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General interest press release

Siemens Canada donates \$5,000 to West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped in recognition of employee volunteering

Oakville, ON, December 19, 2013

Siemens Canada is donating \$5,000 to West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped (WIAIH) in recognition of Montreal employee Katie Cobb, winner of the organization's Greatest Community Supporter Contest.

The contest aims recognize employees who are leaders in their community through volunteering and fundraising activities. To enter, Siemens employees from across the country shared their stories of community involvement. Applications were shortlisted by Siemens employees through online voting and winners were selected by a committee made up of members of the Executive Management team that oversee Siemens' CSR activities.

Two \$10,000 donations were awarded to winners in the fundraising and volunteering categories with two additional \$5,000 donations awarded to the runners-up in each category.



The runner-up in the volunteering category, Katie Cobb of Montreal, QC, supported the **West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped** in her hometown with Siemens' \$5,000 donation. Cobb has volunteered for many years by spending time with teens and adults supported by the association and most recently supported their annual fundraising walk.

WIAIH strives to enhance the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability or autism and their families, providing a broad range of services to over 500 members. Services include recreation activities, a residence for adults living with intellectual handicaps, information sessions as well as a support groups for parents.

QUOTES:

"Our employees have made a remarkable impact in their communities through fundraising and volunteering activities and it is inspiring to see them setting the example for all of us by incorporating social responsibility to their lives. Giving back and walking the talk is paramount at Siemens Canada, as is having a platform to recognize our employees' CSR activities. Congratulations to our exceptional contest winners."

– **Robert Hardt, President and CEO, Siemens Canada Limited**

"The experiences I encountered spending time with teens and adults who have intellectual disabilities or autism, while managing through the sometimes difficult moments and again through many humorous ones, have given me unforgettable lasting memories that will stay with me for life. This association has become very close to my heart. Having a cousin who is dear to me and who attends many of the privileges and programs that the association offers, opened my eyes and allowed me to enter a different world that has brought me a lot of joy."

– **Katie Cobb, Siemens Canada Limited, Greatest Community Supporter Contest winner**

"This donation means WIAIH can offer more activities to families in the community, so that their child or adult with special needs can take part in safe, fun and secure recreation activities. The West Island is home to the largest proportion of people with intellectual disabilities and citizens are used to seeing WIAIH groups out and about among them. We believe that in the long term, our community will become more and more welcoming of people who are seen as 'different'."

– **Natalie Chapman, Director, West Island Association for the Intellectually**

Read more about the other winners:

Steve Mainguy
Scott Nameth
John Marett

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Ann Adair, Vice President, Communications and Government Affairs

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Handicapped

About Siemens Canada

For more than 100 years the innovative ideas from Siemens have helped make Canada a better place. From the Atlantic to Pacific oceans, more than 4,500 employees in Canada work together to provide answers that last in the fields of industry, energy, healthcare and infrastructure solutions for cities. Since it was federally chartered in 1912, Siemens has stood for technical achievements, innovation, quality and reliability. Sales for Siemens in Canada in fiscal 2013 (ended September 30), were \$2.0 billion CAD. The company has 46 offices and 13 manufacturing/assembly facilities across Canada.

About Siemens Caring Hands and the Caring Hands Employee Committee

The Siemens Caring Hands program was established in 2005 to coordinate and bundle corporate social responsibility activities, including donations, volunteerism, disaster relief and sponsorships. In 2010 Siemens Canada formed the Caring Hands Employee Committee to further unite the efforts of Siemens employees from coast-to-coast and to champion Caring Hands programs throughout the year including benefitting Siemens' charity of record, Cystic Fibrosis Canada. Siemens Caring Hands represents a culture of giving that is cultivated by Siemens Canada and focuses on support for humanitarian and environmental non-profit organizations. Over years, Siemens Canada has made a significant impact in enhancing lives through its charitable activities.

About West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped

West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped (WIAIH) is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that works to increase opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism, strengthen their families and sensitize the community. Created in 1958 by concerned parents, WIAIH takes a leadership role in advocacy and provides programs designed to increase independence and empower over 800 people that depend on WIAIH annually. For more information about WIAIH, visit www.wiaih.qc.ca