



News Release

May 15, 2012

12th Annual *Reach for Success* Youth Recognition Awards Honour Achievements of Close to 100 Deserving Young People

*"Today I'm gonna try and change the world
Gonna take it one day at a time
I've made my resolution
I've opened up my eyes
Today I'm gonna try and change the world"*

"Today I'm Gonna Try and Change the World" lyrics as sung by Johnny Reid

This excerpt from the song "Today I'm Gonna Try and Change the World" is a fitting theme for the 12th Annual Reach for Success Youth Recognition Awards hosted by the Quinte Children's Foundation in partnership with Highland Shores Children's Aid, Mohawk Family Services and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte. The event, which takes place at **7:00 p.m. on May 22nd** at the Empire Theatre, will honour the achievements of close to 100 young people.

The evening will be a celebration that will feature music and dance, as well as traditional Mohawk performances. Sixty youth from Highland Shores Children's Aid and the Mohawk Territory, will be receiving \$50 *Youth Recognition Awards* in categories such as Academic Achievement, Sports and Recreation, the Arts, Volunteerism, Personal Best and Culture & Heritage. A further thirty youth, who plan to attend College or University in the coming year, will be awarded over \$50,000 in *Reach for Success Bursaries* in order to assist them with their post secondary education.

"On this night, we celebrate the achievements of children and youth from our community whose lives have not been an easy journey. One of the programs Quinte Children's Foundation supports is 'Reach for Success'. This program encourages these young people to continue their education. On behalf of Quinte Children's Foundation Board of Directors, staff and our community partners, we are proud and honoured to help celebrate their achievements by giving these amazing individuals Youth Awards and Bursaries," said Connie Reid, Executive Director of Quinte Children's Foundation.

Page 2 of 2

Nicole Broderick, Children's Services Supervisor for Highland Shores Children's Aid and Chair of the event commented that, "The evening is a chance to celebrate the success of our children and youth and show them how proud we are of their accomplishments. We want these young people to continue to pursue their dreams and we hope that this night might be the beginning of that journey."

The Society's focus on continuing education for young people has paid off. The support and tools offered to youth have helped many of them succeed with their studies and go on to post secondary education.

Brandi Hildebrand, the Program Manager of Mohawk Family Services on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, indicated that "The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and Mohawk Family Services are very proud to support this event. Our youth work very hard and the demands that we often place on them are put in place to help them be successful in life, including academically. However, it is very important that we also recognize that each youth's potential and contributions are different. Recognition that the contributions that they make can change the world, is a very special opportunity."

Thanks to the vision and hard work of Mohawk Family Services, the contributions of the Quinte Children's Foundation and the staff at Highland Shores Children's Aid, the awards are a highlight of the year and are eagerly anticipated. Nicole Broderick added, "We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Quinte Children's Foundation and their caring donors who have made this event possible for the past 12 years. They continue to make a very positive impact on the lives of many young people in our community."

-30-

For additional information contact:

Nicole Broderick, Chair
2012 Youth Recognition Awards
Highland Shores Children's Aid
613-965-6261, ext. 4015

Connie Reid
Executive Director
Quinte Children's Foundation
613-962-9292

Brandi Hildebrand
Program Manager
Mohawk Family Services
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory
613-967-0122