

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY 2026 VANCOUVER ISLAND CHAPTER AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

John Saunders Lifetime Achievement Award:

Honours a seasoned fundraising professional whose career reflects exceptional commitment to philanthropy, community leadership, and the advancement of the fundraising profession. This award celebrates individuals whose long term contributions have strengthened organizations, inspired colleagues, and uplifted the broader community, embodying the spirit and values championed by John Saunders.

John Saunders (1937–2025) was a transformative leader in fundraising on Vancouver Island and across Canada. His career spanned education, university administration, and philanthropic development. He was the first Canadian to serve on the restructured board of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (now AFP), the founding President of the AFP Vancouver Island Chapter, and a founding Director of the AFP Canada Foundation. A mentor, advocate, and champion of professionalism, integrity, and community trust, John uplifted countless fundraisers and organizations through his generosity, encouragement, and unwavering kindness. This award honours individuals whose careers reflect that same lasting impact.

What we're looking for:

1. **Career Contributions & Fundraising and Community Leadership:** Describe the nominee's work that includes major initiatives they led, programs they developed, campaigns they strengthened, or ways they contributed their time, talent, and expertise for the common good. (0-35 points)
2. **Impact on Organizations and the Community:** Describe the difference the nominee's work has made over time. This could include people served, organizations strengthened, funds raised, partnerships built, or improvements in community services. Exact numbers are *not* required, but rather a general sense of impact. (0 - 35 points)
3. **Long Term Influence, Sustainability, or Legacy:** Describe how the nominee's work continues to make a difference. This may include programs that remain active, initiatives that grew beyond their tenure, or ways the nominee has mentored others, shaped the profession, or inspired future leaders. (0-15 points)
4. **Inspiration for Others & Replicability of Their Work:** Describe how the nominee's approach, leadership, or innovations may have inspired others or could serve as a model for other communities or organizations. (0 - 15 points)

Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer Award:

Celebrates an individual, family or group of individuals whose volunteer leadership has made a meaningful difference in fundraising efforts for one or more nonprofit organizations. These volunteers inspire others, strengthen campaigns, and help build a more generous community.

What we're looking for:

1. **Leadership & Responsibilities:** Describe how the nominee(s) has led or supported fundraising efforts. This may include leadership role and responsibilities, ability to organize volunteers, manage and organize a campaign, helping an organization move its work forward, time, effort, and personal commitment, board or committee service. (0-65 points)
2. **Fundraising Impact:** Describe the difference their volunteer work has made. This could be meeting fundraising goals, growing participation, strengthening donor relationships, or helping an organization expand its programs. Exact dollar amounts are not required. (0-25 points)
3. **Inspiring and Motivating Others:** Describe how the nominee brings people together. Examples might include recruiting, managing and motivating volunteers, building team spirit, or encouraging others to give or get involved. (0-10 points)

Outstanding Corporate Responsibility Award:

Honours a business that demonstrates exceptional generosity and leadership in strengthening the community. This award celebrates businesses that invest in local causes and takes a leadership role in inspiring others in the business community, and shows a meaningful commitment to philanthropy through their actions, partnerships, and culture.

What we're looking for:

1. **Philanthropic Support & Community Investment:** Share how the business contributes to charitable causes. This may include financial support, in-kind contributions, employee volunteerism, sponsorship, or other meaningful investments. Exact dollar amounts are not required. (0-60)
2. **Innovation & Creativity in Community Impact:** Describe any creative or innovative ways the business has addressed community needs. Examples might include new partnerships, unique fundraising approaches, employee-driven initiatives, or inventive solutions to local challenges. (0-15)
3. **Leadership Role in Philanthropy:** Tell us how the business shows leadership in giving back. This could include championing causes, supporting long-term initiatives, empowering employees to volunteer, or helping strengthen the nonprofit sector. (0-15)
4. **Impact of Their Support:** Evidence of encouragement and motivation given to others to take leadership roles in philanthropy. (0-10 points)

Award for Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy (5-18yrs):

Celebrates an individual or group of young people whose generosity, creativity, and leadership have made a meaningful difference in their community. This award honours youth who give their time, talent, or treasure to help others, and who inspire those around them through their actions.

What we're looking for:

1. **What the Youth Did:** Share the story of the project or activity the youth led or participated in. This may include their goals, how they approached the work, who was involved, and what they contributed (time, skills, creativity, fundraising, advocacy, etc.). (0-40 points)
2. **Impact on the Community:** Describe the difference their efforts made. This could include people helped, awareness raised, funds generated, volunteer participation, or improvements to a local cause or organization. Exact numbers are not required, but rather a general sense of impact. (0-30 points)
3. **Growth, Continuity, or Future Plans:** Share whether the youth plans to continue the project, expand it, or take on new initiatives. This helps judges understand the lasting influence of their work. (0-20 points)
4. **Inspiration for Others:** Describe how the youth's project could inspire other young people or be replicated in other schools or communities. (1-10 points)

Outstanding Charitable Organization Award:

Honours a civic or non-profit organization whose leadership, generosity, and community commitment have made a meaningful difference. This award celebrates organizations that strengthen local causes through fundraising, volunteer leadership, collaboration, and by inspiring others to get involved.

What we're looking for:

1. **Leadership in Fundraising or Community Projects:** Share how the organization has led or supported fundraising efforts or major community initiatives. This may include organizing campaigns, coordinating volunteers, partnering with other nonprofits, or taking on leadership roles that help move important work forward. (0-35 points)
2. **Impact on Local Causes and Community Well-Being:** Describe the difference the organization's efforts have made. This could include programs strengthened, people served, funds raised, partnerships built, or improvements in community services. Exact numbers are not required. (0-35 points)
3. **Inspiring and Motivating Others:** Tell us how the organization encourages others to get involved. Examples might include volunteer recruitment, motivating partner groups, supporting other nonprofits, or fostering a culture of generosity within the community. (0-20 points)

4. **Innovation & Creativity:** If relevant, share any creative or innovative approaches the organization has used to address community needs. This might include new partnerships, inventive fundraising ideas, or unique solutions to local challenges. (0-10 points)

Outstanding Philanthropist Award:

Honours an individual or family whose exceptional generosity has made a meaningful and lasting difference in the community. This award celebrates those who give with purpose, strengthen charitable organizations, and inspire others to step forward as philanthropic leaders.

What we're looking for:

1. **Generosity & Community Support:** Share how the nominee has contributed to your organization or community. This may include financial gifts, in-kind support, volunteer involvement, or other meaningful contributions. A simple description is perfect, exact amounts are *not* required. (0-40 points)
2. **Impact on Your Organization or Community:** Describe the difference their generosity has made. This could include goal achieved, programs strengthened, people served, new initiatives launched, or increased capacity to deliver services. (0-30 points)
3. **Inspiring Others to Give or Lead:** Tell us how the nominee encourages others to get involved. Examples might include motivating peers, championing causes publicly, supporting fundraising events, or modelling a culture of generosity. (0 - 20 points)
4. **Innovation & Creative Approach:** Share any creative or innovative ways the nominee has supported charitable causes. This might include ways that could serve as a prototype for others or is easily replicable in other communities. (0-10 points)