



**presents...**

***“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”***

***Mahatma Gandhi***

In this brochure, you will find the nominees/recipients of the 2013 *Co-op Service Awards*. This is the eighth year that the awards have been presented by COCHF on behalf of its member co-operatives. With these annual awards, housing co-ops in Waterloo Region, Guelph, and Brantford give recognition to their members and staff who have made a significant contribution to their co-op community or to the greater co-op movement, or made a contribution to the larger community while demonstrating the co-operative principles and values.

Even though the award is presented by COCHF, these individuals have been nominated solely by their own co-ops. This non-competitive award is an opportunity for co-ops to show their appreciation for their nominees valued contribution that has made a difference in their communities.

Congratulations from COCHF to all of the nominees/recipients of the 2013 *Co-op Service Awards*.

## **Recipients of the 2013 Co-op Service Awards**

On the following pages you can read about the co-op members and staff who have been nominated to receive a *Co-op Service Award* in 2013.

**Diane Brown**

**Jackie Cote**

**Tracy Fielding**

**Colleen Griffith**

**Phyllis Halverson**

**Farial Hashimi**

**Lynne Hulley**

**Wendy Relf**

**Colleen Tag-el-Din**

**Monica Tsang**

**Randy Verdone**

**Florine White**



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## **Diane Brown**

### ***Nominated by Emanuel Housing Co-operative, Kitchener***

Emanuel has nominated Diane Brown because she has demonstrated volunteer commitment to make her co-operative community a better place to live. Diane has been involved in many of the co-op's projects to improve our community including cleaning up the grounds, and painting common areas. Thank you, Diane for all of your work and commitment.

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## **Jackie Cote and Tracy Fielding**

### ***Nominated by Beechwood Co-operative Homes, Waterloo***

In April Beechwood Co-op commenced its annual unit inspections with many volunteers assisting, but two members: Jackie Cote and Tracy Fielding were acknowledged in our co-op newsletter in August. The inspections took five months to complete with Jackie and Tracy volunteering their time: morning, noon and evening, to ensure all of the co-op's units were inspected. During that time Jackie inspected 49 units and Tracy inspected 46 units. Their work and dedication enabled the co-op to achieve its goal of maintenance issues being discovered, repairs scheduled and members knowing their role and responsibilities to care and maintain their homes. Their service to their community has been appreciated and should be acknowledged.

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## **Colleen Griffith**

### ***Nominated by Shamrock Co-operative Homes, Waterloo***

Colleen Griffith is a single mother of four who has been living at Shamrock Co-op since 2009. Since moving into Shamrock, she has been very active on the Social Committee. She has put many hours into organizing and shopping for the Committee and has spent many hours getting the best prices for our Summer BBQ and our annual Christmas Dinner. Even after all the time spent shopping, she then has been active to serve food and clean up after the events. Without her relentless hours, our members would not have had these special events. Colleen has now joined the co-op's Board. She has been a valuable asset to the Social Committee and the Board of Directors.

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## **Phyllis Halverson**

***Nominated by Clarion Co-operative Homes, Cambridge***

Phyllis is being nominated for a Service Award because she continually assists with special projects and tasks while also assisting with tasks in the office for short periods if needed. She offers assistance to the co-op's office staff without being requested to do so. She gives 100 % with every task that she commits to - ensuring that she follows each task or project through to completion. Phyllis currently sits on the Board as the Treasurer. She is also on the Personnel Committee and is an after-hours emergency contact person for the co-op.

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## **Farial Hashimi**

***Nominated by Cole Road Community Co-operative, Guelph***

Farial moved into Cole Road Co-op with her family in 2003 when she was 13 years old. In 2011 she was elected to the Board as the youngest Board member, at age 21, in the co-op's history. She was instrumental in planning International Year of Co-ops activities in 2012 as well as social events including Cole Road's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. These events improved the co-op members community spirit and development. Farial's always cheery attitude helps keep everyone feeling young.

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## **Lynne Hulley**

***Nominated by Royal City Housing Co-operative, Guelph***

Lynne Hulley joined Royal City Co-op as the staff Co-ordinator in 2006. It would be hard to imagine the smooth functioning of our co-op homes without Lynne's calm, competent and smiling presence along with her quiet accomplishment of so many essential tasks every day. Lynne makes it all too easy to forget she is there as everything works so well! We are very fortunate to have such a professional and positive staff person to help ensure the well being of our co-op community year after year. The Board joins in extending to Lynne our heartfelt and hearty appreciation for her exemplary service every day. We are glad you are here!

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## **Wendy Relf**

### ***Nominated by Co-operative Staff Association of Central Ontario (CSACO)***

CSACO is proud to nominate Wendy Relf for her outstanding volunteer work. Wendy's friendly personality and caring attitude makes her a pleasure to work with. Over the past year Wendy has taken the lead role in a long awaited special project to hire CSACO's very first administrative contract person. Wendy was an integral part of creating all of the framework of hiring including the job description, the job posting, the contract and being part of the interview process. Wendy makes herself available weekly to meet in person with our administrative contractor and oversees all of the contractors work. If the above was not enough, Wendy also sits on the Board of Directors and holds the position of Corporate Secretary for the association. Wendy brings experience and a fresh perspective to our association and we greatly appreciate all the hard work that she has done for us!

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## **Colleen Tag-el-Din**

### ***Nominated by Highland Homes Co-operative, Cambridge***

Since moving into Highland Homes in 2003, Colleen has been on and off the co-op's board for the past 10 years. Colleen is the on-call emergency contact for co-op and now is the co-op's President. Colleen deserves this award because she answers the large amount of emergencies in closed office hours with a smile and dignity. She's always willing to give a helping hand, and involved in the community. Colleen is a wonderful board President and is available whenever staff or other members give her a ring.

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## **Monica Tsang**

### ***Nominated by Waterloo Cooperative Residence, Waterloo***

Monica has been a truly inspiring member of Waterloo Co-operative Residence (WCRI) and proudly represents the co-operative spirit. Monica is a member of the Board and holds the position of Redevelopment Committee Chair. The Committee oversees the redevelopment of the co-op's property on Philip Street where she provides updates to the Board with meticulously prepared presentations and oral reports.. She has also taken the initiative to educate members about WCRI and co-ops at members' general meetings. Monica has also been involved in the co-op's Social Committee, Yoga Club, Games Club, Cooking Club and Screen-printing Club. Monica's contributions to WCRI and the WXRI Board have been invaluable.

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## **Randy Verdone**

### ***Nominated by New Generation Co-operative Homes, Kitchener***

Randy moved to New Generation in March 2011. Being a single father of two young children has not limited his time spent helping around the co-op. Randy has served on the Board as Vice President and will now be President. He has spent countless hours designing and developing a Youth Committee and a Youth Board by-law. His goal is to get all of the children involved in clean-up days, social activities and give them a feeling of importance. Randy has also been active in membership interviews, inspections and spring and fall clean-ups where Randy will have his hand in just about everything done around the co-op. His outstanding commitment to New Generation is deserving of a Service Award.

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## **Florine White**

### ***Nominated by Changemakers Cooperative Homes, Kitchener***

Florine has been a member of Changemakers since the 1990s. Since that time she has been a dedicated member who keeps clean our lobby, front windows and the hallway on her floor. Florine is always in good spirits and has a ready smile for everyone. Florine can also be seen working outdoors mowing the lawn and working on flower beds. She is always brings food to potlucks and also assists with the interviewing of potential members. Florine's availability and willingness to always lend a hand is why she has been nominated for a Service Award.



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## The Co-operative Principles

The co-operative principles are guidelines by which housing co-operatives put their values into practice.

### **1st Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership**

Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### **2nd Principle: Democratic Member Control**

Co-operatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In housing co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

### **3rd Principle: Member Economic Participation**

Members contribute financially to their co-operative and share in the benefits of membership. A housing co-op does not pay a return on the members' shares and deposits – instead it sets aside reserves for the future and charges the members only what it needs to operate soundly.

### **4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence**

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. They follow the laws that apply to them, and their agreements with governments or other organizations. But, the members control the co-op.

### **5th Principle: Education, Training and Information**

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, directors, and employees so they can play a full role in the life of the co-op. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

### **6th Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives**

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

### **7th Principle: Concern for Community**

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities inside and outside the co-op. They help to improve the quality of life for others and they take care to protect the environment.

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