

2010 Great Valentine Gala Corporate Award Winners

Presented each year at the Great Valentine Gala, the CFPDP Corporate Awards recognize the exemplary contributions of Canadian companies and organizations in support of people with physical disabilities.

This year's recipients are **Magna International** and **The NIMDAC Foundation**.

MAGNA INTERNATIONAL

Magna International is a long established corporate leader in philanthropic commitment to the communities it serves. It's a commitment embedded in Magna's corporate constitution, which allocates up to two percent of pre-tax profits to support charitable and non-profit organizations dealing with health, culture, education, sports and politics.

Magna's commitment to community is expressed through a broad range of programs, volunteer work and charitable activities centred in communities around the globe. The focus of these initiatives is to help build stronger and healthier communities wherever Magna employees live and work. A perfect example of Magna's

holistic approach to building better communities is Neighbourhood Network, a non-profit organization founded by Magna executive vice-chairman Belinda Stronach. Based in Newmarket and Aurora, home of Magna International's corporate headquarters, Neighbourhood Network brings together volunteers with local charities, connecting local residents who want to help with residents in need. The network

currently represents 138 non-profit partners, organizations like Safehaven, a residential and respite care provider for children and young people with multiple disabilities, allowing them to live safely and comfortably close to family and friends. Neighbourhood Network also coordinates a snow removal program matching some 130 volunteers with local seniors and people with disabilities who need assistance clearing snow.

Magna has also been a generous supporter of Canada's Paralympians, recently hosting a Gala which raised \$180,000 to assist athletes going to the 2010 Winter Paralympics.

Magna International was founded in 1957 by Austrian-born Frank Stronach. The most diversified automotive supplier in the world, Magna designs, develops and manufactures automotive systems, assemblies, modules and components. It also engineers and assembles complete vehicles for sale to original manufacturers of cars and light trucks in North America, Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. The company has more than 70,000 employees in 242 manufacturing operations and 85 product development, engineering and sales centres in 25 countries.

THE NIMDAC FOUNDATION

For NIMDAC Foundation founder Dr. Asha Seth, the act of giving is an expression of faith. A registered charity operated in association with the Northern Indian Medical & Dental Association of Canada (NIMDAC), the Foundation was conceived by Dr. Seth as a vehicle for channeling the generosity and community spirit of the nation's more than 2,000 medical and dental professionals of Indian descent.

"I started this organization so we could give back to the community through philanthropic work what the community has given to us. We are still very young, only 18 months old, but already the Foundation has raised \$185,000 which we have given to various charities serving communities in need," says Dr. Seth.

Focusing on vulnerable populations, the Foundation supports health care, research and support services aimed at promoting health and wellness and assisting people in need achieve their dreams of greater opportunity and fulfillment.

The first three beneficiaries of NIMDAC Foundation funding are:

- The Heart and Stroke Foundation, to promote research, prevention, and public awareness of heart disease, the nation's number one cause of death.
- The Canadian National Institute for the Blind's Skills Academy pilot project helping young people with visual impairments learn the skills they need to be fully integrated in our public school system.
- The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons, for its ongoing initiatives on behalf of Canadians with disabilities.

And given the tremendous reserves of generosity and goodwill in Canada's South Asian community, suggests Dr. Seth, the NIMDAC Foundation's roster of worthy causes can only grow.

"This young group of physicians and dentists understand the divinity of giving," says Dr. Seth, citing the famous prescription of Mahatma Gandhi:

"Your beliefs become your thoughts.
Your thoughts become your words.
Your words become your actions.
Your actions become your habits.
Your habits become your values.
Your values become your destiny."

PHOTOGRAPH BY CASEY CHURHANIAK



Members of ParaSport Ontario's Ready, Willing and Able Program at the 2009 Magna Gala for the Canadian Paralympic Foundation.



Dr. Asha Seth, Founding President of The NIMDAC Foundation, presents a cheque for \$100,000 to CFPDP Chair Vim Kochhar.