Jean Pierre
Rhonda Carroll
Pam Malone
Monie Desmarais
Amanda Morrison
Bernie Griffin

Patricia Brushett
Liz Lueken
Gaby Comeau
Matthew Maynard
Melissa Gast
Tara Pike



Carrie Sutton
Rebecca Pook
Paul Urbiztondo
Russ Snoble
Angie Stockley

Trevor Prichard
Kelsey Urban
Anita Scarborough
Kristy Solorzano

Jennifer Thome
Tammy Rowland
Sherry Wishnowski
Mary St. Hilarie

Passionate Heart Business Award:

1. Arcand Accounting Beaverlodge

Roger Arcand
James Ivers

Sandra Backmeyer
Denise Macklin

Leona Hanson
Jeannine Wood

The Chris Henderson Lifetime Service Award:

Connie Miller – PACE Grande Prairie

A call out for award nominations is made in January of each year. The awards presentation and luncheon takes place in mid-February annually.

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