



Schizophrenia Society of Alberta

Red Deer Chapter 4811-48 Ave. Red Deer, AB. T4N 3T2

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Charitable # 13048-5816RR0001 GST# 13048-5816RT0001

"To improve the quality of life for those affected by schizophrenia and psychosis through education, support programs, public policy, and research."

March 31, 2009

Mickey Warkentin is the Schizophrenia Society of Alberta, Red Deer Chapter's most giving and reliable volunteer. No matter what we ask, she is always there to contribute her time, energy, and creativity to our fundraising projects, special events, and programs. She has volunteered to do any and all jobs we've given her.

Mickey has such a big heart that not only does she give to the organization itself, she also gives to the people we serve. She often opens her home to people affected by schizophrenia or other severe mental illness to keep them off the street. She is the type of person that has used her last few dollars to buy someone a meal or a cup of coffee. She also makes herself fully accessible to anyone affected by mental illness- she often has people calling her in the middle of the night looking for comfort, and she is always willing to talk or even meet them to ensure they are safe.

Mickey has become more than a volunteer to the Schizophrenia Society of Alberta, Red Deer Chapter- she has become a symbol of understanding, friendship, and guidance to the people we serve. Without Mickey, we would have many people feeling much lonelier and in a worse mental state- but thanks to her commitment to bettering the lives of those around her, we see many people maintaining a healthy social life thanks to her efforts. Although we deeply and sincerely appreciate her endless gifts of time towards our fundraising and special events, it's her gifts on her own time that are so touching and have left a lasting impression on both our staff and our consumers.

Beyond the Schizophrenia Society, Mickey has left a deep impact on the community. She spends much of her time volunteering for these other local organizations (only a few examples have been included):

- **United Way of Central Alberta**
- **Potters Hand Ministries**
- **Canadian Mental Health Association**
- **Crisis Pregnancy Care Centre**
- **Women's Emergency Shelter**

Despite all of this volunteer work, never once has Mickey complained about not receiving recognition. I once asked her if it bothered her that she didn't receive much recognition for all her work, and she replied "It defeats the whole purpose- giving is suppose to be for the better of the community and society, NOT for any kind of self gain. It's suppose to be a humbling disciplinary thing we do just cause we KNOW in our hearts that it needs to be done, it's the right thing to do and it's important!"

Because of this huge heart, Mickey makes our community a better place to live in. She does not have the money to donate, but she gives everything else. If there is a way that she can help someone, she will, whether it's helping one of our consumers move into a new room or ensuring someone has a safe place to sleep. She is truly a rock for us...and exemplifies that even when someone thinks they have nothing to give, they actually do.

A REASON TO HOPE. THE MEANS TO COPE.

