

September 29, 2021

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Social Planning Council Oxford (SPCO) is pleased to announce that Giselle Lutfallah is the recipient of this year's Social Justice Award. The yearly award recognizes those in Oxford who devote their time and energy to the pursuit of social justice.

The award criteria is as follows:

- clear impact on the community;
- ongoing commitment to social justice causes; and,
- a trailblazer in matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In these difficult times, it is inspiring to learn about and recognize the contributions of Giselle and our many social justice warriors, including all of the applications that we received, for working tirelessly to see social change.

One of Giselle's greatest gifts to Oxford County is her ability to bring people together to mobilize-she knows how to make things happen. She is a person with not only great ideas, but the energy and commitment to bring them to action. Countless parents, caregivers, children and youth across Oxford County have benefited from her professional and volunteer efforts. Additionally, many Boards and community tables (e.g.: Oxford County Community Health Centre, Oxford Situation Table, United Way, etc.) have grown and evolved in their work thanks to her efforts. Her commitment to improving the lives of women and children who have suffered abuse shows through the programs she has brought to Oxford such as the Supportive Mothering and the Caring Dads programs. Giselle created, developed, secured funding, implemented and is coordinating the Children's Aid Society Oxford's Rapid Response Project. By bringing community partners together, they are prioritizing children, youth and families trying to cope with a mental health crisis by securing alternate supports for immediate and meaningful assistance. She shares her passion and concern for the community, always working with a view of developing a collaborative approach to building a healthier community for all.



*The Social Planning Council Oxford illuminates the realities of poverty and marginalization to shift understanding and inspire collaborative action for positive change*



Giselle was formally recognized last night at the SPCO virtual annual general meeting. She will also be recognized at the Oxford Situation Table Community Report Back on October 28 at 10am. If you are interested in attending this community event please register online at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ydgBvNcaSnuauAwCrTrLaQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ydgBvNcaSnuauAwCrTrLaQ) or contact Randy Peltz at [RPeltz@oxhc.ca](mailto:RPeltz@oxhc.ca).

Should you wish to nominate a community member for next year's Social Justice Award, please check the SPCO website in December for information on how to apply: <http://spcoxford.ca>.

For further information on the Social Justice Awards or the Social Planning Council Oxford, please contact Stephanie Ellens-Clark at [stephanie.ellens-clark@spcoxford.ca](mailto:stephanie.ellens-clark@spcoxford.ca) or 226-228-0539.