



6 November 2019  
For immediate release

## **Peel Children's Centre and Nexus Youth Services Recognize Staff and Volunteers at Annual Celebration Day**

Mississauga – On Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, Peel Children's Centre (PCC) and Nexus Youth Services (NYS) held their annual Celebration Day at the Living Arts Centre. As part of the festivities, PCC also presented its Ron Lenyk Volunteer of the Year award to Juliana Catalano.

Juliana Catalano first connected with PCC in 2005 as a young person in need of mental health services. Sixteen years later, having completed a program in Addictions Care at McMaster University, Juliana found herself seeking opportunities to put her education and lived experience to use to help someone else.

Recalling the support she received from PCC as a teenager, Juliana applied to become a volunteer respite mentor and was matched with a young girl who was experiencing some of the same challenges Juliana had worked hard to overcome. The two young women instantly formed a strong connection, and Juliana's mentee describes Juliana as someone who "has lived it, gets her, and who has come out on the other side and offers hope."

PCC's Volunteer Coordinator Linda Buchanan presented the Ron Lenyk Volunteer of the Year award to Juliana, saying, "Thank you for sharing your recovery journey with us, and more importantly, thank you for sharing it with a young woman we both know. Your support, dedication, resiliency and wisdom are truly immeasurable."

The Ron Lenyk Volunteer of the Year award is presented annually by PCC. In 2008, PCC dedicated its volunteer award to Ron Lenyk in recognition of his leadership as a volunteer, philanthropist and community advocate. Formerly the Chief Executive Officer of Mississauga's Living Arts Centre and Publisher of *The Mississauga News*, Ron passed away unexpectedly in September 2015. During his life, Ron was a generous supporter of numerous health, social service, sport and cultural charities, including PCC.

Other highlights from the day included the presentation of long-term service awards to staff celebrating milestone anniversaries with PCC and NYS; a silent auction to raise money for the United Way of Greater Toronto; and an experiential, music-based workshop on leadership and team work.

Peel Children's Centre and Nexus Youth Services are accredited, not-for-profit child and youth mental health agencies, who together serve more than 5,000 children, youth/young adults and families in Peel Region annually. To learn more about PCC, please visit [www.peelcc.org](http://www.peelcc.org). For more information about NYS, please visit [www.nexusyouth.ca](http://www.nexusyouth.ca).

- 30 -

Media Enquiries:  
Alexandra Macgregor, Communications Specialist  
905-795-3500 ext. 2297