

**VOLUNTEER HALTON
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

**THE KRISTEN HARDING COMMUNITY ORGANIZER AWARD
(Community Award)**

Rationale, Criteria, and Selection Process

Community Development Halton (CDH), through Volunteer Halton, offers **The Kristen Harding Community Organizer Award** to eligible individuals and organizations in Halton Region. The award is presented to the selected volunteer (individual or group) during National Volunteer Week celebrations.

Objective

The Kristen Harding Community Organizer Award honours a dynamic resident of Halton Region, Kristen Harding. CDH was privileged to work with Kristen Harding through her role as the Senior Manager of Communications and Marketing at SB Partners (Burlington). This award pays homage to a person who cared deeply about the people she worked with, the community she was building, and the challenges she took on. Kristen's impact on our Halton community is profound and lasting; from highlighting the many individuals who shaped the City of Burlington in the SB Partners 50th Anniversary Legacy Project to co-developing an education series focused on financial literacy for nonprofit leaders and championing CDH's Developing Community Roots program for new and/or emerging organizations. She was passionate, always had a plan, and helped to keep everyone organized along the way.

This award:

- Offers an opportunity to recognize an individual citizen or citizen group who is/are a community organizer in Halton Region
- Provides a means of celebrating the accomplishments of a civically engaged individual or group whose efforts have identified and addressed a priority need in the community, leveraged community strengths, and whose action(s) have resulted in change in their local community, municipality, or region.

Eligibility and Criteria

Nominators must submit a written submission reflecting the impact an individual citizen or citizen group who has shown a high level of achievement in their local community, municipality, or the Region. A maximum of one (1) award recipient or group will be selected; this award may not be awarded every year.

Nominations will be accepted for an individual or a group who has:

- Contributed significantly to the quality of life of community through their volunteer community organizer efforts.

- Have identified and addressed a priority need in community and whose action(s) resulted in change in their local community, municipality, or the Region.
- Achieved provincial, national, or international recognition for their act/acts of civic engagement and/or community organization and thereby brought honour to Halton Region.

Nominations are open to all individuals, groups, and organizations in Halton Region. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

To be eligible, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Nominee(s) must be a resident of Halton Region or own a business in Halton Region
 - When the nominee is a group, a minimum of 60% of the group must be made up of individuals who are either a resident of Halton Region or own a business in Halton Region
- Nominee(s) must not hold political office.
- Nominee(s) must have contributed on a volunteer basis.
- Nominees who are groups or organizations must primarily serve the residents of Halton.
- The nominee(s) efforts have made a measurable, outstanding, and/or impactful contribution to their local community, municipality, or the Region.
- Nominators must complete the nomination package and must include a minimum of one (1), maximum of three (3) letters of support.
- The award recipient(s) must be willing to sign a photo/video consent form providing permission to CDH to use their image (still or moving), impact story, and/or spoken words in perpetuity.
- All nomination information is kept confidential in accordance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)
- Nominees who do not meet the criteria will not be considered for an award.

Exemptions

- Municipal/Regional employees or elected officials may not be considered for an award for their work as a Municipal/Regional employee or elected official. Municipal or Regional projects are also not eligible for an award.
- Nominations will not be accepted from individuals who do not live in Halton Region or from organizations/groups who do not provide direct services to residents of Halton Region

Nomination Questions

Nominations to be submitted using FORM (preferred) or via email to office@cdhalton.ca providing responses to the following questions:

1. Organization Name (if applicable)
2. Organization Address (if applicable)
3. Nominator (Contact Name)
4. Nominator Email
5. Nominator Telephone
6. Nominee's name or names (in case of group nomination)
7. Nominee's Activity Location:
 - a. Burlington
 - b. Halton Hills
 - c. Milton
 - d. Oakville
8. Reason for Nomination
 - a. What is the reason for the recognition? (Select all that apply)
 - i. Contributed significantly to the quality of life of community through their volunteer community organizer efforts.
 - ii. Have identified and addressed a priority need in community and whose action(s) resulted in change in their local community, municipality, or the Region.
 - iii. Achieved provincial, national, or international recognition for their act/acts of civic engagement and/or community organization and thereby brought honour to Halton Region.
9. Written submission of 1000 words or less describing the action, achievement, and/or recognition. The following questions to be answered/addressed in submission:
 - a. Number of years nominee(s) have been involved in the activity or action.
 - b. Briefly describe the nominee's role and contributions to the activity or action
 - c. Describe how their contributions have impacted the quality of life for Halton residents and the change(s) as a result of their actions (15 points)
 - d. Provide measurable impact data on their contributions (10 points)
 - e. Provide examples of who benefited from the nominees' contributions and actions (15 points)
 - f. What is now different in the local community, municipality, or the Region (10 points)
 - g. Describe how the nominee(s) inspired others through their work ethic, attitude, dedication, and/or leadership abilities (15 points)

NOTE: This award is recognizing act/acts of civic engagement and/or community organization. This could include but is not limited to: peaceful protest, advocacy, building connections between individuals/groups on an issue of public concern, etc.