

MEDIA RELEASE

5th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

"Together we can make a difference because together we are stronger"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 16, 2012

WHO: **The North End Community Helpers Network** – a collective of over 100 people who work, live, and volunteer in the North End of Winnipeg working together to create a healthier and more vibrant community.

Sponsors including:

Assiniboine Credit Union, City of Winnipeg (Councillor Ross Eadie), Families and Communities Together (Point Douglas Parent-Child Coalition), Investors Group, North End Revitalization Inc. and many other private donors.

Partners including:

Aboriginal Visioning for the North End, Andrews Street Family Centre, Community Education Development Association, Dufferin Residents' Association of Winnipeg, Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, Indian & Métis Friendship Centre, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Mount Carmel Clinic, Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad, North End Community Renewal Corporation, North End Women's Centre, North Point Douglas Women's Centre, Oyate Tipi Cumini Yape, St. John's Residents' Association, University of Manitoba, and William Whyte Residents' Association.

WHAT: On the evening of March 15, 2012, over 250 community volunteers came out celebrate the spirit of Winnipeg's North End at the fifth annual North End Community Helpers Network (NECHN) Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, which honours our many community helpers and volunteers who donate their time and effort to our partnering organizations to make our North End community a better place to live, work and play.

Realizing the need for positive recognition of community volunteers and the reality that many give to more than one group, five years ago the North End Community Helpers Network developed a plan for this community gathering as a joint effort between partnering agencies/organizations to be able to collectively give thanks to those who work tirelessly to create positive change in our North End community.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner not only provides our community volunteers/helpers with the thanks and appreciation that they deserve, but also evokes a sense of community pride and togetherness, while highlighting the

strong community spirit and commitment that is unique to the North End of Winnipeg. It encourages future volunteerism and continues to build meaningful relationships within our community.

“The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner provides a time for us as non-profit organizations to come together and collectively honour our volunteers, without whom many of the services we provide would not be possible.” states Debra Diubaldo, Chair of the North End Community Helpers Network. *“Many of our volunteers dedicate their lives to the North End without asking for compensation or recognition, but rather working from the heart and in celebration of their passion for our community. For this we are forever grateful, and this dinner is our way of expressing our thanks for their persistent hard work and commitment.”*

WHEN: Thursday, March 15, 2012

WHERE: Indian & Métis Friendship Centre (45 Robinson Street)

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Debra Diubaldo
North End Community Helpers Network
Chair
Phone: 790-7205
Email: diubaldo@cc.umanitoba.ca