



June 22, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Social Planning Council Oxford (SPCO) is pleased to announce that Marilyn Schmiedl 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 especially in times of crisis; and,
- a trailblazer in matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Social Justice Award's criteria include responding to crises: Marilyn's work, even in the best of times, helps people facing multiple crises. When many services ground to halt in the face of the pandemic, Marilyn was among those who found solutions, allowing Operation Sharing and others to provide help when most needed. In the midst of an international crises, Marilyn continued to help those in crisis or in need of "a hot meal, warm clothing and a friendly smile". Marilyn is a true social justice warrior.

Marilyn's nominators noted her tireless dedication to Operation Sharing and our community saying that she "goes out of her way to make sure everyone is taken care of". She has dedicated the last 20 years on the board of Operation Sharing, 10 of them as the president. She offers a helping hand (and a smile) at Bullwinkle's Eatery and the Food For Friends Program, Coats for Kids and Adults, the Cynthia Anne Centre and is known as Mrs. Christmas at the Christmas Place. To learn more about the programs and services of Operation Sharing visit: operationsharing.ca

Many affectionately refer to Marilyn as "Nana" and it's with affection and admiration for Marilyn Schmiedl that the Social Planning Council of Oxford is very pleased to present our Social Justice Award to this advocate for the dignity of all. Marilyn was formally recognized Monday evening at the SPCO annual general meeting.



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



Social Planning Council Oxford
www.spcoxford.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: 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 or 226-228-0539.

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