System Change

8.13 Recognize Londoners’ commitment to volunteerism and a caring community and build upon these efforts

Numerous volunteer recognition programs exist in our city acknowledging Londoners’ commitment to volunteerism including the Mayor of London’s Volunteering Awards; our local MP’s / MPP’s Community Recognition Awards; and the newly introduced Atlohsa Peace Awards (established in 2018) to name a few.

**London and Area Association For Volunteer Administration (LAVA)**

LAVA is an organization that offers networking, education, and advocacy to those managing volunteers.

LAVA’s vision is a community of professionals adhering to recognized standards of practice, who provide outstanding leadership in the experience and impact of volunteers on the organization and individuals they serve.

LAVA’s mandate is to provide an opportunity for individuals in the field of Volunteer Management and Administration, either as a professional or on a volunteer basis, to meet with others in the field to share successes, work on challenges, explore opportunities and gain valuable skills and knowledge offered by LAVA members and partners in London and area.

LAVA brings together in an association, persons in the City of London and surrounding areas, who have a common interest in providing the best possible leadership in volunteer management by:

- Promoting and advocating for professionalism within the field of volunteer management and the community at large
- Providing educational, professional development and mentoring opportunities for members to keep them appraised of recognized standards of practice
- Collaborating with agencies and institutions to enhance volunteer management and volunteerism across the community
Pillar Nonprofit Network
Pillar Nonprofit Network strengthens individuals, organizations and enterprises invested in positive community impact. Pillar supports more than 610 nonprofits, social enterprises and social innovators by sharing resources, exchanging knowledge and creating meaningful connections across the three pillars of nonprofit, business and government.

Pillar’s mission is to strengthen individuals, organizations and enterprises that are invested in positive community impact. Its vision is an engaged, inclusive and vibrant community.

Pillar believes that a connected network sparks collaboration and a willingness to lean on each other to help build an engaged, inclusive and vibrant community. Pillar supports voluntarism through capacity building, training and diversity & inclusion programming. Whether you are looking for volunteer opportunities, networking events or a job in the nonprofit sector, Pillar Nonprofit Network can help.

Pillar Innovation Awards – since launching in 2006, the Pillar Community Innovation Awards has evolved into one of the biggest celebrations of positive community impact in our city. Storytelling is at the core of this event where individuals and organizations that are doing exceptional work to help create a more engaged, more vibrant, more inclusive community are honoured.

The Pillar Community Innovation Awards celebrates how individuals, organizations and enterprises are investing in positive community impact in the categories of Innovation, Leadership, Impact, Collaboration and Community Choice. It is an opportunity to recognize those who are doing exceptional work in these areas.

National Volunteer Week
Volunteer Canada provides national leadership and expertise on volunteerism to increase participation, quality, and diversity of volunteer experiences. Volunteer Canada annually supports National Volunteer Week during the month of April to celebrate, thank and recognize the impact of volunteers and how they lift our communities. A number of organizations in the City of London regularly celebrate National Volunteer Week and acknowledge the exponential impact of volunteers in our community.