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For immediate release

Peel Children's Centre and Nexus Youth Services Celebrate Staff, Volunteers and Community Leaders

Mississauga – Peel Children's Centre (PCC) and Nexus Youth Services (NYS) celebrated staff, volunteers and community leaders at their annual Celebration Day on October 23rd. PCC also presented the Mary Neville Award to Bhupinder Heer and the Ron Lenyk Volunteer of the Year award to Travon Richards-Williams and Stefano Peca. The event was held at the Mississauga Living Arts Centre.

The Mary Neville Award, which recognizes contributions to early intervention and prevention in children's mental health, and the Ron Lenyk Volunteer of the Year Award are presented annually by PCC. Bhupinder Heer was honoured with the Mary Neville Award for her leadership on the award-winning Peel Inclusion Resource Services (PIRS) team and her outreach work with Peel's South Asian community. Travon Richards-Williams and Stefano Peca were jointly presented with the Ron Lenyk Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of their work as PCC volunteer mentors.

"Thank you, Bhupinder, Travon, and Stefano, for your commitment to children and youth in our community," said PCC/NYS CEO Humphrey Mitchell. "Your dedication to improving the experiences of young people with mental health challenges is exemplary and life-changing."

Other highlights from the day included an inspiring keynote address from *Dragon's Den* contestant and disability advocate Gabriella "Gaby" Mammone, who shared her personal story of overcoming life's challenges to achieve her dreams. After Mammone's honest, funny and heart-warming address, PCC/NYS presented long-term service awards to staff celebrating milestone anniversaries with the organizations. PCC/NYS staff also raised money for the United Way Greater Toronto through live and silent auctions and a 50/50 draw.

Peel Children's Centre is an accredited, not-for-profit children's mental health agency. Since 1985, PCC has provided free and confidential mental health services to over 4,300 children, youth and their families annually. To learn more about PCC, please visit www.peelcc.org.

Nexus Youth Services is an accredited, community-based, publicly funded, mental health agency serving youth living in Peel Region. NYS helps more than 2,000 youth annually through its Community Counselling program and Youth Centre, located on the second floor of the Mississauga Central Library. For more information on NYS programs and services, please visit www.nexusyouth.ca.

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