

November 23, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

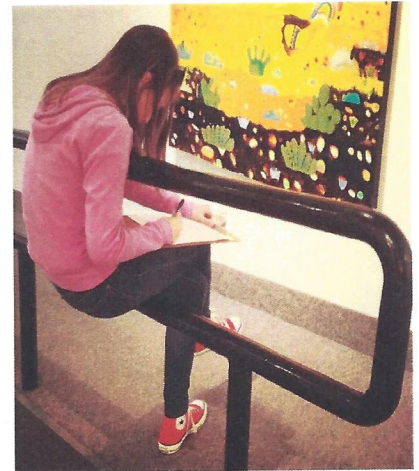
I am writing to endorse the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas for the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism. The St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre is a non-profit, charitable organization, with the mission to encourage and promote the appreciation of the visual arts in St. Thomas and Elgin County through exhibitions, educational programs and the preservation of a permanent collection.

Over the last five years, the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas has had a great impact on students in St. Thomas and Elgin County. Their generous support of the "Inspire a Student" program has allowed over 3000 students annually to participate, learn and engage in the arts. This program allows every child to experience how to express themselves artistically by learning to value themselves from within. As our educational partner, we believe that every child and student is talented and capable of growing through an art experience. Every student will benefit from a quality art experience, especially one that combines gaining knowledge, developing skills and providing opportunities for self expression.

Many children throughout our community may never have this opportunity - as financial constraints at home and in their schools make it impossible, but the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas, with their support make it happen. Too often, the value of participation in the arts is underestimated. The arts enrich our lives and enrich our learning. And the arts are a valuable learning tool that reinforces the other disciplines, like reading, writing, social studies, even science and math.

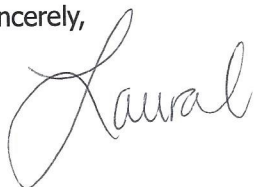
As I write this letter of support for the the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas for the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism, we are welcoming 65 students today, to participate, learn and engage in the arts without a cost to the students.

The Kinsmen Club's impact on these students and our community is invaluable, devoted and and passionate. As a visual art organization, I can not help but to add a few photographs to demonstrate the effect the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas has had on the students and our organization.



As the Executive Director of the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Centre, I recommend the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas for the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism for their commitment to volunteering and longstanding service our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura".

Laura Woermke
Executive Director / Curator
St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre