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**For immediate release**

## **News Release**

### **Volunteer Calgary's Annual Leadership Awards Winners Announced Last Night**

(Calgary, AB – May 2, 2008) This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year Volunteer Calgary has honoured volunteerism within the community during National Volunteer Week. Every year Volunteer Calgary extends an invitation to all Calgarians to nominate special volunteers in a variety of different categories. This year the gala event was held Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Calgary Stampede in the beautiful Palomino dining room with approximately 600 people attending the prestigious event. The gala featured local talent, a gourmet meal and of course an inspiring awards ceremony. As the volunteer capital of Canada, Calgarians had a lot to celebrate.

“This is our 12th annual event and each time I find myself being truly inspired by the dedication and commitment of the volunteers in Calgary.” says Mario Siciliano, President and CEO of Volunteer Calgary.

Sue Lee, Senior Vice President, Human Resources and Communications from Suncor Energy says, “Suncor Energy is proud to support Volunteer Calgary and the Leadership awards and we are especially pleased to be part of a community that gathers annually to honour the contributions of individuals and organizations who make a difference through volunteering.”

The winners this year are as follows: Steve Allan for the Heart of Calgary Award; Brenda Couture for the Leadership in Volunteer Management Award;

Emily Lundy, Sahar Ibrahim, Jane Wu for the Leaders of Tomorrow Awards; Suitcase Interactive, Convergent Technologies and Stikeman Elliot LLP for the Leaders in Business Awards; The Canadian Institute for the Blind's (CNIB) Fragrant Garden for the Leader in Community Award; Jack Pidgeon for the Volunteer in Profile Award; the Bannerman and Clark families for the Volunteer Family Award; and finally Missy for the Volunteer Animal Award.

According to Paula Bannerman, 2008 Volunteer Calgary Leadership Award Recipient, "Our family believes when much has been given to us, much is expected and we have been blessed to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. We want to thank Calgarians for their support over 26 years and we are honored to receive this award. We are truly humbled. Thank you Calgary."

Volunteer Calgary has played a key role in the development of volunteerism in Calgary for over 50 years. Its mission is to engage more people, more effectively, to volunteer in the community. Through its services and programs, it has enhanced the ability of more than 450 non-profit member organizations to manage volunteers and has linked thousands of Calgarians with unique volunteer opportunities. Volunteer Calgary is built upon: promoting the value of volunteering, connecting people to volunteer opportunities, strengthening the ability of the non-profit sector, groups and individuals to support volunteers; and providing leadership on issues relating to volunteerism.

For more information on the awards or for videos of the event and award recipients go to [www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca](http://www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca).

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