

Jim Laforet  
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February 12, 2013

**Re: International Women's Day Nomination**

Dear Selection Committee,

Christine Zacharko easily fits the definition of hero and champion in Sherwood Park. Her kindness and willingness to give back, not only to the community, but the world at large make her a very special person.

Christine not only shares herself with the community, but keeps her family involved as well. She has consistently ensured that her family participates in the annual Christmas hamper campaign, helping the spirit of Christmas reach those who cannot afford to celebrate. She also spends many hours volunteering for other events and organizations in the community. This is exemplified by the long hours she put in preparing for and supporting the World's Longest Soccer game, held in our community this past summer.

Even more impressive is Christine's support to those outside of the community. Last year, Christine and a handful of other volunteers embarked on a medical mission to Haiti. As the mission's sole optical specialist Christine spent grueling days in town halls, schools and churches - many lacking amenities and infrastructure, to improve the eyesight of the young and old alike.

When not volunteering, Christine still finds ways to give back and provide support to those in need. Christine's profession puts her in touch with many of our county's elderly, and at times she may be the only person they get to interact with all day. Regardless of her busy schedule, Christine still finds time to have a tea and conversation with our elderly, or at times bring her dog along for a visit. This type of sharing is how my family met Christine when she opened her house to us on our very first Christmas in Sherwood Park almost 8-years ago.

My family supports Christine's nomination for Strathcona County International Women's Day Award.

Sincerely,

Jim Laforet