



For Immediate Release:

Winner of the Annual Community Spirit Awards - Volunteer category - Roger Balech, is given new Legacy Fund in his name, courtesy of The Oakville Community Foundation.

Oakville, Ont., June 10, 2019 - Last Thursday night, Oakville celebrated the invaluable contributions made by volunteers at the 18th Annual Community Spirit Awards held at the Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre.

The Oakville Community Foundation sponsored the Individual Volunteer Award, which recognizes, thanks and acknowledges the volunteer contributions of an Oakville Individual.

Roger Balech, the recipient of the award is a teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School. Mr. Balech has been pivotal in running their robotics team, as well as the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, or math) and robotics initiatives run through the Oakville Public Library.

Through this award, The Foundation is providing a \$2,500 Endowment Fund (a legacy) in his chosen name that will be used to support local charity programs in Oakville.

The award was presented by The Foundation's new Board Chair, Brian Hanna. "I'm thrilled that Mr. Balech is being recognized for all his dedication and hard-work," said Hanna. "This award is an affirmation to all the work he has done for the Oakville community, and all the work he will no doubt do in the future."

The Foundation would like to congratulate all of the 2019 Spirit Award Recipients;

- **Judith Elaine Hung and Patrick Lee**, Founders of Project Autism, for the Access Award sponsored by Access Abilities
- **Amy McKenzie**, Oakville Improv, for the Arts Award sponsored by the Oakville Beaver
- **Food for Life Volunteer Group at 271 Kerr Street**, Group Volunteer Award sponsored by FirstOntario Credit Union

- **Friendship Luncheon Volunteer Team**, Group Volunteer Award sponsored by FirstOntario Credit Union
- **Marianne Hawthorne**, Heritage Award sponsored by Genworth Financial Canada
- **Roger Balech**, Individual Volunteer Award sponsored by the Oakville Community Foundation
- **Janet Bedford**, posthumously for the Senior Award sponsored by Chartwell Waterford Retirement Residence
- **Youssef Gendy**, Youth Award sponsored by RBC Royal Bank

The Foundation will be meeting with Mr. Balech in order to assist him in the naming, purpose and direction of the annual grants from this new fund.

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About the Foundation: The Oakville Community Foundation (The Foundation) is the largest charitable asset in the Town of Oakville dedicated to building community through philanthropy. As of its' 25th year, The Foundation has distributed over \$40 million to support charitable activities.

For Media Contact:

Sarah McPherson

Director of Philanthropy & Communications

sarah@theocf.org | 905-844-3562 ext 302