

## *Maria de Boer* CHANGEMAKER AWARD

Maria de Boer had been the Executive Director of Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region (EAFWR) for nearly 35 years. She retired in October 2017. Maria worked hard to put inclusion and belonging first at EAFWR. She encouraged people to be curious and thoughtful. Maria asked questions like, “Who makes inclusion happen?” and “How do we truly welcome and value all members of our community?”

EAFWR believes that people who have been left out or treated differently by others understand better than anyone what we need to do to make everyone feel like they belong. We need to work with other groups who help create belonging - especially the true leaders, people who are disabled/have a disability. People who have been left out from areas of community life really understand why everyone needs to feel like they belong and why every person’s voice matters.

For this reason, EAFWR wants to honour **someone who identifies as disabled/having a disability** who makes a positive impact for others in some way, and is looking for nominations for the **third annual Maria de Boer Changemaker Award. The award winner will receive \$500.**

Previous award winners were described by one or more of these statements:

- This person makes a positive difference in others' lives.
- This person changes the way things are done, or changes how people think about things.
- This person has made things better for one person, a group or a place.
- This person continues to make an effort, even when it is hard or the results were not what they had hoped for.

Nomination packages are available at [www.eafwr.on.ca](http://www.eafwr.on.ca), or by requesting a Nomination Package from the EAFWR office at 519-741-0190.

For more information, please contact Avishka at 519-741-0190 ext. 226 or [avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca](mailto:avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca)

To learn more about the nomination criteria, or to talk about whether a nominee might be a good fit, please contact Courtney at 519-741-0190 ext. 220 or [courtney.horowitz@eafwr.on.ca](mailto:courtney.horowitz@eafwr.on.ca)



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## **Eligibility criteria:**

(You must be able to say 'yes, this is true' about all four of these following sentences, or else we can't accept your nomination package)

- The person you are nominating must be comfortable being described as disabled/having a disability (developmental, physical)\*
- The impact of the person being nominated must be mostly in Waterloo Region
- If you are nominating yourself, you must also include a letter, video, or audio recording describing your positive impact from someone else
- The person being nominated is okay with being nominated

\*EAFWR exists to support people with physical and developmental disabilities, and so our award is focused on disability and ways that people with disabilities are making stronger communities. We believe that everyone is essential to inclusion, and that those who have been excluded are the best at making inclusion happen. By having this award, we are excited to support a bigger effort by many different groups and people to make all of Waterloo Region welcoming to every single person, disabled or not.

## **Assessment criteria:**

(After we get the nominations, we rate them according to how well you describe how the nominated person does these four things. That is how we decide who gets the award)

- The person being nominated makes a positive impact on a person, a group of people, the community or the environment.
- The person being nominated chooses which efforts and actions they use to make a difference.
- The person being nominated makes this impact through their efforts or actions, using their gifts, talents or skills to help create a community where everyone belongs and has a chance to bring their gifts, talents and skills.

## **Examples:**

- They made someone else feel more welcome in a group.
- They helped others understand why inclusion is important.
- They helped a group (community) make sure that it welcomes more people.
- They did something to take care of the environment by themselves.
- They helped other people take care of the environment.

The person being nominated may make their impact from a one-time effort or action, or ongoing efforts and actions.



### **Selection process:**

A group of people is chosen to look over the nominations. They will look at each nomination based on the assessment criteria listed in the previous section. If this group has any questions, they will reach out to you.

Once a decision is made, both the person who is chosen to win the award, and the person who nominated them, will be contacted. Information about the presentation will be shared then.

## *Previous* **AWARD WINNERS**



### **2019 Award Winner: Jeff Poolton**

In 2019, Jeff Poolton received the second Changemaker Award. Jeff is a talented singer-songwriter in Kitchener-Waterloo. He uses his gifts to educate other people about his disability, his experience and challenges.



### **2018 Award Winner: Jenny Moulton**

In 2018, Jenny Moulton received the first ever Maria de Boer Changemaker Award. Jenny was recognized for her natural ability to help others. She gives back to the community as a volunteer at the Kitchener Public Library. She also collects pop can tabs for the wheelchair program. Speaking about the award, Jenny says, “It was great! That’s all I have to say.”



# Nomination WRITEUP

We really want to know why you think the person being nominated deserves this award.

Please tell us the story of how the person being nominated has made a positive impact for others in some way. What is it that they have done or continue to do? What is the impact it has, and how does that make a positive change? How does their action represent inclusion and valued contribution?

We recognize that stories come in all different formats! Some ways you can submit your nomination are:

1. A written story that is **700 words or less** submitted to Avishka Juta by email at [avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca](mailto:avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca), using our [online form](#), or in person or by mail to Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region, 91 Moore Avenue, Kitchener, ON, N2H 3S4

2. A two to three minute video or audio clip uploaded to the [Changemaker Google Drive folder](#) and shared via email with [avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca](mailto:avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca)

[Check out our tip sheet](#) for tips and tricks on creating a great clip.

3. Contact Avishka Juta by phone at 519-741-0190 ext. 226 or email ([avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca](mailto:avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca)) to be connected with someone who can support you in telling your story.

Please reference “**CHANGEMAKER AWARD**” in the subject line and include your name and contact information, as well as the name of your nominee and their contact information,

**NEW DEADLINE:** Please submit your nomination by **October 22, 2021** to:

Avishka Juta  
[avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca](mailto:avishka.juta@eafwr.on.ca) or 519-741-0190 ext. 226  
Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region  
91 Moore Ave, Kitchener, ON N2H 3S4

