
MEMORANDUM

COM-C 29-2021

Subject: Dr. Karl Stobbe – 2020 Canada Volunteer Awards, Community Leader Award Recipient

Date: September 14, 2021

To: Public Health & Social Services Committee

From: Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services

Niagara Region Community Services is pleased to announce that Dr. Karl Stobbe, Medical Director of Regional Essential Access to Connected Healthcare (REACH) Niagara, is the successful recipient of the Community Leader Award, for the Ontario region, as part of the [2020 Canada Volunteer Awards program](#).

The Government of Canada's Canada Volunteer Awards (CVA) program recognizes the outstanding contributions of volunteers, businesses and innovative not-for-profit organizations in improving the well-being of people and communities. The Community Leader Award category is for outstanding individual volunteers or groups of volunteers who have taken a lead role in developing solutions to social challenges in communities.

Dr. Stobbe's dedication to addressing the lack of healthcare services available to vulnerable populations makes him a champion of health equity. His work has led to increased education and advocacy, establishing key collaborations between community organizations, health organizations, academic institutions and the Region.

The nomination, submitted by Niagara Region Community Services, showcased Dr. Stobbe's impact in the community, the broad reach of his work, collaboration with diverse community partners, challenges he faced in providing healthcare to vulnerable populations, and how his work inspired the community to continue addressing barriers to healthcare, faced by these populations.

In 2019, Dr. Stobbe created REACH to make healthcare services more accessible for those who traditionally have very little access and trust in systems of healthcare. REACH provides shelter-based primary care medical clinics staffed part-time by a family doctor, a nurse practitioner and a community paramedic, and services in collaboration with multiple organizations which include: primary and preventative medical care, follow-ups, house calls, specialist referrals, medical appointment

transportation, support with completing health-related documentation and connections to local family practices, community health centres, mental health services, dental care services, housing supports and meal programs.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, REACH collaborated with Niagara Region Homelessness Services and Public Health to provide vital medical services to the homeless population such as:

- Primary medical care, on-call medical supports and video or phone clinics for shelters within the emergency shelter system
- Administered COVID-19 screening tools and managed COVID-19 testing results
- Collaborated with the Niagara Assertive Outreach Team to provide healthcare supports to individuals living on the street or not accessing emergency shelters
- Multiple first and second dose COVID-19 vaccination clinics, in various emergency shelter locations, for individuals living in shelter and on the street
- COVID-19 related supports for individuals accessing services at Positive Living Niagara

Through Dr. Stobbe's perseverance, he has mitigated severe health outcomes and hospitalizations for the homeless population, bettered the overall health and well-being of vulnerable individuals to live longer more fulfilling lives, and built their confidence and trust with healthcare providers to continue their healthcare journey. His work and contributions have ensured that vulnerable populations in Niagara have continued access to barrier-free, trauma-informed, quality healthcare.

Respectfully submitted and signed by:

Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE
Commissioner