

**Media Release**  
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## **Volunteers Lead the Way**

*“Volunteers lead the way,”* said Wendi Campbell, Executive Director of The Food Bank of Waterloo Region at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Food Bank Volunteer Recognition Breakfast hosted by the Walper Terrace Hotel. *“We rely on our volunteers in every aspect of the work of The Food Bank. Because of their commitment we are able to acquire food needed to help the 5% of our Region’s population that will be going to our agencies for help. Last year food assistance programs served over 26,500 people. We were able to provide them with over 3 million pounds of food thanks to the efforts of over 1900 volunteers giving over 22,000 hours of their time.”*

Of particular note was the presentation of the Nelson Jarvis Award to recognize a volunteer that shares a passion for the community and the people who need our help. The award was presented to Russell Wong. Russell is well known for his community involvement. The Food Bank has benefitted greatly from his enthusiastic commitment to excellence in all he undertakes. In particular his role in helping CANstruction become a hugely successful food and awareness raising event and developing the DIG IN Battle of the Bands to support the one day food drive in May are remarkable.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Penny Cressman for her multi-faceted efforts for The Food Bank. *“We can count on Penny to step up wherever she is needed,”* commented Rose Tanyi, volunteer coordinator. *“Penny is an ambassador at external events, an excellent teacher for events at The Food Bank and a great role model for all of us.”*

The Group of the Year Award was presented to Leadership Waterloo Region in recognition of the work participants have taken on such as the DIG IN food drive, CANstruction, food sorting and for their role in increasing the understanding of hunger in Waterloo Region.

Volunteers were also recognized for hours of service this past year and for years of service. George and Terry Mac Neil received their 10 year service pins and Ernie Beirnes is only the 4<sup>th</sup> volunteer to receive a 15 year service pin. The Food Bank extends thanks and congratulations to all our volunteers for National Volunteer Week. They are leading the way to a much stronger community. Every day.

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For more information, please contact  
Ruth Friendship-Keller  
Community Partnerships Manager  
519-743-5576, ext. 225  
Email: [ruthf@thefoodbank.ca](mailto:ruthf@thefoodbank.ca) Web: [www.thefoodbank.ca](http://www.thefoodbank.ca)