



## **Ruth Martin Award for Community Service**

### ***Conferred upon Kitty Galt on June 25, 2024***

In 1983 the awardee recognized a desperate need for a women's shelter in Sandy Hill, and there began what is now known as Cornerstone Women's Shelter.

In the beginning it was older women who came to the shelter who had nowhere else to go.

With financial aid, and support from the church, and no salary for herself, so began Kitty Galt's journey. She rallied her friends in Sandy Hill to prepare food and deliver it to the shelter.

She then went on to help start St Joe's Supper Table on Laurier Avenue so the women had somewhere to go during the day.

Cornerstone Women's Shelter has since grown to five locations helping serve the over 1,000 women who become homeless in Ottawa each year. St Joe's is also still going strong, feeding the hungry as well as offering a weekly food bank and community garden.

After a time, it was necessary to follow her husband to Los Angeles for work. Never one to sit idle, she volunteered at a Pasadena drop in centre.

Even during the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles she continued to drive across town doing her volunteer work.

In 2011, they returned to Ottawa. She now volunteered at Centre 507 before becoming staff. There were fundraisers held to enable a better life for their clients. On her own time there were trips to ball games, the Gladstone Theatre, museums and the list goes on.

Aside from all her work at Centre 507 over some 10 years, she delivered potted mums for our Thanksgiving fundraiser with Brian Waters.

She volunteered at a fundraiser in Wakefield for Suan Cross's Project Chance Africa during a very bad snow storm. Lots of others did not show up, but she did, because she believed so much in the project. Ottawa is a better community with people like Kitty Galt. Ruth Martin would be proud of her.

Kitty Galt please come forward and accept your Ruth Martin Award for Community

Service.

### **Ruth Martin Award for Community Service**

Ruth Martin, after whom this Award is named, dedicated much of her life to the betterment of the community at large. Ruth's husband, John Martin, established this Award with the Rotary Club of West Ottawa after she died in tribute to her ideals and life of service to the community.

The Awardee must have performed noteworthy service over a period of years for the well-being of the community that encompasses the National Capital Region. Any organization or individual is eligible Except the Rotary Club of West Ottawa or members of that Club.

The following people and organizations in Ottawa to date have received this award:

1996 Patricia Henry	1997 Elsie Gertrude Scott
1998 Elizabeth I. Davies	1999 Margaret Pranschke
2000 Diane Craig	2001 Moe Atallah
2002 Eva Lamb	2003 Marion Gullock
2004 Jim McNeill	2005 Barry Bregman
2006 Charles Austin	2008 Elaine Garfinkel
2009 Kevin Frost	2010 Mark Emery
2011 Don Flynn	2012 Margaret Knight
2013 Hazel Bowen	2014 Kent & Mary Brown
2016 Rev. Anthony Bailey	2018 Isabelle Nicol & Sandra Garland
2019 Shehla Kerim	2020 Jenn Hayward
2021 Myrna Hay	2022 Shepherds of Good Hope
2023 Brittany Belanger	2024 WISE Ottawa & Kitty Galt