City of Vaughan's 2025 Volunteer Recognition Awards Recipients (2026 Event)

Johnson Aben

Johnson Aben is receiving this award for his dedicated service to the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan. As a committed volunteer and current Board Director, he supports the community through ground maintenance and fencing, teaches cultural dance to youth and seniors, and assists visiting delegates whenever possible.

Naomi Abitbol

Naomi Abitbol is receiving this award for her committed volunteer service with Hungry North of the GTA. For years, she has helped organize food distribution and prepare customized care packages for families. Her dedication, compassion, and hard work have streamlined processes, improved efficiency, and ensured more families receive vital support. Naomi's commitment has made a meaningful and lasting impact on the community.

Rakhel (Ada) Abramova

Rakhil, also known as Ada, is receiving this award in recognition of her compassionate and consistent support at Mapleglen Residences Social Committee. Ada has been a caring neighbour for over a decade, she organizes social gatherings, provides essential items, and creates meaningful moments for seniors. Ada's kindness, generosity, and ongoing commitment strengthen community connection and greatly enhance residents' quality of life, making her an exceptional and valued volunteer.

Frank Attard

Frank Attard is receiving this award for his committed volunteer service with the Hangin' Out Together Drop-In Program, supporting individuals with special needs. He engages participants, provides free transportation, and assists seniors and neighbours using his service and repair skills. Frank's kindness, generosity, and commitment make him a highly valued member of the community.

Viktoria Avezov

Viktoria Avezov is receiving this award because of her meaningful contributions to Chabad Jewish Centre of Woodbridge. A dedicated and active volunteer, Viktoria distributes holiday packages, warmly encourages community members to participate in programs, and provides hands-on support during services and special projects. Her ongoing involvement and positive spirit help strengthen community connection and inspire a more ethical, meaningful Jewish life.

Harpal Singh Badwal

Harpal Singh Badwal is receiving this award in recognition of his significant contributions to the Vaughan Cricket Club. As Executive Director, he plays a vital role in overseeing daily operations, coordinating leagues, and fostering strong member engagement. Through his ongoing leadership and dedication, Harpal continues to support the Club's growth, organization, and long-term sustainability.

Anna Bortolus

Anna Bortolus is receiving this award in recognition of her leadership with the National Estates Ratepayers Association Board and the Social Committee. Over the past year, she led initiatives supporting the Vaughan Food Bank and continues to champion community outreach. Anna is a positive role model who consistently goes above and beyond.

Alexa Bourck

Alexa Bourck is receiving this award in recognition of her compassionate service with the Sara Elizabeth Centre. She supports participants across programs, including swimming, ensuring a safe, inclusive, and confidence-building environment. Through her patience, kindness, and nurturing spirit, Alexa helps each participant feel valued, supported, and encouraged to shine.

Daniel Canelea

Daniel Canelea is receiving this award in recognition of his long-standing service with the Spelling Bee of Canada. Serving as both a Judge and Pronouncer at regional and national championships, he brings professionalism, fairness, and a deep passion for education. His contributions have strengthened the program, supported young spellers, and inspired fellow volunteers nationwide.

Rosa Cella

Rosa Cella is receiving this award in recognition of her valued contributions to the Woodbridge Horticultural Society. A dedicated member of the organization going on her third decade, Rosa is known as a warm and welcoming presence. She sources plants and prizes, generously shares from her own collection, supports events and workshops, and is a trusted resource whose enthusiasm shines through in all she does.

Donna Ciccolini

Donna Ciccolini is receiving this award in recognition of her devoted service with the St. Margaret Mary Friendship Seniors Club. Always arriving early and staying late, she ensures everything is cleaned, organized, and ready for members to enjoy. With her warm smile, positive attitude, and genuine care, Donna helps create an environment where everyone feels welcomed, supported, and valued.

Joe Colangelo

Joe Colangelo is receiving this award in recognition of his outstanding service to the Vaughan Soccer Club. Serving as a coach, team manager, and Director, he has played a key role in delivering successful HP Showcases that helped athletes secure scholarship opportunities. Joe's dedication, reliability, and commitment exemplify true volunteer spirit and make him a pillar of the Club's success.

Laura Compagni

Laura Compagni is receiving this award in recognition of her leadership and volunteer service with The Jean Tweed Centre. Serving as Chair of the Executive Leadership Volunteer Committee, she helped raise over $65,000 in 2025 to support women and children. A passionate ambassador, Laura's advocacy, generosity, and leadership continue to strengthen awareness, access, and impact within the Vaughan community.

Francesco Cuda

Francesco Cuda is receiving this award in recognition of his exceptional volunteer service with MY MS FAMILY. As the organization's graphic designer and social media expert, his creativity shapes all promotional materials, including the MS flag raised each May at Vaughan City Hall. Embodying courage, strength, and resilience, Francesco consistently puts others first and is a true MS warrior.

Denise Da Ros-Presutti

Denise Da Ros-Presutti is receiving this award in recognition of her distinguished service with Vaughan Public Libraries. Having served as a Board Trustee and Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee, she is widely respected for her strong leadership and deep community knowledge. Denise enriches Board discussions, supports local initiatives, shares innovative ideas, and remains a dedicated advocate and enthusiastic user of the library system.

Mark Di Maulo

Mark Di Maulo is receiving this award in recognition of his impactful leadership and volunteer service with Waves of Changes for Autism. As a dedicated Board Member and Co-Chair of the Events Committee, his optimism, creativity, and hard work have elevated the annual golf event into a significant fundraiser. Mark's commitment and advocacy continue to make a meaningful difference for Vaughan families navigating the challenges of autism.

Amanda Di Meo

Amanda Di Meo is receiving this award in recognition of her dedicated service to Father John Kelly Catholic Elementary School. A committed parent volunteer and former Parent Council Co-Chair, she leads fundraisers, organizes community events, helps secure vital resources, and is deeply valued for her kindness and reliability.

Toufic El Saifi

Toufic El Saifi is receiving this award in recognition of his outstanding volunteer service with the 283 Woodbridge Air Cadets Squadron Sponsoring Committee. Serving as Treasurer, he consistently goes beyond his role by supporting events, daily operations, photography, website management, purchasing, and fundraising. Toufic's reliability, enthusiasm, and commitment to cadet engagement make him an exceptional and invaluable volunteer.

Alexei Erchov

Alexei Erchov is receiving this award in recognition of his impactful volunteer service to the Jewish Russian-speaking community. By generously giving his time during every holiday, he brings joy, warmth, and celebration to countless individuals. Alex's ongoing commitment strengthens community connections and make him a deeply valued and appreciated volunteer throughout the year.

Shari Fronda

Shari Fronda is receiving this award in recognition of her compassionate volunteer service with DANI's adult literacy program. Through calm, patient, and respectful support, she connects meaningfully with adults with disabilities, helping them find their voice and build confidence. Shari's commitment has strengthened participants' communication skills, self-esteem, and sense of inclusion.

Robert (Bob) Geoghegan

Robert Geoghegan is receiving this award in recognition of his dedicated volunteer service with Community & Home Assistance to Seniors' Meals on Wheels program. Delivering meals weekly to many seniors, he supports safe and independent living through friendly check-ins and dependable service. By adapting to schedule changes and mentoring new volunteers, Robert strengthens service delivery and fosters meaningful community connection.

Shemel Gordon

Shemel Gordon is receiving this award in recognition of his impactful volunteer service with the Woodbridge Basketball Association. Serving as Head Coach of the U14 Boys Rep Team and giving

back weekly through the House League program, he demonstrates patience, positivity, and dedication. Shemel develops athletes of all skill levels and makes a lasting impact on every player he mentors.

Olga Gostioujeva

Olga Gostioujeva is receiving this award in recognition of her compassionate volunteer service at Richview Manor. Beginning during the COVID19 pandemic, she brought comfort and joy to seniors through piano performances during a time of isolation. Even after being accepted to medical school abroad, Olga returned home to continue volunteering, demonstrating exceptional dedication, empathy, and service to the senior community.

Frances Greco

Frances Greco is receiving this award in recognition of her longtime volunteer service with Million Dollar Smiles. As a Build Admin Leader, she has supported more than 50 playground projects for children with lifethreatening illnesses and special needs. Her kindness, energy, and dedication also enhanced the annual Halloween gala and Bear Drive, making Frances an inspiring and invaluable volunteer.

Carlo Greco

Carlo Greco is receiving this award in recognition of his compassionate volunteer service at Villa Leonardo Gambin LongTerm Care. For many years, he has brought warmth, kindness, and companionship to residents, remaining steadfast even during the pandemic. By encouraging engagement, supporting café visits, and fostering community connection, Carlo truly embodies the spirit of volunteerism.

Gurinder Jawanda

Gurinder Jawanda is receiving this award in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service at Mackenzie Health. Contributing hundreds of hours across multiple departments, including GPS, HELP, and Emergency, her leadership and compassion consistently shine. Gurinder mentors fellow volunteers, supports new programs, and assists staff within the CVH environment. Her dedication and positive spirit make her a truly cherished member of the team.

Anendra Kumar

Anendra Kumar is receiving this award in recognition of his dedicated volunteer service to the Thornhill Seniors Citizen Club. Born in Fiji and arriving in Canada in 1975, Anendra became an active member after his retirement and now serves as a Board Member. He supports all events with music and warm hospitality, often preparing tea and serving members. Anendra also volunteers at the Richmond Hill Temple, welcoming and guiding visitors and supporting events.

Jojit Labuntog
Jojit Labuntog is receiving this award in recognition of his impactful leadership and volunteer service with Addiction Services Central Ontario. He played a key role on the Board, supporting the Governance Committee during a leadership transition and, as Board Chair, strengthening governance capacity. A committed advocate, Jojit also volunteers with his church and other community organizations throughout the Vaughan community.

Allison Lachaine
Allison Lachaine is receiving this award in recognition of her meaningful contributions to the 1st Maple Scouts Group. As a leader with the Beaver section, she introduces youth to the world of Scouting through joyful, adventurous, and engaging experiences. By channeling the energy of the youngest members into creative and educational activities, Allison's enthusiasm, patience, and guidance make her an invaluable part of the Scouting community.

Milly Lam
Milly Lam is receiving this award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Garnet A. Williams Seniors Club. Elected Secretary shortly after the club's formation, Milly has diligently managed records and memberships, taught line dancing twice a week, and supported countless club activities. Her organization, dedication, and enthusiasm have played a key role in the club's continued growth and success.

Italia Le Pera

Italia Le Pera is receiving this award in recognition of her remarkable service to the Giuseppe Garibaldi Seniors Club. Since the club's founding in 1989, she has dedicated over 35 years to serving in every committee role, consistently demonstrating kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment. Italia's decades of service have made a lasting impact on the club and its members and are truly deserving of recognition.

May Li

May Li is receiving this award in recognition of her meaningful contributions to the community. She serves as Secretary of the Seniors Club at the North Thornhill Community Centre, where she has supported the coordination of annual table tennis tournaments. In addition, as Founder and President of the Carrville Older Adult Club, May leads diverse activity groups and strengthens community connections through inclusive programs and outreach.

Valentino Lisco

Valentino Lisco is receiving this award in recognition of his lasting service to the Pinecrest Seniors Club. For more than 25 years, he has brought patience, kindness, and enthusiasm to his dance

instruction, making Thursday evenings a highlight for members. Always ready to lend a helping hand, Valentino's generosity and dedication make him a truly valued part of the community.

John Losiggio

John Losiggio is receiving this award in recognition of his dedicated service as a Director on the Board of the Weston Downs Ratepayers' Association. He supports major community issues, park design, events, and AGMs, plays a key leadership role, leads by example, and consistently goes the extra mile for Weston Downs.

Nick Mastrandrea

Nick Mastrandrea is receiving this award in recognition of his outstanding community support of Creating Alternatives. As the owner of Aida's Pine Valley Bakery, he has made monthly donations of baked goods that help foster dignity and inclusion for adults with diverse abilities. What began as a short-term gesture has grown into a lasting commitment that continues to uplift individuals and strengthen the Vaughan community.

Lucy Montesano

Lucy Montesano is receiving this award in recognition of her generous volunteer service and lasting community impact, through a nomination from a Councillor's Office. Her dedicated support of St. Peter's Parish, including the Feast of St. Peter BBQs and long-standing involvement in the Passion Plays, brought people together through fellowship and care. Lucy also strengthened ties between faith and education through her service on the San Marco parent council.

Dharmesh Morjaria

Dharmesh Morjaria is receiving this award in recognition of his impactful leadership and volunteer service with Yellow Brick House. Serving on the Board since 2017, including roles as Treasurer, Audit and Chair of Finance, he has strengthened governance, reduced funding risk, and supported lifesaving programs for women and children fleeing domestic violence through shelter, counselling, and housing supports.

Mary Jo Nabuurs

Mary Jo Nabuurs is receiving this award in recognition of her dedicated volunteer service with Ontario School Safety. A founding member who has volunteered weekly over the past several years, she serves as Spokesperson and Officer of Media Relations and Outreach, connecting with diverse communities. Mary Jo is a passionate advocate for clean air in schools and on school buses, using her voice to raise awareness and drive meaningful change.

Barry Nelson
Barry Nelson is receiving this award in recognition of his exceptional volunteer service with the Thornhill Historical Society. Over many years, he has served as Treasurer, past President, and a dedicated heritage advocate, strengthening financial stewardship, securing funding, advancing archival preservation, and championing the protection of historic properties through council advocacy. His leadership in cultural and built heritage has been recognized with the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Nicole Newman

Nicole Newman is receiving this award in recognition of her impactful contributions to literacy and innovation through the Newman Global Initiative. Beginning her volunteer journey at a young age, she has served as Project Lead for the Hummingbird Platform, using AI to support reading comprehension for students and seniors. A natural leader and National Congress Youth Award recipient, Nicole bridges generations and breaks literacy barriers with compassion and creativity.

Vincent Omogunwa

Vincent Omogunwa is receiving this award in recognition of his committed volunteer service with the Redeemed Christian Church of God, House of Miracles. Serving as Deacon and Head of Media, he leads prayer meetings, supports youth initiatives, and contributes with energy, punctuality, and positivity. Vincent's dedication and leadership continue to strengthen and uplift the church community.

Sandra Ornelas
Sandra Ornelas is receiving this award in recognition of over 15 years of volunteer service with Fuerza Latina. As an event assistant volunteer, she consistently contributes her time, energy, and leadership. Sandra's reliability, positivity, and unwavering commitment inspire others and help ensure the success of every event.

Rita Ann O'rourke
Rita Ann O'Rourke is receiving this award in recognition of over ten years of volunteer service with The Vitanova Foundation. Through teaching arts and crafts, she brings warmth, care, and encouragement to residential and day clients, helping create a welcoming and supportive environment that reflects the compassion at the heart of recovery.

Bekir Ozel

Bekir Ozel is receiving this award in recognition of his dedicated volunteer service with Human Endeavour. As Volunteer Coordinator, he carefully organizes and prepares donations with efficiency and reliability. Bekir's energy, punctuality, and strong logistics skills help ensure timely, meaningful support reaches families in need throughout the community every day.

Angela Panacci

Angela Panacci is receiving this award in recognition of her impactful volunteer service with Bridges of Love of York Region. Serving as both Secretary and Treasurer, she provides careful financial oversight, clear reporting, and dependable leadership, helping strengthen the organization's ability to support seniors in aging safely and independently.

Anna Passarelli

Anna Passarelli is receiving this award in recognition of her many years of volunteer service with the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women. As a senior volunteer, she supports crafts, luncheons, classes, and the weekly Seniors' Intercultural Café, fostering connection, creativity, and a welcoming community through her compassion and commitment.

Ramilaben Patel

Ramilaben Patel is receiving this award in recognition of her exceptional volunteer service with Muslim Women of Vaughan. Selected as the 2025 Outstanding Volunteer, she provides hands-on support across programs and events. Ramila's reliability, positivity, and willingness to help wherever needed make her a truly valued member of the organization.

Julie Perl

Julie Perl is receiving this award in recognition of her valued volunteer service with the Circle of Friends – Butterfly Kisses Memorial Release. As a committee member, she helps organize meaningful events that support healing, remembrance, and charitable fundraising through her leadership, energy, and collaborative spirit.

Alessandra Pisani

Alessandra Pisani is receiving this award in recognition of her meaningful volunteer service with the Vaughan International Film Festival. As a junior volunteer graphic designer, she has contributed creative visuals, supported festival events, and brought positivity and reliability to the team, inspiring fellow volunteers through her collaborative spirit and commitment.

Anna Maria Pitera

Anna Maria Pitera is receiving this award in recognition of her many years of volunteer service with the Pine York Seniors Club. As Treasurer, she manages funds, supports bingo and activities, and helps ensure seniors feel comfortable and supported. Anna's reliability, kindness, and dedication make her an invaluable part of the club.

Lynne Punwani

Lynne Punwani is receiving this award in recognition of her dedicated volunteer service with The Probus Club of Vaughan. As Vice President since the club's chartering, she has played a key role in growing membership, organizing social events, and supporting interest groups; bringing energy, leadership, and a strong sense of community.

Katrina Angela Yeung Racco

Katrina Angela Yeung Racco is receiving this award in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service with the Vaughan International Music Festival. Katrina began her journey as a dedicated volunteer, enhancing the foundation's visibility through strategic digital and social media outreach. Drawing on her experience working with artists, she connected emerging talent with performance opportunities. Her commitment and leadership led to her promotion to Vice President, Treasurer, and Director of Operations; embodying VIMF's mission to empower future leaders.

Samantha Rakovsky

Samantha Rakovsky is receiving this award in recognition of her many years of dedicated volunteer service with Clarico Place of York Region. A Board member for nearly a decade and current Vice Chair, she has provided strong financial guidance through her CPA expertise, including during COVID-19. A committed philanthropist, Samantha sponsors events, inspires others to give, and serves as an outstanding ambassador for Clarico Place.

Tina Riserbato

Tina Riserbato is receiving this award in recognition of her exceptional volunteer service with the Rotary Club of Woodbridge. For many years, she served as Managing Cash Treasurer for Ribfest events, donating her time and expertise. Her strong accounting knowledge ensured accountability and compliance. Tina is also an active volunteer at Immaculate Conception Church.

Joan Roshanian

Joan Roshanian is receiving this award in recognition of her committed volunteer service as a Community Ambassador with Catholic Community Services of York Region's Counselling Senior Program. Through initiatives such as the Lovely Blanket Project and Chai and Chat, Joan fosters connection, engagement, and belonging. Her warmth and commitment have made a meaningful impact.

Lynne Sanders

Lynne Sanders is receiving this award in recognition of over 10 years of volunteer service with the Philippine Heritage Band. Since 2011, she has taken on numerous leadership and support roles,

bringing diligence, positivity, and strong interpersonal skills that strengthen the band's operations and community spirit.

Bessie Skotanis

Bessie Skotanis is receiving this award in recognition of her many years of dedicated volunteer service with the Woodbridge Macedonian Seniors Club. A long-time board member, she is known for welcoming seniors with warmth, refreshments, and conversation, helping members feel valued, included, and connected within the club.

Jonathan Speranza

Jonathan Speranza is receiving this award in recognition of his dedicated volunteer service with All About Vaughan. As an Artist Liaison since 2019, he welcomes performers, supports their travel and stay, and serves as a trusted ambassador, ensuring artists feel supported and events run smoothly from arrival to departure.

Grace Stea

Grace Stea is receiving this award in recognition of her dedicated volunteer service at Villa Colombo Vaughan. Since joining the organization, she has supported special events, assisted residents, and worked closely with recreation staff. Going well beyond her role, Grace consistently offers empathy, kindness, and reliability, including support during outbreaks and last-minute needs. Her ongoing commitment makes her a constant source of light in the community.

Stuart Sugar

Stuart Sugar is receiving this award in recognition of his dedicated volunteer service with Shomrim Toronto. As Manager of Operations, he is known for his reliability, leadership, and calm under pressure, consistently going above and beyond to support both the team and the broader community through his professionalism and commitment.

Melania Szeto

Melania Szeto is receiving this award in recognition of her ongoing volunteer service at the Maple Health Centre. As a gift shop volunteer, she warmly welcomes residents and visitors, creating a friendly and inviting space. Her kindness, reliability, and genuine care make a meaningful difference for everyone she serves.

Ernest Tan

Ernest Tan is receiving this award in recognition of his volunteer service with the First Chinese Senior Association of Vaughan. As Line Dance Chief Instructor, he has revitalized the program by building a strong team, mentoring instructors, and creating an engaging, welcoming environment that keeps seniors active and connected

Pradeep Tandon

Pradeep Tandon is receiving this award in recognition of his committed volunteer service as Secretary of the Martingrove Older Adult Club. He is multilingual and highly organized, supporting members, managing communications, and coordinating club activities with professionalism, empathy, and care, making him a valued asset to the organization.

Chitra Thurairajaa

Chitra Thurairajaa is receiving this award in recognition of her dedicated volunteer service with the Maple Pioneers Italian Seniors Club. As a board member, she supports membership applications, maintains records, manages permits, and is well regarded for her friendly, collaborative approach that supports the club's programs and community.

Basir Tiraei

Basir Tiraei is receiving this award in recognition of his long-standing volunteer service with the Islamic Society of Vaughan, including leadership as Director of Facilities. Through his dedication to building upkeep, events, and Ramadan support, Basir's reliability, humility, and commitment have made a lasting impact on the community.

Miguel Vargas

Miguel Vargas is receiving this award in recognition of his volunteer service with Blue Veil Charity. Through his support as a personal support worker and by sharing his talents in dance and drama, Miguel consistently brings joy, energy, and compassion to participants and events, always ready to lend a helping hand.

Lida Vuaran

Lida Vuaran is receiving this award in recognition of her years of dedicated volunteer service with Famee Furlane Toronto. A dedicated and dependable committee member, she supports events wherever needed. Thanks to Lida's care and commitment, traditions like Santa's sleigh continue to bring joy to children each year.

Cong Jian Xie

Cong Jian Xie is receiving this award in recognition of her many years of volunteer service as Founder and Vice Chair of the Kleinburg Dance Wellness Group. She secured space for programs, opened her home for practices, led activities, and organized meals and support during a member's illness care.