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## News Release

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### REALTOR® AGM Celebrates Success and Community

*LSTAR's donations to Mission Services now top \$300,000*

The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® held its 2014 Annual General Meeting on April 21, 2015 at the London Convention Centre. Representing the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) was its President, **Pauline Aunger**, while **Patricia Verge** was on hand to represent the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) as its President, along with OREA Past President (and previous LSTAR President ) **Costa Pouloupoulos**, its Western Area Director **Karen Cox** and its Commercial Director **Eavan Travers**, also a Londoner. The Ontario REALTORS Care Foundation was represented by **Barb Whitney**, also an LSTAR Past President, and the Real Estate Council of Ontario (RECO) was represented by **Kate Murray**, CEO, **Glenda Brindle**, Chair, as well as Director **Peter Hoffman**, another former LSTAR President. CMHC was represented by **Judy Binder**.

London Mayor **Matt Brown** delivered greetings from the City of London. Also in attendance were **Paul King**, Ford Keast, Chartered Accountant, the London Home Builders Association's President, **Ted Melchers**, and its Executive Officer, **Lois Langdon** as well as **Joel Shears** and **Armand Chipean** representing List Central, LSTAR's MLS® provider, **Evelyn Paar**, representing Touchbase, **Chris Butler**, **Theresa Corindia** and **Phil Share**, representing Teranet/GeoWarehouse.

LSTAR's *Quality of Life Award*, intended to recognize and honor an individual's outstanding contributions to the community in accordance with one or more of the five *Quality of Life* Principles espoused by LSTAR – ensuring economic vitality, providing housing opportunities, preserving our environment, protecting home owners and building better communities -- was presented to REALTOR® **Mary Johnson** for *Kindness Above Everything* (KAE), a charity she founded that connects with local agencies to determine what people living in shelters or transitional housing need and then to provide them with those necessities.

A second *Quality of Life Award* was presented to a team made up of LSTAR Members **Debbie Collins** (another Past President of LSTAR), **Dan Grantham**, **Warren Shantz**, **Barb Whitney**, **Peter Whatmore** and LSTAR's Director of Business and Promotions and the Chair of the *Hockey Helps*

*the Homeless London* Committee **Tracy Marino** for outstanding work organizing the 2014 *Hockey Helps the Homeless London* tournament. The 2014 tournament raised a total of \$120,000 -- \$40,000 each for Merrymount Family Support and Crisis Centre, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and the Unity Project. Special Guest **Gary Scullion**, CEO of *Hockey Helps the Homeless*, was also on hand to receive a cheque for \$5,000 to cover LSTAR's sponsorship of this year's tournament, scheduled to take place May 9, 2015 at the Western Fair District Sports Centre.

LSTAR Bonspiel Committee Chair **Glen Gordon** was on hand to present Mission Services of London's Executive Director **Peter Rozeluk**, its Director of Fundraising, **Erika Ayala Ronson**, and its Donor Relations Coordinator **Stefanie Joseph** with a cheque for \$12,341, representing the funds raised by this year's Bonspiel and LSTAR's *Home for Hope* pins.

*This donation raises the total that LSTAR has donated to Mission Services since 1992 past the \$300,000 mark to stand at \$311,014.*

LSTAR *Quality of Life* Chair **Heather Arnott** presented **Marisa Kanas**, Director, Community Engagement and Development, St. Joseph's Hospice, with a cheque in fulfillment of LSTAR's 2013 pledge to donate a total of \$50,000 over two years towards the establishment of the first residential hospice in our community. The funds came from a number of sources, including the proceeds from our Slo Pitch tournament and Ontario REALTORS Care Foundation grants.

Finally, 2014 Christmas Gala Chair **Michelle Orsini** presented **Andrew Young** and **Debbie Collins**, both Directors on the Board of Merrymount Family Crisis and Support Centre, with a cheque for \$26,785 raised by the 2014 LSTAR Christmas Gala, bringing the Association's total to date donation to Merrymount to \$51,431.

*The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) exists to provide our REALTOR® Members with the support and tools they need to succeed in their profession and adheres to a Quality of Life philosophy, supporting growth that fosters economic vitality, provides housing opportunities, respects the environment and builds good communities and safe neighbourhoods and is a proud participant in the REALTORS Care Foundation's Every REALTOR™ Campaign.*