



YWCA Women of Distinction Event Breaks All records!

Raises a \$1 Million to support more than 40 programs for women and girls city-wide

At times emotional in the face of recipients' moving stories of heroism and gratitude, guests were treated to a rollicking evening with Host Suhana Meharchand keeping the pace engaging and up-beat.

Toronto Mayor David Miller called YWCA "a treasure" in our city as 1700 guests teemed in to the Metro Convention centre to honour the courage and commitment of 8 Women of Distinction while raising a record amount of money for the city's oldest women's organization.

Event Co-Chairs Cathy Riggall and Sylvia Chrominska appeared moved as they came to the stage to tell a cheering crowd that their challenge to "raise a million" had been met. "It is a wonderful achievement for a wonderful organization", said Riggall. "I just love this organization and all it does for women and girls".

The money will go to help provide shelter, housing, employment opportunities and support for girls facing the challenges of growing up. In addition, YWCA is active in public policy and advocacy initiatives that improve the opportunities for women and girls in Toronto and beyond. Recipients, such as Film-maker Deepa Mehta, and her daughter Devyani Saltzman were joined by Isabel Bassett, Bill Davis, Arlene Pearly-Rae, Barbara Hall, John Tory, Annette Verschuren from Home Depot, Christine McGee of Sleep Country Canada and others to mark the achievements of this year's recipients.

In order of awards received:

Kelly Thornton, Arts & Letters, presented by Cassels Brock
Helping women take centre stage

Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Communications, presented by EllisDon
The pursuit of truth in the face of danger

Zahra Dhanani, Social Change, presented by YWCA Toronto
Spinning music and reforming law

Ayan Hersi, Young Woman of Distinction, presented by CIBC
Young woman of substance seeking international justice

Fran Odette, Access & Equity, presented by Towers Perrin
Forging disabled women's access to everyday life

Rose Patten, Corporate Leadership, presented by Ernst & Young
Paving the way for women in corporate Canada through collegiality and collaboration

Mary Aitken, Entrepreneurship, presented by TD Bank Financial Group
Building a business that makes "me" time into "we" time

Deepa Mehta, President's Award, Isabel Bassett and Borden Ladner Gervais
Directing our attention to women's lives

For photos or follow-up interview, please contact Amanda Dale 416-453-1916.

