

## Volunteer Awards

Regional HIV/AIDS Connection's Volunteer Awards highlight how volunteers have enhanced the delivery of our mission in the counties we serve. Volunteer participation is a key element to the success of RHAC. The intention of these awards is to demonstrate our profound appreciation of volunteers' contributions. The awards celebrate volunteers who embody our value statement: "The courage to do what is right" and embrace our vision of Voice, Knowledge and Hope while exemplifying our guiding principles.

## Call for Nominations 2012

If you know of an outstanding individual or committee that has demonstrated Voice, Knowledge or Hope consider nominating them for a Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC) Volunteer Award.

## Award Categories

- Voice
- Knowledge
- Hope

## Who is eligible?

Any RHAC volunteer who has recorded volunteer hours between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012. An individual can only receive each of the Voice, Knowledge or Hope awards once. However, an individual can be nominated multiple times.

## Who can nominate someone for an award?

Due to the intent of these awards, self nominations will not be considered. Self nomination is when the volunteer nominates themselves for an award. RHAC employees, board members, clients, volunteers and members of the public and community partner organizations can nominate.

## Who can attend the awards ceremony?

Nominees, their guests and the nominator are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting in 2012 (location and date to be announced) where the award will be presented. Recipients will receive a personal award to take home and will have their name engraved on a perpetual plaque at Regional HIV/AIDS Connection.

## Annual General Meeting & Awards Presentation

TBA for 2012

## Award Categories & Nomination Criteria

### Voice

Awarded in honour of Betty-Anne Thomas, the first Executive Director of the AIDS Committee of London 1985-1999, who gave voice to the challenges people living with HIV/AIDS faced at a time when many remained silent.

#### Award Description

HIV / AIDS, and related conditions, are often hidden in our communities.

Nominees for this award have recognized that challenging stigma and discrimination and embodying anti-oppression means speaking out when others are silent. These volunteers ensure the voices of people we don't often hear from are included and provide opportunities for a diversity of views when problem solving. Nominees have found creative ways to challenge myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS and consequently further the mission of Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Describe how your nominee has demonstrated any or all of the following:

- provides a voice through multiple forms of communication to the many people who are challenged by the conditions and needs associated with HIV / AIDS
- Works creatively through education programs
- Works as an advocate for one or more people
- Addresses systemic barriers to accessing services
- Provides services that empower people who access RHAC's services/programs
- Engages and recognizes community partners
- Provides unique opportunities for those infected / affected by HIV / AIDS
- Advocates on behalf of our clients
- Encourages people to find their own voices
- Creates a space for public dialogue
- Recognizes skills and talents of clients – giving them a chance to use them
- Validates clients' experiences
- Demonstrates cultural competency
- Engages in collaborative problem solving
- Listens without prejudice to new ideas and new people
- Seeks out inclusive representation

## Award Categories & Nomination Criteria

### Knowledge

#### Award Description

Nominees for this award recognize that the basis of stigma, discrimination and oppression often lies in lack of information or misinformation and have sought to find and share accurate information. These volunteers ensure they are well versed in the facts about HIV/AIDS while encouraging and supporting others to do the same. Nominees have found creative ways to cultivate and present their knowledge about HIV/AIDS to others in language that is relevant and meaningful to their audiences. Their work furthers the mission of Regional HIV/AIDS Connection by bringing forward accurate information to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in our community and make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

#### Describe how your nominee has demonstrated any or all of the following:

- Informs and educates the public, peers and other organizations
- Provides truthful and up-to-date information in unique and creative ways that engages audiences
- Encourages knowledge transfer/exchange
- Seeks empowerment through education and collaborative learning
- Supports peer reviewed research
- Shows an ability to influence others and change behaviours
- Demonstrates knowledge of the social determinants of health
- Demonstrates integrity
- Applies the principles of harm reduction
- Knows options for informed choices
- Delivers unbiased presentation of facts
- Confronts myths and misconceptions with evidence based information

## Award Categories & Nomination Criteria

### Hope

Awarded in honour of the members of the Newman family who, in October of 1991, chose to make their HIV status public and spoke out against stigma and discrimination. In facing the loss of Robbie and Kim, the remaining members of the Newman family continue to inspire hope for those living with HIV that they can “survive and thrive” enjoying life and contributing to their communities.

#### Award Description

Nominees for this award choose action in the face of generalized fear and apathy with the hope that they can make a difference. These volunteers model the change they want to see in our communities and inspire others to continue taking action. Nominees have fostered connections with others by modeling empathy and optimism. Their work furthers the mission of Regional HIV/AIDS Connection by bringing forward compelling reasons why we can and should celebrate and recognize our achievements.

Describe how your nominee has demonstrated any or all of the following:

- Helps open peoples' eyes
- Empathy – understanding and sharing another person's feelings
- Inspires others
- Demonstrates ways in which what we are doing can/will change the world
- Optimism
- Acts as a catalyst for improvements in programs & services
- Uses innovation or unique approaches to problem solving
- Demonstrates leadership
- Supportive of new ideas
- Celebrates the lives of clients and people in general
- Fosters a sense of belonging in others
- Continues in the face of adversity
- Honours our past and our future

Volunteer Awards 2012 Nomination Process  
Deadline for nominations is Friday, July 27, 2012  
To submit your nomination, please follow these 4 easy steps:

1. Choose the appropriate award category for your nomination.
2. Complete the nomination package according to the guidelines listed below.
3. Have the nominee sign the original nomination form, indicating their consent and verification that the information submitted is accurate and complete.
4. Mail or deliver the nomination package so that it is received by 4 pm on Friday, July 27 2012 to:

Regional HIV/AIDS Connection  
# 30- 186 King St  
London, ON N6A 1C7  
[hr@hivaidsconnection.ca](mailto:hr@hivaidsconnection.ca)

**What to include in the nomination:**

- One completed nomination form signed by both the nominator and the nominee.
- One page written summary (not exceeding 500 words) of your nomination clearly describing how the nomination demonstrates the criteria outlined in the award category of your choice.

Be specific - answer the bullet points from the criteria list, including details to help the Selection Committee formulate an accurate picture of the nominee.

- Submissions must not exceed 5 single-sided pages in length. This includes the written page as outlined above and all reference and supporting materials (support materials are optional).
- Suggested supporting materials could include: news clippings, reference letters, letters of congratulations, photos or any other item that you feel would help support the nomination.

**Please note that only the first 5 pages of the nomination package will be reviewed by the Selection Committee.**

\*Please note that nomination forms, written summary and all supporting materials become the property of RHAC and will not be returned.

**Please do not include any of the following in the nomination package:**

- Videos, CDs or DVDs
- Listing of previous awards will not affect the selection process.

**Who can nominate someone for an award?**

Due to the intent of these awards, self nominations will not be considered. A self nomination is when the volunteer nominates themselves for an award. RHAC employees, board members, clients, volunteers and members of the public and community partner organizations can nominate.

**Volunteer Awards 2012 Nomination Form**  
Deadline for nominations is Friday, July 27, 2011

The award category for which I/we are submitting this nomination is:

- Voice
- Knowledge
- Hope

**Nominator Information**

Name of the Nominator.....

Relationship to the nominee.....

Email .....

Street Address.....

City..... Postal Code.....

Daytime Telephone..... Cell.....

Signature of the nominator .....

**Nominee Information**

Nominee.....

Email .....

Street Address.....

City..... Postal Code.....

Daytime Telephone..... Cell.....

Signature of the nominee .....

For any additional questions regarding the nomination process, please contact

Natalie Hébert at [nhebert@hivaidconnection.ca](mailto:nhebert@hivaidconnection.ca) or call 519-434-1601