

Jessie Jollymore & Hope Blooms Win the Harold Crowell Social Innovator Award

Halifax, NS – May 24, 2017 – The Halifax Assistance Fund (HAF) is very pleased to announce that the Winner of its \$10,000 Harold Crowell Social Innovator Award is Jessie Jollymore for the vision and work embodied in Hope Blooms and other North End Halifax community projects.

In addition, the HAF board decided to provide two additional financial awards, these being \$5,000 to Deborah Dickey for her work with Dartmouth North Community Food Centre and \$2,500 to Melissa Phillips for her “housing first” work with Shelter Nova Scotia. These Award recipients will be able to direct the funding to a project that they feel is most worthy of their support, including what they are currently working on, as long as it serves those in greatest need in our community.

“Selecting just one winner was a very challenging process,” said HAF spokesperson Colin Deacon. *“In the end, Jessie stood out among the Finalists because of the national attention and funding that she has been able to bring to her efforts. And, in response to the impressive quality of all 48 Nominees, we decided to provide funding to two additional Finalists.”*

The HAF is also pleased to announce that the Social Innovator Award has been named in honour of Harold Crowell, who is a Director Emeritus of the HAF. Harold was a Nominee in recognition of his innovative efforts to help our City’s most vulnerable, with MetroWorks Employment Association and other projects beginning in the 1970s. Harold is a longstanding and cherished community member who is well known for his unrelenting commitment to creatively invest limited funds in order to foster much larger opportunities.

About Hope Blooms: Founded in 2008 by Jessie Jollymore, a Community Dietician in the North End of Halifax who was working on food security issues and helping people with chronic illness. Jessie turned these pervasive issues on their head by creating a nationally recognized organization that engages at-risk youth and the community at large. Through hard work, youth involved with Hope Blooms learned how to grow organic food and have taken home over 3,000 pounds of produce, cooked along with chefs to turn their produce into culinary delights and have successfully grow a small social enterprise where all profits go back into their community and a scholarship fund that support their post-secondary education. HAF is proud to be one of the earliest supporters of Hope Blooms.

About the Halifax Assistance Fund (HAF): Formed one year prior to Confederation, in 1866, HAF has been helping to fund the tireless efforts of our wonderful community members who work every day to alleviate burdens, and create comfort and opportunity for those most affected by poverty. Over the past six years, the HAF has invested \$500,000 in more than 80 projects through 30 organizations. The HAF's funding is sourced through revenue generated from endowed gifts as well as important annual contributions from organizations such as the Halifax Youth Foundation. For more information see: <http://halifaxassistancefund.ca>

About the Harold Crowell Social Innovator Award: The HAF launched the Social Innovator Award to identify and celebrate creative ways in which individuals are striving to improve the lives of those most affected by poverty in our community. Forty-eight social innovators leading 33 projects were nominated for the Award (see attached list). Eligible Nominees currently volunteer or work with an organization that helps those most affected by poverty in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), and they have led the creation and implementation of an innovative idea or venture that has achieved new levels of “success” in helping those served. For more information on the Harold Crowell Social Innovator Award, and on Harold Crowell himself, see: <http://halifaxassistancefund.ca/award.htm>

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The Halifax Assistance Fund's 2017 Social Innovator Award – List of Nominees & Finalists

Finalists

Ann Denny & Ryan Veltmeyer	<i>Youth Art Connection</i>
Deborah Dickey (2nd - \$5,000)	<i>Dartmouth North Community Food Centre</i>
Jessie Jollymore (Winner - \$10,000)	<i>Hope Blooms</i>
Luke MacDonald	<i>Fit It Forward</i>
Melissa Phillips (3rd - \$2,500)	<i>Shelter Nova Scotia</i>
Bonnie Ste-Croix	<i>EchoHub</i>

Nominees

Don Adams, Lequita Porter, William Porter	<i>East Preston Empowerment Academy</i>
Troy Allen, Lynn MacDonald, Randy Tully	<i>North End Opportunities Fund</i>
Susan Atkinson, Linda Chow, Emma Rose	<i>Halifax Sexual Health Centre</i>
Laurie Cook	<i>Inclusion Works</i>
Rosalind Curran	<i>St. George's YouthNet</i>
Deanna Currie	<i>Gerald Hardy Memorial Society</i>
Carol Charlebois, David McDow (& late Bryon Anderson)	<i>Shining Lights Choir</i>
Harold Crowell	<i>MetroWorks Employment Assoc.</i>
Tamar Dina	<i>Music Liberatory</i>
Kendrick Douglas, David Graham	<i>MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning</i>
Alice Evans	<i>Club Inclusion</i>
Margaret Fraser	<i>Boys & Girls Club of Preston</i>
Linda Grandy, Wanda Taylor	<i>Stepping Stone Association</i>
Glenda Haydon	<i>Avalon Sexual Assault Centre</i>
Paul Holmes	<i>Grace Street Mission</i>
Marcus James	<i>Halifax Public Libraries</i>
Julia Kemp	<i>Mobile Food Market</i>
Meghan Laing	<i>Halifax Connects</i>
Ashley Linden, Derico Symonds	<i>Future Roots</i>
Wendy MacGregor	<i>YWCA-ACWEE</i>
Ralph Mackenzie	<i>Dartmouth North Community Van</i>
Melissa Marr, Heather Wilkinson	<i>Wonder'neath Art Society</i>
Janvier Nahimana	<i>MUTCHO</i>
Stephen Nelson, Rodney Small, Lindell Smith	<i>The O.N.E.</i>
Darrel Pink	<i>Living on the Edge</i>
Agar Smith	<i>Brunswick St Mission</i>
Linda Wilson	<i>Homebridge Youth Society</i>