



Hamilton Mundialization Committee

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Announcement of The 2004 World Citizenship Award Recipient

Hamilton, ON – March 25, 2004 - The Hamilton Mundialization Committee is pleased to announce the recipient of this year’s World Citizenship Award. Tony DiSilvestro, a resident of Hamilton mountain, has been named World Citizen of the Year 2004. He was nominated for his successful efforts toward advancing the health, education and welfare of young and not-so-young people around the world.

He is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Hamilton Mountain, having served over 28 years in many capacities, both locally as President and Secretary, and globally as Director of Club International Services and with Rotary District 7090 World Community Service, representing over 70 local clubs.

He was involved in the startup of the “Malawi against Polio” project. Tony was instrumental in the establishment of facilities for orthopaedic surgery in Malawi.

With a challenge to match certain donations with his personal funds, Tony was able to generate more than \$ 400,000 for “Gift of Sight”. Over 50,000 people were able to access treatment as a result. Proceeds went to eye-care facilities in Calcutta, Coimbatore and Hosiarpur, in India. Beneficiaries have been young people. There is also a clinic in Cambodia. He organized the collection and sending of eyeglasses for needy people in developing countries through “Operation Eye Sight”.

His commitment to education was revealed in his organization of the shipment of hundreds of books collected for libraries in the Philippines, India and Niger.

He acted as a mentor to a doctor from Italy who came to Canada for advanced studies in Pathology at McMaster University.

Tony started an apple programme in two core area Hamilton schools, at his own expense. Apples are distributed to pupils as a part of the nutrition programme.

The Hamilton Mundialization Committee is proud to recognize Tony DiSilvestro for his real contributions in promoting cooperation, peace, health and knowledge among people of the world.

The Award Presentation ceremony took place on Thursday, March 25, 2004 in the Council Chambers of Hamilton City Hall at 5:30 p.m. The award includes a bronze medallion mounted on a plaque. Morteza Jafarpour, Executive Director of SISO, as winner of the Award in 2003, participated in the presentation.

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Previous winners of the award include: Morteza Jafarpour (2003), Gary and Joy Warner (2002), Lt.-Gen. (Ret.) Roméo Dallaire (2001), Alan F. Phillips (1998), Joanna Santa Barbara (1996), Graeme MacQueen and Paul Dekar (1994), Sister Helen Kobelsky (1992), Leonor Sorger (1991), Agdhas Javid (1990), Sheila Davis (1989), Hanna and Allan Newcombe (1988).

This year seven residents of Hamilton were nominated:

- Kursheed Ahmed
- Natasha Crugnale
- Tony DiSilvestro
- Gurcharan Singh Mander
- Patricia McNeice
- Anne Pearson
- Delmar McCormack Smyth

The ceremony was hosted by the Hamilton Mundialization Committee, a council-mandated advisory committee of the City of Hamilton whose function, fundamentally, is to facilitate and support peace initiatives and the twinning relationships between Hamilton and its nine twin-cities around the world. Our commitment is based on the belief in the interdependence of people around the world, and that future peace and progress are dependent on co-operation, goodwill and understanding. The Mundialization Committee is a member of the Roundtable on Strengthening Hamilton's Community Initiatives.