



## **2012 Community Award for Youth Service Winner**

**Lynn Burdett**

**City of Toronto Family Residence**

Lynn Burdett is an employee at the City of Toronto Family Residence - one of Toronto's largest "shelter" facilities. She spends most of her days assisting families with the necessities of life. This shelter accommodates newcomers to Canada, victims of crime, homelessness and other families in need of emergency assistance.

Lynn also spends countless hours of her own personal time working with youth who come through her shelter. She has a unique way of connecting with youth and investing in their future. Lynn works tirelessly to support, engage, guide, encourage and inspire youth in Toronto. She has received much praise, not only from the youth whom she mentors, but also from her professional counterparts. Lynn's goal is to broaden and enrich the lives of every young person she engages.

Over the last six years Lynn has been the liaison who connects youth with the Toronto Police program TROOP (Toronto Recreational Outtripping Outreach Program). Lynn has proven to be an amazing asset to this program. She is great at knowing which youth would benefit the most from TROOP and securing a solid commitment from them. She has a wonderful ability to relate to a wide spectrum of people in diverse settings and her leadership is an integral part of the TROOP program.

Lynn's real passion starts after hours, when she engages and motivates her youth with running, mixed martial arts, cross-training, canoe tripping, skiing, snowboarding and numerous other activities designed to improve self-esteem and confidence. Lynn organized the use of a gym and instruction for youth in various recreational activities. It has provided the youth with a good fitness level, a confidence boost and much needed self esteem. Some of the youth are going on to fight semi-professionally. Lynn also helped organize a TROOP training day so that her youth had the opportunity to obtain a provincially-recognized canoeing certification that could help them obtain employment in the recreation and leisure industry.

No amount of praise could quite explain and truly reflect the positive influence she has on those she encounters. One 18 year old boy whom she helped had originated from a war torn country, where he had been used as a fighter for street gangs, and had suffered extreme abuse for many years. When asked about Lynn and the work she had done he said that she made a monumental change in his life and had given him the will to live again.

Lynn gives of herself and expects nothing in return. Her dedication and compassion will be forever engrained in the lives of those she has impacted.

**Congratulations Lynn!**