



*Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support*

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Shirley Hickman receives 2007 YMCA of London Women of Excellence Award**

**LONDON**, Ontario – 27 February, 2007– From a field of 58 nominees, Shirley Hickman received the 2007 YMCA of London Women of Excellence Award for Community Volunteerism and Humanity for her contribution to workplace safety in London and across Canada. Six other honourees won in different categories. The Women of Excellence Program has celebrated the achievements of nearly 60 women for their outstanding contributions to life in London. A gala dinner is planned for May 1.

Shirley's son, Tim died 11 years ago, just a few days after turning 21, from an explosion involving an ice-cleaning machine at a London arena. In addition to traveling across Canada to speak about workplace safety and injury prevention, Hickman also co-founded Threads of Life, a support association for families hit by workplace fatalities, life-altering injuries and disease. She is currently the Executive Director and Family Support Program Manager for Threads of Life.

"I know in my heart we're making a difference. We're protecting other workers," Hickman said. "On some level that brings some honour to the tragedy. But in our personal lives, we'll never get over the loss of Tim." She said after Tim died, she knew she had to do something productive and positive in his name. "I've always tried to do what I thought I was meant to do in volunteering and being a part of the community."

Since receiving the award Shirley has been interviewed extensively by both broadcast and print media, further raising the profile of Threads of Life and signaling to families of workplace tragedy that help is available.

The other 2007 Women of Excellence are:

- Carol Beynon, Arts, Culture and Heritage, recognized for her contribution to choral music as founder and director of the Amabile Boys' and Men's Choirs.
- Dr. Mary J. Wright, Education, Training and Development, recognized for her pioneering work in the study of child psychology in Canada.
- Natascha Wesch, Sport, Fitness and Recreation, recognized for her commitment to the athletic and academic development of young women through the sport of rugby.
- Ruth Young, Business, Professions and Trade, recognized for her dedicated work on behalf of the United Way of London & Middlessex.
- Dr. Carol Herbert, Health, Science and Technology, recognized for her leadership in patient-centred teaching and innovative program development at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.
- Sabrina Kim, Young Woman of Excellence, recognized for her enthusiastic commitment to volunteering and her dedication to helping others reach their potential.

#### Contact

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