

TCDSB Sister Evanne Hunter Young Women in Leadership Award

“Women should and can provide something more than ordinary” (Mary Ward)



Sr. Evanne Hunter is a Loretto Sister with the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM). She has worked at Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School, as a Teacher (1966-1969), Vice Principal (1972-1973) and as a Principal (1973-1985), in the Metropolitan Separate School Board (MSSB, later TCDSB).

Sr. Evanne was the Provincial Leader of the IBVM in Canada from 2006 until 2012 (with an office at Loretto Abbey in the TCDSB) and prior to that spent 3 years in New York establishing the IBVM presence as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with Associative Status with the Department of Public Information at the United Nations. Since 1988 she has been working with SalvaAide, an Ottawa based NGO, as coordinator of the Loretto/La Bermuda Project, a twinned relationship with a rural re-population in El Salvador.

Sr. Evanne was awarded the TCDSB Award of Merit in 2012 for outstanding contributions to the TCDSB and Catholic education. Sr. Evanne remains a strong supporter of the TCDSB and an advocate for publicly funded Catholic Education. She was instrumental in ensuring that Loretto Abbey remain part of the MSSB when full funding was introduced for Catholic schools and part of the TCDSB when the IBVM sold the property. She established the Loretto Fund, supported by donations from schools, through the Angel Foundation for Learning, to support newcomers to Canada. Sr. Evanne remains involved in many aspects of education for justice, promoting learning experiences for students with the Sisters of Loretto in India, at the UN in New York and at the Mary Ward Centre in Toronto.

Evanne’s leadership, embodies the core values of the IBVM, the vision of the TCDSB and Pope Francis’ call to action in pursuit of social justice. Evanne is a modest, humble, fair, thoughtful, articulate, and respected role model for all women leaders.

Foundational Principles for this award:

- Leadership traits of Sr Evanne Hunter: modest, humble, thoughtful, excellent communicator, respected role model, social justice focused
- Core values of the IBVM: respect, justice, sincerity, courage and compassion.
- The TCDSB vision of witness, faith, innovation and action.
- Pope Francis’ call to action in pursuit of social justice (September 2015).

Mary Ward, the founder of the IBVM and the Congregation of Jesus, said, “Do not bury your talents which God lent you to be spent in his service.” The recipient of this award will be a graduating female TCDSB student who shares her talents and demonstrates the foundational principles for this award in working toward achieving the Ontario Schools Catholic Graduate Expectations.

Appendix A – International Women’s Day

Award details:

- Each secondary school can nominate one female student in their graduating year (Gr 8 or 12)
- In November each year, nominations are submitted to the office of the Area Superintendent using a standard nomination form that will be shared with all Secondary Principals
- By the last Friday prior to Christmas each year, schools will submit the nomination form
- In January each year, Area Superintendents will each form a committee composed of 2 Elementary Principals and 2 Secondary Principals to review nominations and to select 1 student from each panel to move forward to the final round of consideration
- In February of each year, a committee composed of Sr Evanne or an IBVM representative (if available) and at least 2 Superintendents (central and/or business) will review nominations that reach the final round of consideration and select 1 award recipient per panel
- At the TCDSB Board or Committee meeting closest and prior to International Women’s Day (March 8) each year, the names of the award recipient will be announced and shared with the system through a communication from the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education.
- After March break each year, the award recipient will receive a letter notifying them of the award, with a certificate signed by the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education
- A standard award “keeper” plaque will be established and presented to the student, by Sr Evanne at the Annual TCDSB Awards Night in May. If Sr Evanne is unavailable, a representative of the IBVM will be invited to present the award.
- A financial award of \$250 for the elementary school recipient, and \$500 for the secondary school recipient will be issued at the award ceremony
- A standard award “perpetual” plaque will be kept at the TCDSB Catholic Education Centre, with recipients names added annually.

Award recipient:

- is a female student in their graduating year (Gr 8 or 12)
- with all things being equal, is to be given to a student whose financial need is greater
- demonstrates the foundational principles of this award, as outlined above
- builds Christian Community through example, involvement and leadership
- shows effort and commitment to academic achievement and is an active leader in the school community
- demonstrates a passion for giving back to the school by supporting organized events aimed at improving the school or society
- shows initiative, creativity and perseverance in creating positive change in the school or community
- shows resilience in facing difficulties and challenges and has learned from seeming failure and was willing to try again
- is a successful leader who has initiated, planned and fostered teamwork and collaboration to steer a school-based project to completion for the betterment of the school or greater community
- articulates ideas persuasively both verbally and in writing
- shows promise of the ability to play a strong leadership role in society in the future