

Volunteers are Stars

Shooting Star Award

Young people are leading the growth in volunteerism today. The Shooting Star Award honours two youth volunteers under 25 years.

Stella Cheng

Stella Cheng is bright, smart, sensitive, understanding and always seeking different opportunities where she might contribute her skills and make a difference in her community.

She has contributed countless hours volunteering with the Richmond Youth Service Agency's programs and services including the U-Connect Crew, Generations Homework Club and Intergenerational Movie Nights. She also recently co-organized a career and community fair for youth. As a tutor, she provides one-on-one homework support to elementary students with behavioural difficulties and helps them to improve their outlook towards school. She also works with and listens to other youth and helps them to connect with their community and each other.

Cheng, who could not attend Wednesday's event, is caring and has a genuine interest in and passion for contributing to her community. She is a shining star in everything that she does and is a role model who encourages her peers to thrive.

Joyce Ip

Joyce Ip is a take charge, self-directed,



Rob Newell photo

Joyce Ip volunteers with Steveston Air Cadets and Touchstone Family Association.

and positive leader who is involved in working with youth in many capacities.

She has been involved with the Steveston Air Cadets for a number of years and volunteers two to four times a week. As a cadet commander she was responsible for leading 187 youth. As a band officer she led their division in the Regional Band competition and achieved the fourth highest score. More importantly, she increased participation in the band to the point where they have outgrown their meeting space.

She is also a member of Touchstone Family Association's board of directors and will be volunteering during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games at the speed skating events taking place in the Richmond

Olympic Oval. She provides hours of volunteer activity every week, on top of her studies at UBC and her paying job. She is organized, dedicated and selfless in everything she does. The impact she has is immense. She is training and inspiring youth to be the best they can be, to be good citizens and to develop the traits of hard work, discipline, generosity and thoughtfulness. Her nominators says, "there could be no finer role model for youth."

"What is most important about our community is we are always willing to give back twice as much," she said in accepting the award. "We are extremely blessed to have such a healthy sense of volunteering."