

## Jo-Anne M. Findlay Memorial Award for Volunteerism at Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg Inc.

The Jo-Anne M. Findlay Memorial Award was made possible due to the generous donations of many who honoured Jo-Anne when she passed away in May 2021. The award will be offered each year to a 3rd year student graduating from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law's JD Program who has, over the course of their academic career, demonstrated a strong commitment to volunteerism, access to justice and the values of Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg Inc. ("LHC"). Candidates must have worked at LHC as an extern, summer student and/or volunteer. The recognition will include a monetary award of \$1250.00 and is intended to support a new graduate as they embark on their law career.

To be eligible, students must apply and provide **a letter from the applicant** outlining their experience at LHC as well as their basis for seeking the award recognition, a copy of their **University of Manitoba transcript**, along with **two recommendation letters**, from colleagues or employment/volunteer experiences, which establish why they merit the award. Completed application forms must be sent via email to LHC's Executive Director, Scott McFadyen, [scott@legalhelpcentre.ca](mailto:scott@legalhelpcentre.ca). Application deadline is **April 28, 2023**.

The successful candidate will be chosen by a committee made of the Executive Director of LHC, a representative of the LHC Board of Directors, and a family member of Jo-Anne Findlay. The award will be presented in the spring/summer (graduation ceremony).

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### **About Jo-Anne**

Jo-Anne Findlay was the epitome of a valuable volunteer. She was enthusiastic about our mission, creative in thought, patient with people and process, trustworthy and dependable with her responsibilities, gracious and supportive of her colleagues, and humble about her contribution.

Jo-Anne was the Treasurer of the LHC's Board of Directors from 2016 until her death. Throughout her time on the Board, Jo-Anne added intelligence, practicality, generosity, and compassion to every interaction. She was curious and loved to learn. In order to fulfill her duties and add value, she increased her awareness of various issues impacting the LHC and its client-base, voluntarily taking online courses during her free time in areas such as family law, wills and estate law, and Indigenous studies. Her unique ability to remain both passionate and objective about our work, in combination with her knowledge and skills, made her a vital contributor.

As Treasurer, she took on oversight of the finances of the organization. As a chartered accountant, she was recognized with a fellowship from CPA Manitoba for her contributions to the profession and the community. Beyond ensuring financial viability and providing continuous leadership on monetary matters, it was her unwavering support of fellow volunteers and awareness of the community need that set her apart. Her genuine interest and concern for everyone's well-being, whether colleague, client or stranger, was profound.

Jo-Anne valued family first, but was involved in many charitable initiatives, including LHC. She strongly believed we were making a real and measurable impact on people's lives and the community-at-large, which drove her continued involvement, so much so that she continued to participate in LHC meetings in the days just prior to her death. As a strong advocate for accessibility, she also supported that services were available, affordable and understandable to broad audiences.

### **About Legal Help Centre**

LHC's mission is to improve access to legal and social service resources for socially and economically disadvantaged members of the community by providing legal support, education, and referrals, in partnership with students and volunteers. The collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving makes LHC distinct and was of great importance to Jo-Anne.