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RBC employees receive a great honour

December 5, 2012

Meet some RBC employees awarded the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for volunteerism and community work.



Within the charitable giving and volunteer community, RBC employees are known to be a very giving and generous group. It is only fitting that on this day, [International Volunteer Day](#), we honour RBC employees who have been given special recognition by her Majesty the Queen with the [2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal](#) for their volunteer work. The Diamond Jubilee medal honours both Her Majesty's service to Canada and Canadians who have made significant contributions and achievements in their communities.

This award aligns with RBC's belief in building prosperity through caring for the communities in which we live and work. There are many RBC recipients of the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, all of which are highly respected community members with significant contributions in the areas of diversity, community building, and corporate social responsibility.

"On behalf of RBC, I would like to congratulate and recognize these award recipients, and thank all of our employees who are making a difference through charitable volunteer work. Our award winners have demonstrated remarkable commitment to their communities, and make us all proud! Please join us in congratulating our colleagues on this distinction." *Shari Austin, V.P. Corporate Citizenship and Executive Director, RBC Foundation.*

Meet some of this year's winners:



From left: Bruce presents a cheque to Kim O'Brien Executive, Director of Horizon Housing and Dan Delaloye, Executive Director of the CMHA.

Bruce MacKenzie, Regional President, Alberta & Territories

Bruce's service to the province of Alberta has been previously recognized with Alberta's Centennial Medal in 2005. He was recently the Co-Chairman of the \$250 million fundraising campaign for Mount Royal University, Member of the Advisory Board for the Global Business Forum, member of the REACH! Volunteer Cabinet Board, which raised over \$300 million to support health care initiatives. Bruce also co-chaired the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – Calgary Region and the Horizon Housing Society Fish and Chips Golf Tournament and Fly Fishing Derby, which has raised over one million dollars in the last eight years.

"For me, the best part of volunteering is having the opportunity to see tangible results in a short time. The Horizon Housing fundraising campaign is a good example. It was so gratifying to see an individual who lived most of his life with a mental health disorder and through the program received the counselling and the accommodation he needed to turn his life around. It makes one feel pretty good inside"

Samantha Roman - RBC Wealth Management,
Global Trust Sales & Strategic Initiatives

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Samantha has been recognized for her volunteer efforts which include her board work for St. John Ambulance, chairing fundraising for Canada Company's bike ride raising \$60,000 to support the education of children of fallen soldiers, and playing saxophone in a Legion band to entertain seniors. She is also Vice Chair of Military Minds, an organization that provides counseling and other support services for veterans and their families affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.



"The best part of volunteering is seeing first hand the extraordinary potential that each and every one of us has to support change for the better. Through leading organizations like St. John Ambulance and Military Minds I often have the opportunity to read letters of gratitude from people and their families who in times of desperation were saved by strangers. To this I say, can there be any greater gift or motivation for giving."



Debbie Young-Hermans completing one of many Joints in Motion Team Arthritis fundraising treks from Macchu Picchu to Kilimanjaro to Everest Base Camp

Debbie Young-Hermans, Senior Business Analyst, Capital Markets Technology

Debbie is an ongoing champion of RBC Capital Markets' annual United Way fundraising campaign for more than 16 years and has recruited hundreds of volunteers for United Way initiatives. Her involvement with Heart & Stroke Foundation, Canadian Blood Services, Ronald McDonald House, Joints in Motion Team Arthritis and Toronto International Film Festival, displays her dedication to community building.

Read also: [RBC Capital Markets employee Debbie Young-Hermans honored with a Diamond Jubilee Medal](#)

"For me, the best part of volunteering time or fundraising for great charitable causes was when I recently completed the toughest climbing trek of my life with the Joints in Motion Team Arthritis to Mt. Everest Base Camp in Nepal. My own personal marathon after training peaks from Macchu Picchu to Kilimanjaro. Each step up Everest brought me that much closer to not only my climbing goal but also my fundraising goal as well. This time I trekked in "someone else's shoes" because my "hero" was unable to make the trek themselves. The most wonderful feeling to cap off a fundraising drive raising \$70,000 to find a cure for juvenile arthritis. Volunteerism is being able to make time to do something for others no matter how big or small the challenge, knowing that through our own efforts we are able to make a difference in others who are less fortunate."

Jennison Asuncion, IT Accessibility Consultant

Jennison, an IT Accessibility Consultant with RBC who himself is blind, has been recognized by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) for his ongoing community work with SCORE, CNIB's signature leadership program for youth with vision loss. Outside of his work at RBC, Jennison volunteers his time raising accessibility awareness within the tech community, locally and globally. Among his activities this year, Jennison co-founded an annual event called Global Accessibility Awareness Day, and co-founded the Toronto Accessibility and Inclusive Design Meetup Group.



"For me, the best part of volunteering is when someone who has attended an event that I have been involved in tells me they realize now that implementing accessibility isn't difficult to do."

Peggy Chan, Coordinator, Diversity Initiatives

Peggy works to leverage diversity and inclusion for growth and innovation, and to foster strong



Annual Sian Bradwell Charity Softball Tournament, June 2012. From the left: Peggy Chan, in the middle: Teg, Tobin and Myles (3 childhood cancer survivors). On the right: Sharon Bradwell, mother of Sian Bradwell (who passed away from cancer). Back row: Toronto Argonaut players who came out to support the event

working relationships with employees, clients and within the community. As Chair of **The Sian Bradwell Fund for Children with Cancer Toronto**, she raises funds to purchase priority Oncology equipment for SickKids Hospital. Peggy is also a member of the United Way Special Event Committee and an advocate for the women and children at Nellie's Shelter.

"For me, the best part of volunteering is empowering others to team up towards the common goal of making this city a better place for all. This was evident when I had the privilege to meet several childhood cancer survivors who had profound strength, bravery and determination to fight the deadliest diseases. Our fundraising efforts to help purchase life saving equipment have been a direct contribution to these success stories and this motivates me to continue making a tangible impact in our community. The opportunity to meet people from all walks of life and be inspired by their stories has been incredibly rewarding and reminds me of how fortunate I really am."

Alan Rae, Chairman's Council Investment Advisor, Richmond, British Columbia

Alan is respected by his clients and peers for the high standards by which he conducts business and contributes to organizations through supporting community living and children's health including Richmond Community Foundation, BC Centre for Ability and Down Syndrome Research Foundation.



Dining for Dreams fundraiser in May 2012, benefiting the BC Centre for Ability. From left: Tamara Taggart (Chairperson for the event), Alan Rae, and Don James (President, BC Centre for Ability Foundation)

"For me, the best part of volunteering is seeing firsthand the benefits of all of our efforts. In 2010, I was one of the RBC employees who was given the privilege of participating in the Olympic torch relay. As honoured as I was, I thought that the torch relay would be a wonderful life experience for one particular individual, Taya. With RBC's permission, I transferred my torch relay participation to her. Taya has suffered from epilepsy her whole life and the BC Centre for Ability has been there with her every step of the way. The torch relay was an extremely positive experience for her. Despite a seizure at the very end of her relay segment - at which point she handed the torch over to Steve Nash - Taya counts the torch relay as a once-in-a-lifetime experience. At the end of the day, I try to think outside of the box - using my many contacts in the community, my many years of community service and fundraising and the strength and support of RBC to help those organizations with whom I've become associated. None of this would be possible without the support of my Team and my Family."

There are many RBC employees receiving this award and we congratulate all the recipients. If you, or someone you know, has received an award, tell us your story!

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Congratulations to all. Makes me very proud that we have so many caring RBC employees and that our company supports volunteerism. Well done!!!

2012-12-07 12:46:00 EST by Lund, Cam.J. from Thornhill, ON, Canada

Congratulations everyone.....

2012-12-07 12:08:27 EST by Johnson, Camille from Nassau, NP, Bahamas

This truly is a reminder of what life is really about. Cherishing everyday and helping those in need. Good work RBC comrades...

2012-12-07 11:53:22 EST by Reviero, Christine from Port of Spain, TT, Trinidad and Tobago

So proud of the people of RBC, both those recognized here and the many others who give back every day.

2012-12-07 10:49:57 EST by Sheehan, Diane from Mississauga, ON, Canada

I am truly very proud of my colleagues for their unparalleled contribution to the community! Good job everyone!!

2012-12-07 10:36:05 EST by Ahmad, Afreen from Mississauga, ON, Canada

Congratulations to you all.

2012-12-07 09:52:34 EST by Sanderson, Charmaine from KINGSTON 5, JM, Jamaica

Congratulations Guys!! Your an inspiration and make me proud to be an RBC employee. Well Done DKP

2012-12-07 08:48:53 EST by Persad, Darius from PORT OF SPAIN, TT, Trinidad and Tobago

It is incredibly inspiring to see how our people make a difference - what you do every day matters a great deal to our communities and makes Canada a better place. Congratulations to each of our Diamond Jubilee Medal recipients!

2012-12-07 08:33:23 EST by Bossert, Wayne from Toronto, ON, Canada

Charity and Volunteering is at the heart of everything that we ought to do and that most of us commit to whether it's through: Donations or Community work...Great learning experience do we get from: Bruce, Samantha, Debbie, Jennison, Peggy, Alan and to the many other helpful hands that participated in everything that they do to make their causes worthy to friends; colleagues and strangers alike...You make us all proud..I just hope and pray to be able to emulate all of you as I keep on humming by committing many hours to: Charity and Volunteering...You all gave us an: Early Christmas Present...Merci Beaucoup...Thank You so much..Keep it up..

2012-12-07 08:20:09 EST by Hannoush, Murad from Laval, QC, Canada

Congratulations to all recipients!

2012-12-06 22:30:08 EST by Morse, Emily from MISSISSAUGA, ON, Canada

Congratulations!

2012-12-06 16:28:51 EST by Scarcella, Antonino from Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Congratulations and well deserved awards. You are the reason we have such a great country to live and work in. Canada is built on the strength of diversity and people helping people..... You make us all proud.

2012-12-06 16:24:21 EST by King, Coralee from Sault Ste Marie, ON, Canada

Congratulations on your achievements

2012-12-06 16:05:11 EST by Dragojevich, Catharine from Fort St John, BC, Canada

It is no wonder RBC was chosen as the "Best Retail Bank" in North America - look at all the wonderful employees -awesome - CONGRATULATIONS!!

2012-12-06 14:59:26 EST by Anonymous

Way to go Peggy! What an amazing thing you do!

2012-12-06 14:14:25 EST by Talbot, Marita from Cambridge, ON, Canada

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