

## 2009 AWARDS UPDATE

### KIC IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE REFINED CATEGORIES & CRITERIA FOR OUR 2009 AWARDS

We still seek to highlight the wide variety of ways that young people, and those supporting them, strengthen and inspire our community. Their contributions highlight the diversity of social and cultural backgrounds of our youth and the acceptance and respect they have for their differing traditions, interests and values. Many young people nominated for KIC Awards are not conventional achievers: they may not excel in sporting or academic pursuits. Yet, their optimism, generosity, enthusiasm, perseverance or courage has awakened others to opportunities or needs within our local communities. Community members nominated for KIC Awards are often unaware of the respect and gratitude young people have for them and of the extent of their impact on young people's lives. By acknowledging all these contributions, the KIC Awards encourage young people to reach out to others – both to give and to receive support.

### What's Changed? - Award Categories

#### THE KIC AWARD CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN STREAMLINED INTO THREE MAIN THEMES:

**YOUNG PEOPLE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING OTHERS** – including their own peers, other young people from different social or cultural groups and/or individuals or groups within the broader community.

- 1 Youth in General** Recognises young people who demonstrate a caring attitude to other youth, in general. **Nominees** will have supported or encouraged someone to feel more comfortable or connected to their community or to enhance their personal dignity or self-worth.
- 2 Indigenous Youth** Recognises young people who promote the positive attitudes, skills and actions of Indigenous youth. **Nominees** will have supported or encouraged someone to achieve their goals or fostered reconciliation by building positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.
- 3 Diverse Youth** Recognises young people who promote the positive attitudes, skills and actions of youth facing challenges or from diverse backgrounds. **Nominees** will have supported or encouraged someone to overcome their personal challenges or fostered inclusiveness by building positive relationships between diverse groups.
- 4 Community** Recognises young people who make a valuable contribution within the broader community. **Nominees** will have assisted or provided companionship to the elderly, ill or disabled or volunteered their time with community organisations or activities.

**YOUNG PEOPLE INSPIRING THEIR PEERS** – through the nature of their own achievements and/or how they have tackled challenges in their own lives.

- 5 Role Models** Recognises a young person whose words or actions are worthy of emulation & inspire others in the community. **Nominees** will have shown leadership through commitment to achieving their goals or through behaviour reflecting high personal standards & values.
- 6 Against All Odds** Recognises a young person who has triumphed over considerable personal challenges, inspiring others with their optimism, strength and courage. **Nominees** will have overcome challenges of health, disability, family circumstance, cultural factors or geographic isolation.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE** to achieve their full potential – through voluntary or “above & beyond the call of duty” involvement with individual young people or through youth and community groups or by actively promoting young people's positive actions and achievements.

- 7 Individual Mentors & Supporting Groups** Recognises community members who have volunteered or gone “above & beyond the call of duty” in their support or encouragement of young people. Individual and group **Nominees** will have contributed to someone's personal development, either generally or in a specific area such as work, sport, study, spirituality, social or family life.
- 9 Media Reporting** Acknowledges the powerful role of the media in influencing public opinion about young people and youth issues – by recognising **Nominees** who have looked beyond sensational, negative stories and reported stories reflecting the positive contributions local youth (aged 13-25 years) make to their communities.

## 2009 AWARDS UPDATE (CONTINUED)

### What's Changed? - Award Criteria

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY CATEGORIES** – from 2009, nominees in these categories MUST be nominated by someone aged 13-25 years.

**AGE DIVISIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD CATEGORIES** – from 2009, all young people categories will feature two age divisions: 13-18 years and 19-25 years.

**JUDGING CRITERIA** – from 2009, the KIC judging panel will review each nomination against a range of clearly-identified criteria – namely, the degree to which the nominee's contribution:

- inspires, engages and/or includes other young people;
- helps more disadvantaged or excluded groups or individuals;
- goes beyond their normal school or work activities;
- makes an impact in their community; &/or
- fosters better relationships between different social, ethnic or cultural groups.

The judges will also consider the level of personal challenges faced by each nominee and the likely psychological impact of receiving the award.

### Why did we Change Things?

In response to some concerns and limitations raised by nominators &/or judges in previous years, we hope that these changes will:

- Encourage a broader range of nominations;
- Give clearer instructions about who is eligible, which category they should enter and the types of information sought about the nominees; and
- Allow nominators to better understand how their entries will be judged.



### Have any comments or questions?

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