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# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 2, 2013

## **NSRAP Names Valley Youth Project for 2013 Community Hero Award**

**HALIFAX, NS** – The **Valley Youth Project (VYP)** will receive the **2013 Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award** presented by the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP).

“NSRAP is extremely pleased and proud to honor the **Valley Youth Project** for their unstinting volunteerism on behalf of queer and trans youth in the Annapolis Valley,” said Lisa Buchanan, NSRAP Board Chair.

**VYP** organizers, **Tim Hughes, Krista MacDonald, Mike Beazley, and Mylène DiPenta**, felt honoured to learn that they had been selected. They join past recipients Daniel MacKay, Kim Vance, Eric Smith, and Joanne Fitzgerald.

Operating on a strictly volunteer basis, under the umbrella of the Halifax-based Youth Project, the VYP provides lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth in rural communities with a safe environment of non-judgment and support. Twice a month, the **VYP** provides a safe drop-in space for LGBTQ youth and their allies to come together as part of a network of support and acceptance.

“[The **VYP**] provides a safe venue for youth to connect and find community. The very existence of the Valley Youth Project tells rural LGBTQ youth, their families and peers that they count, that they are a healthy part of their community,” said a local supporter.

The award will be presented at NSRAP’s annual Community Heroes Gala on November 2, 2013 at the Atlantica Hotel. Tickets for the event are \$125/person (\$1,250/table of 10) and can be purchased online at: [nsrap.ca/gala](http://nsrap.ca/gala). You can learn more about the **Valley Youth Project** by visiting their website: <http://valleyyouthproject.wordpress.com/>

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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