

April 2006

Everyday people helping everyday people. Every Day.

United Way of York Region is distributing nearly \$5.8 million to charitable organizations this year. The majority of the money will fund programs in York Region.

The Board of Directors has allocated nearly \$4.5 million in funding from the UWYR Community Fund to the organization's 37 member agencies throughout York Region. The UWYR Community Fund is addressing five priority areas:

- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Literacy
- Mental Health
- Newcomers/Immigrants

An additional \$1.3 million will be forwarded to United Ways in other communities and other registered Canadian charities as directed by individual donors.

Funding applications are carefully reviewed by Citizen Review Panels, a group of 40 trained community volunteers. Rick McHale, volunteer Chair of the Fund Distribution Committee said, "We promise donors their money will improve quality of life in York Region, every day. The due diligence conducted by the Citizen Review Panels reflects our commitment to delivering on that promise. This year 39 volunteers contributed 1.5 person years to that process, a very significant investment of time, energy and expertise."

Mr. McHale added, "We congratulate the agencies that will receive funding from United Way donors this year. They are to be commended for the important work they do."

2006 Fund Distribution Committee

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Rick McHale - Chair | Nurali Jamani |
| Dennis Cheng | Marion Jones |
| Shafiq Ebrahim | Laura Pisko-Bezruchko |
| Harry Ferguson | John Stoneman |

2006 Citizen Review Panel Chairs

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Chung | Klaus Kirchner |
| Lloyd Cooper | Gary Thompson |
| Grace Jewell | Lee Whitwell |
| Marlene Johnston | Daniele Zanotti |

2006 Citizen Review Panel Members

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Robert Bak | Fonsa Hung | Victor Ng | Laura Tsang |
| Maria Cizmarik | Karen Johnson | Terence O'Brien | Satish Ummat |
| Victor Cizmarik | Perdita Kwok | Ghulam Abbas Sajan | Murali Visvalingam |
| Brenda Day | Jaheed Mamdani | Fariba Shahsmand | Alan Wilson |
| Vic Fitzakerley | Lyndsey A.K. McKeown | Heidi Sin | Terri-Ann Witwicki |
| Joseph Ho | Tracy McNaught | Edson Thomas | |



Edie MacEachern

Edie MacEachern watched her father hit her mom. Hard. Many times. Over many years. Hers is a story of human weakness, and human strength.

Edie MacEachern looks like a million bucks. She has an amazing smile, outgoing demeanour, and exudes self confidence. But, like so many people, Edie has overcome a world of heartache.

She has watched her father pin her mother to the ground, hands around her neck, calling her vile names children should never hear. She remembers huddling in the bedroom with her brothers and sisters listening to the abuse on the other side of the wall, knowing there wasn't a thing they

Upcoming Events...

Days of
EARING

May 12th

Celebrity Golf Challenge
 May 15th

ATI Dragon Boat Festival
 August 19th

National Treasures of Chinese Culture Kung Fu Show

May 20th

Building Industry Luncheon
 May 29th

Please see page 2 for more details..

could do to help. She knows what it is like to hear news reports about a tragic murder-suicide and wonder if they're talking about your family.

In 1988, after years of debilitating abuse, Ms. MacEachern's mother turned to a United Way funded agency in Toronto for help – a decision Ms. MacEachern says saved her mother's life, and changed her own.

Rather than allowing her past to taint her future, Ms. MacEachern uses the hardships her family has overcome as an example of human strength and resolve. Now living in York Region, Ms. MacEachern is a member of United Way of York Region's Speaker's Bureau, volunteering to share her story with audiences throughout York Region, asking them to support their community through United Way.

UWYR Director of Development, Shari Lovelock applauds Ms. MacEachern's willingness to tell people about her experience. She says, "Our donors make such a tremendous difference in the lives of everyday people, every single day. When you hear compelling stories like Ms. MacEachern's, it demonstrates how important every donation is."

Ms. MacEachern says, "At one time in my life, I did not like my mother. I couldn't understand why she wasn't strong enough to defend herself. Strong enough to defend her own children. But watching the strength and courage she needed to escape the abuse and start a new life helped me understand the woman she truly is. My mother and I have become great friends, something I never expected would happen. I am so proud of her and love her so much. And every day I am so thankful that United Way funds programs that help families like mine. United Way gave me back my mother. You can't imagine how wonderful that feels."

Upcoming Events...

Day of Caring:

Day of Caring is a unique way for employee groups to spend a day working in the community. Join in our spring Day of Caring on **May 12th**, or sign up for the fall event on **October 26th**. Getting involved is simple. Let us know how many volunteers you would like to provide. We will match you with agencies who need help with meaningful one day volunteer projects. It's a special way to connect with the agencies you support through your United Way donation. For more information, contact Arlene Akam at (905) 474-9974 ext. 234.

Golf Tournament:

With spring in the air, thoughts are definitely turning to **golf!** The 1st Annual **Corporate Celebrity Golf Challenge** in support of United Way of York Region is being held Monday, May 15th at Eagles Nest Golf Club. The tournament is hosted by the Markham Board of Trade and supporting York Region Chambers of Commerce. Thank you to corporate sponsors Allstate Canada Group of Companies, Motorola Canada and Eagles Nest Golf Club. Foursomes consist of 3 corporate participants plus a local celebrity. Celebrities will be drawn from senior elected officials or staff members from York Region. For more information, contact Ada Lee at Markham Board of Trade at (905) 474-0730.

National Treasures of Chinese Culture Kung Fu Show:

Saturday, May 20th, 2006
7:00 p.m.

The City Playhouse, City of Vaughan
Tickets: \$20 each

To reserve your tickets, contact Arlene Akam at (905) 474-9974 ext. 234

Building Industry Luncheon:

24th Annual Building Industry Luncheon
Monday, May 29th 2006

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Le Parc Dining and Banquet
8432 Leslie St., Markham

Tickets: \$250 per seat or \$2,000 per table of 8.
To reserve your tickets, contact Nicole Cleve at nclleve@uwyr.on.ca.



ATI Technologies Inc. Dragon Boat Festival

Register your boat today!
Saturday, August 19th, 2006
at Seneca College, King Campus
13990 Dufferin Street, King City.

For more information, please contact
Tracey McCague-McElrea at
(905) 775-7803 or
dragonfever@rogers.com

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