## City of Vaughan – 2019 Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Nominee Write-up
Peter Anthony	Aluzzo	La Rocca Memorial Society	Peter Anthony Aluzzo is receiving this award for his volunteerism with La Rocca Memorial Society. Peter has served as Chair of the Bursary Award Selection Committee for approximately a decade. He has been instrumental in leading the process to promote, review, and issue bursaries to worthy Vaughan youths. A school teacher by training, Peter has brought a degree of rigour to the bursary program which has served to enhance its credibility, reputation and desirability. Peter is most deserving of this award for a job well done.
Sofia	Bellisario	Youth Bocce Canada	Sofia Bellisario is a recipient of this award for her volunteer work with Youth Bocce Canada. Since 2019, Sofia has dedicated her time and efforts by assisting with special events including various bocce tournaments, banquets and holiday celebrations as well as lending a helping hand with the York Catholic District School Board. Sofia has committed herself to raising awareness of respect, acceptance, inclusion and human dignity for individuals with special needs living in Vaughan and the Greater Toronto Area.
Louie	Chiaino	Hospice Vaughan	Louie Chiaino is receiving this award for his volunteerism with Hospice Vaughan. Louie has volunteered for over four years with the organization and serves as Secretary to the Board of Directors, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, sits on the Capital Campaign Initiative and has co-chaired several galas. For the past five years, Louie has also hosted the annual Halloween Spooktacular, successfully raising funds exceeding \$50,000. A highly devoted and passionate volunteer, Louie has a personal connection with Hospice Vaughan and deeply understands the impact hospice care has on families.
Anna	Chin	First Chinese Senior Association of Vaughan	Anna Chin is a recipient of this award for her volunteer work with the First Chinese Senior Association of Vaughan. Having joined the Association in 2014, Anna has volunteered in all event functions and activities. A talented photographer and artist, she has organized attractive exhibit spaces and produced very impressive photographs allowing seniors to commemorate very special memories. Anna's work has been invaluable in helping the organization share its successes both on their website and in their photo library. Her colleagues are very gracious for her contribution.

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Gordon	Combdon	Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region	Gordon Combdon is receiving this award for his volunteerism with the Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region. Since the launch of the Vaughan Support for Depression Group, Gord has dedicated his time to helping the group and mentoring new volunteers. His goal is to ensure that each individual receives the assistance they need while creating positive and lasting experiences. As a volunteer who has first-hand experience of living with depression, Gord exemplifies the characteristics of a true supporter and is an advocate in raising awareness that mental illness does not define the capabilities of a person, both in being active and being a contributing member of society.
Vittorio	Cristini	Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan	Vittorio Cristini is a recipient of this award for his volunteer work with the Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan. A youth volunteer for over three years, Vittorio has assisted in raising funds for the renovation of the Patricia Kemp Community Centre through his participation in the Little Prince contest. He has dedicated his time to many initiatives within the association including assisting with the re-opening of Patricia Kemp Community Centre as well as serving as a member of the working committee for the Filipino Day in Vaughan and Vaughan Fiesta Extravaganza events. Vittorio is known for his exemplary volunteer work and is most deserving of this award.
Falco	Di Fiore	All About Vaughan	Falco Di Fiore is receiving this award for his volunteer work with All About Vaughan. For three years, Falco has provided assistance in various capacities and has demonstrated a hard work ethic, friendly demeanor and reliable nature, making him a valuable team player. He has shared his time and effort at many events such as The Burger Fest, 90's Nostalgia Concert, Mas Festival, Cocktails in the Park, Vaughan Pizza Fest, and Legends of Italia. His role included assisting with refreshments, organizing games and activities and ensuring the grounds are kept clean and safe. Falco is always on time, very diligent in his duties, and an overall exemplary volunteer.
Ashur	Duzan	Islamic Society of Vaughan	Ashur Duzan is a recipient of this award for his volunteerism with the Islamic Society of Vaughan for the past five years. Through his inspiration, dedication and fundraising efforts, the Islamic Society of Vaughan was able to acquire a Masjid, a place of worship, in Vaughan. During the month of Ramadan, he leads evening prayers and also regularly teaches Islamic values, manners and etiquette. Ashur has helped Muslims living in Vaughan achieve an important milestone and has contributed to building a strong sense of belonging in our progressive, inclusive, diverse and beautiful City.

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Grace	Esposito	Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women	Grace Esposito is receiving this award for her volunteer work with the Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women. An active volunteer since 2015, Grace has volunteered at monthly senior lunches and is a member of the Senior Craft Class, where she shares her talents in making beautiful crochet items. During these current unprecedented times, she leads the line dancing classes on Facebook Live bringing much enjoyment to the seniors who tune in to each session. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication, continually using her skills and talents to give back to the community. Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women is grateful to have a dedicated volunteer like Grace on their team.
Debbie	Estey	Woodbridge Horticultural Society	Debbie Estey is a recipient of this award for her volunteerism with the Woodbridge Horticultural Society. A member for over 12 years, and acting member of the executive committee in the role of Director for the past 10 years, Debbie has been very active in the planning of community activities and has served as convener for the scheduling of judges at monthly flower shows. She has also assisted with many events including the beautification of Woodbridge Avenue bridge, preparing swags for the (Woodbridge) Christmas Village, preparing floral arrangements for the annual meeting, as well as participating in clean ups at the historic Wallace House and Armstrong Park. A dedicated volunteer, Debbie has been a consistent contributor to the success of the Woodbridge Horticultural Society.
Diana	Fiorucci	St. Gabriel Catholic School	Diana Fiorucci is receiving this award for her volunteer work with St. Gabriel Catholic School. For the past eight years, Diana has dedicated countless hours supporting the school and its important initiatives serving to better the lives of its students. In particular, she has demonstrated a passion in supporting Community Homeless functions, as well as established a snack program for the children. An advocate in promoting healthy learning, she has been a strong supporter of the Vaughan Food Bank. Diana has truly exemplified the tenets of a "well balanced" community volunteer.
Kadeem	Forde	Youth Assisting Youth	Kadeem Forde is a recipient of this award for his volunteerism with Youth Assisting Youth. A one-on-one peer mentor since 2012, Kadeem has spent three hours per week with his mentee for the past eight years, equating to more than 1,000 hours of outstanding volunteer service. Having exceeded expectations in his role as volunteer mentor, Kadeem has assisted in positively supporting his mentee through numerous challenging experiences, obstacles and barriers. He is indeed a deserving volunteer of this award.

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Nancy	Friedman	Circle of Care	Nancy Friedman is receiving this award for her volunteer work since 2017 with Circle of Care. In her role within the organization, Nancy visits with clients who are on their end of life journey, providing companionship and caregiver relief. She also provides monthly peer support to fellow volunteers and has started facilitating a wellness workshop for new hospice volunteers. Nancy's dedication to Circle of Care clients, complemented by her in-depth understanding of hospice and palliative care, defines her as a wonderful volunteer and truly deserving of this award.
George	Giancos	Woodbridge Macedonian Seniors Club	George Giancos is a recipient of this award for his volunteerism with the Woodbridge Macedonian Seniors Club. For more than seven years, George has assisted the club members with serving refreshments during their gatherings, and offering accompaniment and friendship to members, helping to alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation. A friendly and polite volunteer, his personality is very welcoming and truly makes him deserving of this award.
Rhonda	Greenberg	Reena	Rhonda Greenberg is receiving this award for her many years of volunteer work with Reena. For the past ten years, Rhonda has proven to be an exemplary team player who is always flexible and dependable. She is often relied upon to assist in urgent administrative tasks and requests that are required within the same day. Always willing to take on new roles, she often shares her time and efforts within different departments of the organization. Reena is very fortunate to have a dedicated, warm and friendly volunteer on their team.
Deanne	Kelleher	283 Woodbridge Air Cadet Squadron	Deanne Kelleher is a recipient of this award for her volunteer work with the 283 Woodbridge Air Cadet Squadron. For the past two years, Deanne has dedicated her time, effort and expertise in promoting and carrying out the many activities and programs for the Squadron. As Chairperson of the Squadron Support Committee, she has overseen the fundraising initiatives as well as coordinated the squadron supplies, equipment procurement, and cadet transportation and facilities. Thanks to Deanne's hard work and dedication, the cadets are able to enjoy and learn from the many activities available such as flying, cultural trips, marksmanship training and much more.

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Anthony	Lewis	Mackenzie Health Hospital	Anthony (Tony) Lewis is receiving this award for his volunteer work with Mackenzie Health Hospital. Since 2015, Tony has volunteered over 1500 hours by welcoming patients' family members, Community Faith Leaders and staff to the Intensive Care Unit. He assists to alleviate the anxieties experienced by visitors, and his comforting and compassionate nature helps families become more comfortable and at ease in a hospital environment. Over the years he has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills by training and mentoring new volunteers as well as sharing his experiences and viewpoints, which have been of tremendous value to the organization, visitors and patients. Tony is a humble man and he continues to create a warm, caring and comforting environment for all the lives he touches.
Mary	Longarini	Waves of Changes for Autism	Mary Longarini is a recipient of this award for her dedicated volunteer work with Waves of Changes for Autism. As a member of the Executive Committee, she has a passion for giving back to the community and believes that offering direct assistance to families will have a meaningful and lasting impact in a child's life affected with Autism. Mary works tirelessly in managing the yearly financials and budgets, as well as overseeing all gala sponsorships and fundraising results. Her efforts and expertise have ensured that the charity is transparent and managed with integrity. She has committed countless hours raising awareness and funds for the organization, as well as bringing guests to events so they may learn more about the incredible work of the charity. Mary truly embodies all that is good in humanity and Waves of Changes for Autism is 'fiercely proud' to have her a part of their team.
Adam	Malick	1st Woodbridge Scouts Canada	Dr. Adam Malick is receiving this award for his volunteer work with the 1st Woodbridge Scouts Canada. As Volunteer Leader for more than four years in the North Beaver and Cubs section, Adam gives generously of his time, energy and skills, all for the benefit of the youth members. In providing safe and fun opportunities for youth to take part in, as well as introducing new and challenging activities, members are encouraged and supported in experiencing a strong and positive sense of being, self-worth, and individual growth, carrying on their experience by giving back to the community.

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Elda	Maraldo	Famee Furlane Toronto	Elda Maraldo is a recipient of this award for her volunteerism with Famee Furlane Toronto. Elda continues to bring to fruition her lifelong passion for keeping the Furlane culture and traditions alive. Her varying interests and determination led to her instrumental role in the formation of the first women's choir. In 2005, the Famee Furlane Toronto Board of Directors approved her proposal of creating a women's group focusing on Friulan culture and traditions. Today the group remains vibrant and strong, while supporting local charities. Elda's dedication has led to the success of many events including La Festa Della Donna and La Befana. She has spearheaded groups on traditional Furlane Easter Egg decorating, written poetry and plays, and has performed and volunteered her talents and services to a great number of auxiliary activities. Not quite fulfilled with her many accomplishments, Elda is a regular volunteer at Villa Leonardo Gambin - the Friuli Campus long term care facility. One might say Elda is a "modern day Pied Piper - magically inspiring folks to get involved and have fun!"
Summer	Markle	Million Dollar Smiles	Summer Markle is receiving this award for her volunteer work for over five years with Million Dollar Smiles. As a Build Leader during the Spring / Summer months, Summer would assist with building playgrounds for children dealing with life threatening illnesses. Her incredible dedication to the organization is inspirational, as she can always be counted on to assist when needed. Summer can often be found helping her team and teaching others of the importance of giving back. Exhibiting an amazing passion and drive, Summer is much loved by all whose lives she has touched.
Frank	Mastrogiacomo	Vaughan Soccer Club	Frank Mastrogiacomo is receiving this award for his volunteer work with the Vaughan Soccer Club. Since 2012, Frank has served as a competitive coach contributing much of his time and skills to the club's success. During this time, he was also elected as a Vaughan Soccer Director at Large and held this position until 2016. Presently, he is the Competitive Girls Vice President. He has been a pillar for the club and dedicates his time and effort freely. An exceptional role model, Frank has consistently gone far above and beyond in his volunteerism.

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Sarah	McManaman	Blue Veil Charity/Sara Elizabeth Centre	Sarah McManaman is a recipient of this award for her volunteerism with the Blue Veil Charity/Sara Elizabeth Centre. Over the past year and a half, Sarah has touched and enriched the lives of those who are vulnerable or less able to help themselves. In her role as Support Service Worker, Sarah's on-going initiative, leadership and dedication continues to assist youth in developing life skills and discovering artistic and social abilities. Her expertise in engaging in creative and artistic play-based activities has had a positive impact in reducing the fear often faced by youth participants in transitioning into a new environment. Role modelling as a teacher, supervisor and facilitator, Sarah has demonstrated her creativity and acceptance in her voluntary service. No task is too big, small, or menial. She is testimony to what an outstanding volunteer is meant to be.
Jessima	Murray	Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association (TACCA)	Jessima Murray is receiving this award for her volunteer work with the Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association (TACCA). A volunteer for several years, Jessima has played a leading role in every aspect of the organization from bus trips to Black Historical sites, Culture Days Celebration, York Regional Police Holiday in the Village and the International Day for Racism. With the inauguration of the Steel Band Orchestra, Jessima was responsible for playing the leading role in the orchestra's performance. Since 1970, her volunteerism for the betterment of the community also extends to her role as Black Heritage Program Secretary, Chairperson for the Social Committee of the Black Business and Professional Association, and during her residence in Ottawa for four years, Secretary for the Barbados Ottawa Association. Jessima had also published a book in 2012 entitled "The Son of Barbados". Always available to give a helping hand, her enthusiasm never wanes.
Felix	Nomerovsky	Youth Advisory Committee of Canada	Felix Nomerovsky is a recipient of this award for his volunteer work with the Youth Advisory Committee of Canada, an organization that serves to provide a platform for youth to share their voice by creating and sending opinions of students with varying political views. Now in its second year, Felix, the Founder of the Committee, has successfully utilized his knowledge and expertise in extracurricular involvement to expand the Youth Advisory Committee of Canada to a 300-member student club, active not only in Vaughan, but also throughout Canada.

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Annalisa	Pantusa-Macri	Woof-a-Palooza	Annalisa Pantusa-Macri is receiving this award for her volunteer work as an event emcee and entertainment coordinator with Woof-a-Palooza. Since Annalisa's first attendance at the inaugural year of Woof-A-Palooza in 2016, it was clear that she wanted to be involved in the growth of the festival. An entrepreneur herself, her knowledge and experience complemented the organization, and her energy and enthusiasm has always shined through at Woof-A-Palooza annual festivals, dog yogaled sessions, woof team meetings, Howl'iday Pet Market, and many other events. Annalisa is a true shining example of what a Woof-A-Palooza volunteer should embody - a love and passion for animals, a courteous and respectful nature, and a willingness to go above and beyond. Her dedication to the team is "WOOF-TASTIC!".
Daniella	Panza	Circle of Friends - Butterfly Kisses Memorial Release	Daniella Panza is a recipient of this award for her volunteer work since 2016 with the Circle of Friends - Butterfly Kisses Memorial Release. As a committee member, Daniella assists with organizing the butterfly event which brings the community together to grieve the loss of loved ones, and also offers an opportunity to raise money and donate to various charities within the Vaughan community. Daniella is a reliable volunteer who is dedicated to giving back to the community and the Circle of Friends are very happy to have her as a part of the team!
Jitendra	Parikh	Thornhill Senior Citizens' Club	Jitendra Parikh is receiving this award for his volunteer work with the Thornhill Senior Citizens' Club. Since 2013, Jitendra has served on the Board of Directors assisting with computer projects including communicating with club members via emails and posting of upcoming events. He is also instrumental in the recruitment of new volunteers and the coordination of daily programs. Jitendra's dedication and unwavering commitment is valued by all members and has proven immeasurable to the club's success.
Maria Manuella	Pimentel	Mapleglen Seniors Club	Maria Manuella Pimentel is receiving this award for her dedicated volunteer work with the Mapleglen Seniors Club. Since 2013, Maria Manuella has been assisting with many projects and initiatives as well as helping to organize social events from start to finish. She is always prepared and willing to go the extra mile when completing her tasks and is always lending a helping hand in the kitchen and serving dinner to seniors. A very compassionate, respectful and humble individual, Maria Manuella is much appreciated and loved by all whose lives she has touched and is deserving of this special recognition.

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Yuval	Popper	Chabad Flamingo	Yuval Popper is a recipient of this award for his volunteer work with Chabad Flamingo. Yuval volunteers at the community synagogue and leads the Security Committee. Attending throughout the week, Yuval and his colleagues discuss various measures that can be undertaken to enhance safety and security. Each Saturday, Yuval attends at the synagogue early to ensure that everything is running properly. A dedicated volunteer, he takes his position very seriously and is most deserving of this award.
lbeth	Ramos Ayala	Yellow Brick House	Ibeth Ramos Ayala is receiving this award for her volunteerism with Yellow Brick House. Since June 2016, she has taken on many roles from administrative to representing the organization within the community. Ibeth is a dynamic public speaker and over the past three-and-a-half years, on numerous occasions, she has addressed groups of people about domestic violence and Yellow Brick House services. A survivor of domestic violence herself, she is passionate about using her life experience to support other survivors as they move forward in their journey to a life free of violence. Ibeth is selfless and very giving with her time and knowledge - a truly outstanding volunteer.
Flora	Ricci	St. Gabriel Child Care Centres	Flora Ricci is a recipient of this award for her volunteer work with St. Gabriel Child Care Centres. A driving force at the Centre, she always wears the biggest of smiles and has a heart of gold. Flora has served on the Volunteer Parent Board of Directors for seven years and has been an indispensable member acting as the Centres' treasurer. She has never missed a meeting and her presentation of the Centre's financial picture and forecast is always thorough, a task which takes incredible dedication and commitment. Along with being bright and giving, she is also kind and compassionate. The Centre will forever be grateful for the time and energy Flora has invested in supporting the community.
Carmela	Romano	Friends of Vitanova	Carmela Romano is receiving this award for her volunteerism with the Friends of Vitanova. For several years, she has progressed from holding the position of Co-Chair, and more recently Chair, for the organization's annual fundraising gala, the Celebration of Life. Carmela is known among those around her as a well-organized, level-headed, and responsible volunteer. Friends of Vitanova is very fortunate to have her on their team and describe her as a "pleasure to work with on so many fronts".

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Annie	Rosenblum	Friendship Circle	Annie Rosenblum is a recipient of this award for her volunteer work over the past three years with Friendship Circle. A devoted, warm and responsible volunteer, Annie goes above and beyond in providing love and friendship to a special need's child and his siblings. Her efforts have had a tremendous and positive impact on her cherished friend's social life and the entire family whose lives she has profoundly touched. Always available to assist anyone in need, Annie's kindness and constant support is much appreciated.
Mary	Savaglio	Maple Italo Canadian Seniors Club	Mary Savaglio is a recipient of this award for her volunteer work with the Maple Italo Canadian Seniors Club. Having joined the seniors' bowling program ten years ago, Mary has served as the program's coordinator for the past four years, overseeing the registration process, ensuring that seniors are aware of the program, and encouraging fair play and fun for all. During the course of the 32-week program, Mary organized special treats and events at Christmas, Valentine's Day and other special celebrations. She is an exceptionally dedicated and committed volunteer, continually demonstrating a capacity to create an environment where everyone feels welcomed and valued.
Dianne	Scaturchio	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 414	Dianne Scaturchio is receiving this award for her volunteerism with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 414. Dianne has been an active member since 1979 and works tirelessly for the branch and community. As Subject Matter Expert, she supports all committees within the branch, providing her expertise to new members with roles referencing various portfolios. Her dedication to the Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Service, including the annual Beechwood Cemetery Service, is always outstanding. Her support to the Royal Canadian Legion and the Ontario District is an asset to the entire organization.
Michele	Searl	York Regional Police Youth Band	Michele Searl is receiving this award for her volunteer work with the York Regional Police Youth Band. Since 2015, Michele has served as the Administrator for the York Regional Police Youth band. Fulfilling this role effectively, she has been instrumental in the booking of performances and ensuring band members have everything they require to perform at various community events in Vaughan and throughout York Region. Michele is a self-initiator and serves as both a great volunteer and excellent role model for all the band's members.

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David	Share	Kleinburg Old Boys	David Share is a recipient of this award for his volunteerism with the Kleinburg Old Boys. An active member since 2014, and serving as Chair, his responsibilities include holding monthly meetings, conducting regular communication with group members and liaising with various community groups. He also spearheads, promotes, and participates in Old Boys initiatives such as Community Tree Planting, Flower Sale, and Christmas Food Drives. For 42 years, David has been serving Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service as a volunteer firefighter at Station 7-4 in Kleinburg, and to this day, he remains on-call with their Rehab Truck. Not only does David share his time with the Kleinburg Old Boys and Vaughan Fire, he also volunteers as a curling coach. As an individual who generously offers his time and effort with the greater community, David is most deserving of this award.
Mark	Soer	Maccabi Canada	Mark Soer is receiving this award for his volunteer work with Maccabi Canada. In 2017, as Team Manager, Mark mastered the art of balancing family life, work and soccer. Working alongside various coaches and the organization, Mark's guidance and contributions have been key factors to the growing success of the team, both on and off the field. Whether he is documenting each game with a video or photos, updating schedules, or keeping players and parents informed on soccer details, Mark is a "one of a kind" Team Manager. A vital member of the Maccabi Canada family, his passion and commitment are effortless and come straight from the heart.
Edward	Song	Korean Community Centre for Multiculturalism	Edward Euan-kang Song is a recipient of this award for his volunteerism with the Korean Community Centre for Multiculturalism. Since 2000, Edward has been a dedicated member of the Board of Directors. The considerable time and effort he has shared with the organization serves to demonstrate his extraordinary commitment to promoting cultural enrichment to Canadians and Koreans. His involvement with the organization includes ensuring the Korean traditions are kept alive through various fundraisers and musical events. As noted by his fellow colleagues, "it is a pleasure" to nominate him for this deserving award.

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Gary	Thompson	Vaughan Public Libraries	Gary Thompson is receiving this award for his volunteer work with Vaughan Public Libraries. Gary has served as a Trustee of the Vaughan Public Library Board for the past five years, currently as Co-Chair. During this time, Gary has also served as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee and the Personnel & Policy Committee. Gary is well respected among his colleagues for his knowledge and dedication, is respectful of staff, and ensures recognition is given when deserved. He actively participates in library events and activities, as well as contributes to working well with fellow trustees in setting the Board's direction.
The Late Lorenzo	Torres	Seniors Association of Vaughan Initiative (SAVI)	Lorenzo "Loy" Torres is a recipient of this award posthumously for his outstanding volunteerism with the Seniors Association of Vaughan Initiative (SAVI), having served as Vice President from 2007-2015 and Acting President from 2016 until his passing in 2019. Loy also was the longest serving President of the Filipino Seniors Club of Vaughan from 2007 to 2019. As a leader, he was known for his devotion and commitment to serving the senior community in Vaughan. A very knowledgeable individual of strong faith, determination, integrity, compassion and humility, his passion for hard work, exceptional persuasive ability and "leading by example" qualities allowed him to connect with people and build a solid trust in the objectives and goals he helped set for the organization's success. Under Loy's leadership, seniors in SAVI and the Filipino Seniors Club of Vaughan enjoyed a wide variety of programs and activities that made a difference in the social, physical, emotional and mental well-being of senior members. In the past, Loy was a recipient of the Volunteer Recognition Award and was also awarded the Community Champion Award by the Volunteer Recognition Society for his 20-year commitment to the community. Having served as an exemplary leader within the community, Lorenzo "Loy" Torres has left a memorable legacy for all whose lives he has touched.