



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Northwood Neighbourhood Services SHARE THE LIGHT Awards
Celebrating Leaders and Staff of non-profit organizations

Toronto - On Friday, December 9th, 2011, **Northwood Neighbourhood Services** released the CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for their **Share the Lights Awards Program**.

Community social service agencies play a vital role in supporting and strengthening individuals, families and communities. Northwood Neighbourhood Services developed the Share the Light Awards program to recognize the passion and hard work that often goes unnoticed. The Awards recognize the enormously important roles played by the leaders and staff of our nonprofit organizations in improving our lives and communities.

Executive Director, Jamila Aman stated: "At Northwood we feel it's important to pay tribute to our peers who display exceptional leadership, outstanding service excellence and create a warm and welcoming environment for clients. So, we developed an awards program and called it Share the Light. The name comes from the Kiswahili expression, MSIGEUKU TAA KUMULIKA YA WENZENU. Our awards will honour outstanding individuals in our sector who shared the light and made a remarkable difference in the lives of people in the community."

Leadership Award: Created to recognize Executive Directors and Board Directors who work tirelessly to lead their organization with vision and passion

Service Excellence Award: Created to recognize Frontline Workers who go above and beyond in delivering services to their clients

Welcoming Communities Award: Created to recognize First Point of Contact Individuals who offer a safe, warm & welcoming environment

Client Services Award: Created to recognize a Client who, as a result of agency programs, was able to achieve, maintain & enhance a state of physical, mental & social well being

The inaugural 2011 Share the Light Awards were awarded to the following outstanding individuals:

Leadership – DEBBIE DOUGLAS, OCASI

Client Success – RINA ROVINELLI, Maximum Woman

Service Excellence – MARY CRABBE, Jane Finch Community and Family Centre

Welcoming Communities – OLGA GRUPP-BOLAND, Skills for Change

Nominations for the 2012 awards will be accepted from **December 9th, 2011 to March 2nd, 2012**.

Award recipients will be honoured at Northwood Neighbourhood Services' Annual *Share the Light Awards* Gala Event on June, 14, 2012 at the Paradise Banquet Hall in Vaughan.

About Northwood Neighbourhood Services:

Northwood Neighbourhood Services is a non-profit, charitable organization serving newcomers and multicultural communities. Established in 1982, our main client groups include newcomer families, youth, children and seniors. Some of our programs and services include settlement services, child/parent programs, youth summer programs, English conversation circles, seniors' recreational programs, income tax training, planning for a better future, freedom from violence and green program.

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