

## Denise Fraser - 2013 Community Award for Youth Service Recipient



Life happens and what we do with our lives, no matter how tough or unpredictable belongs to the choices we each make. After existing in a number of abusive homes, an 11-year old girl tells the Children's Aid Society to cut her loose. She would take care of herself. Imagine being 11, living on your own, responsible for the basic needs to survive and knowing education is important for your future. Imagine ending up in the hospital with malnutrition. Imagine a teacher who steps up and helps this child. From this beginning we, the citizens of Greater Sudbury, were blessed with a tenacious woman who vowed that no child would be left behind.

Denise Fraser, the recipient of the 2014 Community Award for Youth Service is a civilian employee of the Greater Sudbury Police Service. She has been working with and for children and youth as a Liaison Officer since 1985. Denise is known in all four school boards and revered by many school administrators as they often turn to her for guidance and support

when working with young people whose lives are sometimes torn apart. To this day she continues to approach her work with the same enthusiasm, spirit and dedication she did the first day she became a member of the Greater Sudbury Police Service. Denise's days are filled with mentoring, monitoring and educating youth within Greater Sudbury's 50 plus Elementary and 18 Secondary Schools. Her unique persona has allowed for her to connect with children and others within the school system in ways that most people who wear a uniform for a living cannot.

Denise sees in each child what is possible. When she speaks those who hear her words believe she is speaking directly to them. As a testament to her work Constable Hally Willmott chose a career in policing because of Denise. Hally continued to follow her dreams to pursue her love of writing and presently is a wife, mother, and best-selling author. Denise planted the seed and Hally nourished the possibilities.

Denise is part of the Greater Sudbury Police team, which over the last decade has presented to over a quarter of a million youth. As a result, she

has touched the lives of over a million people in her 28 year history with the Greater Sudbury Police Service.

Denise has been instrumental in implementing a number of initiatives through the Crime Prevention branch of the Greater Sudbury Police Service. Through her determination and dedication, she has been influential in convincing community stakeholders, volunteers and police personnel to give freely of their time to the events and workshops she has facilitated. Denise has received much acclaim throughout her careers, not only from the youth whom she encourages, engages and guides, but also from her professional counterparts. Denise's goal from the beginning has been to leave no child behind. Make each and every one of them feel just how special, unique and valuable they are. She teaches values, helps people discover their moral compass, and through her influence they make some tough choices.

Just before Christmas a young boy who by all accounts would be considered very poor was walking to school and found a wad of cash. He could have pocketed the money, and used it for anything, but what did he do? He brought the money to school and handed it to his principal. The principal complimented him on his decision and stated most would not do this. The young man responded, "Yes Miss, I know, but they don't have Mrs. Fraser in their head when they close their eyes."

**Congratulations Denise!**