

1988 – PRESENT | FORMER PEACE MEDAL RECIPIENTS
YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg

"You can't have peace if people are repressed or are denied their dignity. It's social justice, and if you can't have that, you can't have peace. You have to do things; you have to be involved." -- 1998 recipient *Doreen Plowman*

1988 Winnipeg Coordinating Committee for Disarmament

An umbrella group for organizations concerned about the danger of nuclear war. This volunteer committee plans and implements a yearly walk for peace.

1989 Evan Fox-Decent

While serving as a volunteer in El Salvador, was injured in a grenade attack. During the period he spent recovering from his injuries, he worked diligently to inform Canadians about conflict in Central America and to urge them to support the struggle for peace.

1990 Karen Ridd

A volunteer with Peace Brigades International in El Salvador, who accompanied church workers, union officials and others at risk from death squads. In 1989, she was arrested by the Treasury Police and refused to be released until her Colombian co-worker was also freed.

1991 Project Peacemakers

An ecumenical coalition that promotes the idea that non-violent peacemaking is an integral part of the Christian faith tradition.

1992 Dr. Lawrence Whytehead

A retired surgeon and active member of the Anglican Church of Canada, who has worked with many community organizations to create understanding of the root causes of injustice and conflict. As an advocate for refugees and those seeking justice, he has never hesitated to challenge authority.

1993 Bob Haverluck

An educator, artist, author, and United Church minister, who has designed and led workshops on peacemaking since the early 1970's. He encourages people to explore their own attitudes and to reflect on those of others as they wrestle with issues of conflict, racism, justice and peace.

1994 Karen Burgoyne

Co-Founder of Building Peace Through Play a project to provide information on non-violent toys and cooperative games, especially through an annual Play Festival. She was a member of a peace delegation from Canada to the Soviet Union in 1988 and worked to build links between citizens of the two countries.

1995 United Nations Association in Canada, Winnipeg Branch

They led Manitobans in observing the 50th Anniversary of the UN and in recognizing Canadians who have supported the goals of the UN over the past half-century. The UNA has been particularly effective in bringing information about peacekeeping and disarmament to children and youth.

1996 Mediation Services

A community resource for Conflict Resolution, committed to peacemaking through the constructive management of conflict. An extensive training program prepares volunteers to use mediation skills in resolving conflict, including victim-offender mediation and conflict resolution for individuals and groups where no criminal charges are involved.

1997 Bev Ridd

Was instrumental in the creation and on-going success of Project Peacemakers that began as the Interchurch Disarmament Project in 1983 before affiliating with Project Ploughshares in Waterloo. Project Peacemakers is a body of people working for peace from a faith perspective. By motivating and educating themselves and their community, Project Peacemakers works for peace and against violence.

1998 Doreen Plowman

Began her work for peace and social justice when still a child by canvassing door-to-door asking for money to help the plight of children affected by the Spanish civil war. She helped organize the first Winnipeg Walk for Peace, was a founding member of the Winnipeg Coordinating Committee for Disarmament, was a key person in the Telebridge program, linking Winnipeg with her sister citizens in Lvov Ukraine, formed the Winnipeg Economic Conversion Committee in 1991. In 1997, she and her husband Don joined with others to form Bridge Builders, to build bridges and foster dialogue between the aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities of Winnipeg.

1999 Cec Muldrew

His work has included serving as past president and executive member of the Manitoba World Federalists, founding member of the Humanist Association of Manitoba, and executive member of the Winnipeg Economic Conversion Committee. As an active member of the United Nations Association, he served as the U.N. Envoy for the Western Canada District Unitarian Churches. He was president of the Manitoba Branch of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms; Cec says that he works for peace because "I want to make this world a better place. I want to leave something special for my grandchildren and the younger generation."

2000 St. Mary's Academy Amnesty International Group

Aneri Gupta, Laura Lussier, Catherine Marquez and Vanessa Young were leaders in St. Mary's Academy Amnesty International organization. They organized two letter-writing campaigns on protecting the rights of children and bringing an end to torture, promoted a Christmas card campaign that delivered over 120 cards to prisoners of conscience world-wide, held a school awareness program on the children of war, postering the school, showing a video and encouraging students to write to governments to urge them to end the use of children as soldiers.

"Think about what it would be like as a child of war. Think about the difference you could make. Look at the world issues around you and get involved!"

-- 2000 recipient Laura Lussier, St. Mary's Academy Amnesty International Group

2001 City of Winnipeg Fire, Paramedic and Police Services

Fire Paramedic Service and the Winnipeg Police Service have demonstrated through their work, educational programs, special projects and community initiatives a commitment to peace and making our communities safer and healthier.

Highly Aware Students Taking Action (HASTA)

A student led, multi-issue social action group from École Kelvin High School. They have demonstrated through their many activities, events and campaigns a commitment to peace, non-violence, social justice, environmental integrity and student empowerment.

2002 Hoanglan Vu

For 3 years, as an executive member of the Maples Collegiate Unity Group she coordinated and led various events to promote tolerance and eradicate barriers, including Unity Day and the "March 4 Unity". She facilitated many workshops about racism and tolerance at various high schools across Manitoba, helped facilitate the Manitoba School Improvement Program and the Manitoba Student Leadership Conference. She has been a magazine illustrator for the Manitoba Vietnamese Women's Association, a peer tutor and a member of the Maples Collegiate Scholarship Committee.

Shahina Siddiqui

For her work since September 11, 2001 in fostering understanding between Muslims and other religious and cultural groups in Winnipeg. To this end, through her own initiative, she has organized and hosted numerous community events and worked tirelessly with the media. Throughout all her work, she has consistently demonstrated admirable grace and has articulated the importance of understanding and harmony in our diverse society.

2003 The Maples Unity Group

A "Rainbow Coalition" of students intent on working against racism and for peace. Now in its ninth year, this group has worked hard to make the students in their school, and the people in Winnipeg aware of the issues. Their activities include: Bringing in speakers to school re anti-racism; Planning and running a Unity Day - speakers, movies, food, etc.; Food Drives; Volunteering at Homeless Shelters and Winnipeg Harvest; and Participating in a National Remembrance Day Ceremony. One of their biggest events is organizing the March for Unity - an annual event since 1995. The March is a peaceful demonstration against Racism and Discrimination and for Peace.

2004 The Human Rights Committee of Kildonan East Collegiate

The Human Rights Committee was designed to create and build awareness leading to action on human rights abuses. In a school with a highly diverse population, the students meet weekly to discuss the type of awareness and action they want to create. The students select the issues, find the resources and make the events happen. They have hosted a multi-cultural fashion show, teacher/student talent shows, created an anti-racism video, assembled Christmas hampers, sponsored children's parties. Their theme is "We are all the same". They believe that by giving - time, talent, information, and money - students increase their awareness and understanding.

Shanise Burgher

As a student at Murdoch MacKay Shanise has sat on the Charitable Ideas Committee for 4 years, has participated in Anti-Racism rally and the International Day to Stop Racism assembly. She is a leader in the Inter-School Christian Fellowship Committee, has volunteered for the Winnipeg Harvest Food Drive, has been part of the Take Pride Winnipeg neighbourhood clean up. She also volunteers at soup kitchens, packs family food hampers at Winnipeg Harvest and has helped clean, repair and rebuild churches in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba.

2005 Eira (Babs) Friesen, C.M., B.Sc.

A champion for women locally, nationally and internationally for over five decades. For 28 of these years she was the driving force behind the YWCA Women's Resource Centre, as a board member of Manitoba Council for International Co-operation and MATCH International, she worked to provide opportunities to women in developing nations. She has also contributed leadership to Elder Abuse Resource Centre and Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba. In recognition of her many achievements, she received the Order of Canada in 2003.

Brian MacKinnon

Taught at an inner city high school, R.B. Russell, for over 23 years and is recognized for his resourcefulness in creating methods and programs that create a positive and stimulating learning environment for students burdened by poverty and all it fuels -- abuse, neglect, drugs, gangs and racism. His mission is not merely to teach literature and literacy, but to help learners find hope for themselves and for their futures.

Ashley Maw

A Senior 3 student at Murdoch MacKay Collegiate who has shown leadership and compassion for others at school and in the community. She was one of the volunteer painters of two Bears on Broadway, a fund-raiser for cancer care and research. At school, she is a member of the Charitable Ideas Committee and Student Voice, which advocates on behalf of students. She serves as Treasurer for her school's Student Action Executive and is the school representative for Blood Services. An enthusiastic, dedicated leader, Ashley Maw has been a volunteer worker at Boo in the Zoo, Teddy Bears' Picnic, Children's Festival and Take Pride. She helps create Christmas hampers for Winnipeg Cheer Board and has raised money for new toys for the hampers.

St. Mary's Academy Amnesty International Student Group

Since winning the YMCA/YWCA Peace Medal in 2000, the group has expanded its letter writing and petitions campaigns promoting peace throughout the world. The group also brought the UNANIMA group to Winnipeg for a seminar on the issue of human trafficking, participated in the Sacred Sisters Vigil at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre to bring attention to the issue of missing, or murdered, Aboriginal women and presented a speaker on landmines at St. Mary's Academy.

2006 Dr. Philip Weiss

An honorary Doctor of Laws at the University of Winnipeg he has made it his life's work to testify to history by bearing personal witness to the devastation of the Holocaust. He is a dedicated member of the Holocaust Awareness Committee and chair of both the Holocaust Memorial Committee and the Holocaust Remembrance Committee. By sharing his own personal experience through regularly scheduled seminars and lectures Dr. Weiss ensures that the Holocaust will never be forgotten. Through his teachings he promotes values such as tolerance, respect and equality for all groups.

River East Collegiate UNESCO Leadership Committee

The River East Collegiate UNESCO Leadership Committee is an organization comprised of students from grade 10 through 12, a staff advisor and support staff. The committee organizes and participates in activities and special events to promote a culture of peace. Through their dedication to local, national and international projects they send a positive message of peace to the student body and the community at large. Their efforts promote various aspects of peace including awareness and action for social justice, caring and cooperation.

2007 Kevin Freedman

Kevin began working at the Salvation Army Booth Centre when he was twenty, and represented the Salvation Army on the Winnipeg Homeless Committee in an advocacy role. As a Peace Brigades International volunteer Kevin works in areas of conflict, to provide protective accompaniment and an international presence for human rights defenders threatened by political violence. Kevin and some friends provided emergency relief to hundreds of victims of a devastating earthquake hit the Jog Jakarta region -using their own money and almost \$7,000 in donations gathered through a website created by Kevin.

"I find inspiration in, and am fascinated by, the human rights defenders that Peace Brigades International works daily with here in Papua, and hope some day I may be able to make an impact the way they do." 2007 recipient Kevin Freedman, Peace Brigades International

Vincent Massey Collegiate Peer Helpers

This group has served as ambassadors, peacemakers, problem solvers and friends. They are an ethnically diverse group of students from all high school grade levels. They organized the first Wear Red Campaign for World Aids Day and also set up a booth during the lunch hour to raise awareness and funds, which were donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. After a fire destroyed the school on the Black River First Nation, the group organized a Book Drive, accepting donations of books to replace those lost in the fire. They also organized the first ever Addictions Awareness Week to be held by the school. They organized a World Vision 30-hour famine with activities including a documentary, a round-table discussion, student presentations, playing the World Game, as well as raising several thousand dollars!

2008 Brian Hull

As head of the Social Studies Department at College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate Brian Hull has been nominated for his tireless efforts to promote peace through education and activism both in his school and in the community. He has put in countless hours over and above his required work load and has taken a lead role in fulfilling the schools mission that commits to helping students develop into "global citizens with inquiring minds and compassionate hearts". Working with the Siloam Mission and Winnipeg Harvest, Brian led groups of student in volunteer opportunities and also coordinated a program to donate educational and hygiene supplies to the Mennonite Central Committee. In addition to his work with his students he and his family have served as a mentor family for refugee families arriving in Winnipeg and he has coordinated several letter writing campaigns raising awareness of such issues as the genocide in the Darfur region.

Gordon Bell "Many Voices, One World" Student Group

The Gordon Bell "Many Voices, One World" is a multi-ethnic group of students that initially met under the guidance of two of their teachers to share their experiences of trauma, personal tragedy or war in their native countries. As the students recognized that the communication that occurred during the process of telling and writing their stories helped break down the pre-conceived notions they held of each other, and the impact their sharing on each other, they discovered the potential this sharing could have in supporting peace. The 30 students planned and developed a storytelling event and made one of their first presentations to Andrew Mynarski School. After their presentation many students had questions and the presentation evolved to allow for outside groups to join in and for a question and answer period. Presentations have been made at the Winnipeg Public Library and at the International Storytelling Festival

2009 Cat Ross

Since childhood, Cat has been a volunteer for a spectrum of causes, both locally and globally: HIV prevention and education and working with people living with AIDS in Kenya, where she also was a volunteer teacher; a UNICEF Global Parent, she supports an entire community of children; she organizes groups of dinner-serving volunteers at Siloam Mission and is involved with Eat So They Can, an annual event providing funds to help end child poverty in Africa. A popular public speaker, she also helps other not-for-profit organizations with their events and volunteer management, works full-time for UNICEF and is a part-time home care provider for two people.

2010 Tanzania 2010

The students of Kildonan-East Collegiate's Tanzania 2010 project were recognized due to their "dedication to the construction of water holding tanks, drinking and hand washing stations, private pit latrines for girls, and a hygiene and water management education program." The group has been together for four years to fundraise for the project in East Africa, working within the broader framework of the NGO Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief. Aside from fundraising, they have learned about global issues such as food security, gender equality, and basic human rights and they have shared this knowledge with their community. As a direct result of their activities, children at Qaru Lambo and Gilala schools in Tanzania, whose students previously drank from sloughs and missed a great deal of school as a result of sickness, now have year round access to fresh drinking water for the next thirty years.

"The experience was life-changing, to see the kids and see the change we were actually making there." *Matthew Stewart, member of Tanzania 2010*

Gay Straight Alliance

The Gay Straight Alliance of Westwood Collegiate was chosen for "their dedication to creating a welcoming, safe and respectful school as ambassadors of acceptance for others." Functioning for two years in Westwood Collegiate the GSA has proved popular amongst students due to its strong message of acceptance, human rights, safety, peace and harmony. They work tirelessly to fulfill their vision of "A school where everyone is welcome, safe and respected." They hosted several events including a rainbow sticker drive for Gay Pride week, creating information pamphlets advocating for gay rights, created a teacher education package for "How to Teach Acceptance", and they inspired 90% of the student body to wear purple on October 20, 2010 to send the message to bring an end to homophobic physical and emotional abuse, among many additional accomplishments. They have also helped other GSA groups form throughout the division and city. Their nominator stated that she has seen a change in the school since the group was formed – the atmosphere at the school is happier and more accepting and tolerant. In particular, the peace medal review committee appreciated the positive, inclusive approach taken by the group to build understanding and commitment among students and teachers.

"A lot of people seem to be more comfortable with being who they are. In the hallways recently I haven't heard one person say 'That's so gay'."

Erin Laforet, founding member of the GSA Alliance at Westwood Collegiate

**Learn more about the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg's
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP
by visiting our blog:
www.winnipegYinternational.blogspot.com**