

The Champion Award

Mid-morning on Saturday, the second day of the Symposium, a great hush fell over the room where over 70 delegates and our invited guests were assembled. Madeliene Tarasick, President of CW4WAfghan, broke the silence with: *“Last night we were thrilled to announce a new award, the Champion Award, inspired by Sally Armstrong. We indicated that the Award would be presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting. It is my pleasure to announce a small change in that plan. We are pleased to announce that the first recipient of the annual Champion Award will be presented with the Award today. We can not miss the opportunity to present the award in the presence of the luminaries on the stage today!”* With that, each of the following people gave their personal tribute to the Champion:

Penny Christensen: *“This person has enriched many lives, including mine. I value her friendship, her integrity, her persistence, her compassion and her strength.”*

Linda Middaugh: *“This person never ceases to amaze me with her multitude of talents. She is my #1 computer contact, my #1 Skype contact, and has been my mentor for over 10 years!”*

Murwarid Ziayee: *“This person is a symbol of kindness, dedication, and integrity. I’m inspired by this person’s spiritual quality that motivated others to follow the path she started.”*

Marg Stewart: *“This passionate, warm, and very generous person ‘wields hope like an axe.’”*

Jamie Podmorow: *“This person’s endless tenacity and deep laid passion are constant inspiration in our journey to restore women’s rights in Afghanistan.”*

Irene MacDonald: *“This person’s vision, passion, enthusiasm, energy, and unswerving commitment to women’s*

rights and education in Afghanistan convinced me, on our first meeting, that CW4WAfghan was an organization where I wanted to spend my volunteer hours.”

Ryan Alred: *“This person is a guiding light to fledgling Canadian charities, helping them match their lofty ambitions with the skills and the iron determination needed to make their dreams a reality. Her words of wisdom will echo for generations.”*

Deborah Alexander: *“This person has inspired us with her very deep capacity for listening – and considering -- all that’s brought forth to her. She has shown us the enormous potential CW4WAfghan has to bring change and growth, both here and in Afghanistan.”*

Lauryn Oates: *“This person is a mover and shaker, a mentor and a sage, a thinker and a planner, a visionary and a passionate activist all rolled into one! She’s an exceptionally rare bird and it’s been an honour to have witnessed the depth of her dedication over the last decade and more – I remain in awe.”*

Madeliene Tarasick: *“This person helps us find light in the darkest of times and elevates everyone around her. This person is **Janice Eisenhauer**, the co-founder of the organization, and the heart and soul of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan.”*

With this, and after great applause, Janis Rapchuk presented Janice with a framed citation and Madeliene handed Janice a most beautiful lucite pyramid-shaped Champion's Trophy, which reads: **‘Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth’ -- Chisholm.’**



Janice was clearly overcome.

*Award recipient:
Janice Eisenhauer*