



children's mental health • child protection • developmental support

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Gary Putman Award Winner

ORANGEVILLE, ON –The winner of the Gary Putman Award was presented to Sue Snider at Dufferin Child and Family Services' Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2009. Sue was chosen from numerous nominees for her passion about community safety, particularly when it comes to children.

Sue Snider is the Vice-President of Child Find Canada, Vice-President of Child Find Ontario and Chair of Child Find's Dufferin Chapter. She is deeply involved with issues surrounding missing children and the development of prevention techniques to avoid such tragedies. The work she does for this organization is entirely on a voluntary basis. Sue is also the Executive Director of Safe Communities in the Hills, whose mission is to help people come together in the community to create a sense of awareness, understanding, support and leadership to implement local programs to eliminate injuries and suffering.

Safe Communities in the Hills accomplishes its mission through a variety of events such as: mock disaster scenarios targeting youth; fall prevention clinics; community information booths; car seat clinics; safe medication disposal site; and street proofing programs. In order to execute these events, a great deal of collaboration with community service providers, innovation, organization and creativity is required. Sue is the only paid staff person with Safe Communities and as such is entirely responsible for ensuring these events run smoothly, and is often the only person organizing and running the events. Sue is also the Deputy Mayor of Mulmur and is a member of County Council. Through countless hours and a variety of initiatives, Sue has worked to better the security of children and families in Dufferin County.

“Sue Snider clearly demonstrates her commitment to our community, our families and our children in Dufferin County through her dedication, enthusiasm, commitment, and ability to work collaboratively and innovatively with numerous community groups as well as her countless volunteer hours”, said Trish Keachie, Executive Director of Dufferin Child and Family Services.

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The Gary Putman Award was created to recognize a member of the Dufferin County community who has made a significant contribution in the areas of child safety and wellbeing, children's mental health, developmental support services and/or community education and awareness.

Gary Putman led Dufferin Child and Family Services for 29 years before retiring as Executive Director in November 2007. In recognition of Gary's tremendous efforts and dedication to the children and youth of Dufferin County, an agency award, to be presented annually, has been created in his honour.

Dufferin Child and Family Services would like to thank the community and congratulate all of the nominees for the Gary Putman Award. The response clearly shows that our community cares and has numerous individuals who are committed to the well being of children. The nominees were:

Adam Diamond, YouthCan Program Coordinator

Laurel Hunter, "Just Me and the Kids" founder

Michelle Edwards, COPING, Facilitator

Laura Gilroy, The Association of Parent Support Groups in Ontario for Dufferin, President

John and Elyse Johanis, Johanis Karate School