

## News Release

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### REALTORS® wrap up 2014 with donations

Today **Heather Arnott**, Chair of the London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® *Quality of Life* Advisory Group, presented **Steve Cordes**, the Executive Director of Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) and her fellow LSTAR Director **Dan Grantham**, Past President of Y.O.U., with a cheque for \$5,000. The money is to be used towards outfitting a home and safe haven for young mothers and their babies in the community. "The recent closure of the Bethesda Centre has made it far more likely that these girls and their children might slip through the cracks," says Arnott. "We don't want to see that happen." "We are very grateful to Y.O.U. for stepping forward and offering to bridge this serious gap in service," adds LSTAR President **Jim Holody**. "It's a worthy project and one we are happy to support."

Arnott also presented a second cheque for \$5,000, this time to *Hockey Helps the Homeless*, a national charity that organizes one day fantasy tournaments in Canadian NHL cities and, beginning in May 2014, in London, the first non-NHL City to host the tournament. The 2014 event raised \$120,000 for Merrymount Family Crisis and Support Centre, YOU and the Unity Project. LSTAR was a sponsor of the 2014 event, organized locally by a committee chaired by LSTAR's Director of Business and Promotions, **Tracy Marino**, with the assistance of over 70 REALTOR® volunteers. One of these, LSTAR Director Dan Grantham, and Tracy Marino were on hand to receive the cheque, which secures LSTAR's sponsorship of the 2015 tournament. "Merrymount, YOU and the Unity Project are all organizations LSTAR has or is actively supporting," adds Holody. "*Hockey Helps the Homeless* is just a fun way to do that – everybody wins."

Finally, Arnott presented St. Joseph's **Marisa Kanas** and LSTAR Member and Hospice volunteer **Christine Cecchetto** with a cheque that fulfills the Association's pledge to donate \$50,000 to the hospice over a two year period beginning in 2013. "Thanks to Hospice, there's now a place in our community where families can be with a loved one in his or final days in a more homelike setting," says Holody. "A residential hospice was something we've needed for a long time in our area and we were grateful to the Ontario REALTORS Care Foundation for allowing us to contribute to this important project."

*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. LSTAR is one of Canada's fifteen largest real estate associations, representing 1,500 REALTORS® working in Middlesex and Elgin Counties, a trading area of 500,000 residents. LSTAR 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.*