MEDIA RELEASE

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Pathways Volunteers Saluted at Kitchener Awards Ceremony!

Kitchener, ON: The City of Kitchener recognizes the great passion of active older citizens and their role as community champions. As such, the City hosts a special Salute to Seniors awards presentation to honour seniors for being role models through active involvement and contributing to a healthy community. Two of the individuals being recognized at this year’s ceremony on June 13th are Abdullah and Farida Mohibuddin.

Abdullah and Farida are both tutors in the Pathways to Education program at Mosaic Counselling and Family Services. The couple emigrated from Bangladesh two years ago to be with their 3 children, all of whom came to Canada for University and decided to stay. Abdullah and Farida, both in their 60s, are making a difference by bridging the generation gap and contributing to the success of students. Only four months after arriving in Canada, they began exploring ways to volunteer in their new community. Pathways to Education drew their attention because the program involves youth and education. Farida was a teacher in two English schools in Bangladesh, so she is able to draw from her own experience when working with Pathways students. For Abdullah, however, it is something new. He was a commercial pilot prior to coming to Canada. They share a passion for working with the students, and have many stories to impart.

They will soon have been with the program for two years. When asked what keeps them going, the answer is simple says the Mohibuddins: "To be with the students, as we love children. Tutoring the students is interesting and brings pleasure for us, especially when we find the students are eagerly waiting for us."

It is a rewarding experience. Farida shares a story of a Grade 10 student who was struggling with Geography. The student said she didn't like it and found the homework, assignments and tests really hard. At that point, she wasn't passing and was disheartened. Farida started working with her once per week for three hours and used many encouraging techniques. After only one month, the student came back and told Farida happily that she had improved her mark so much that she passed Geography!

Farida and Abdullah strongly believe they are making a difference and are happy to share their experience with the students. They say it all comes down to patience, love and affection.

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ABOUT PATHWAYS

Pathways to Education is an innovative, community-based program that has been helping youth in low-income communities stay in school and graduate to post-secondary education. Pathways, Kitchener serves more than 600 students in the Chandler-Mowat and Kingsdale communities and is delivered through Mosaic Counselling and Family Services.

ABOUT MOSAIC

Mosaic provides individual counselling, group programs, credit counselling and community outreach services to children, men, women, couples and families. Mosaic is recognized for its wide-ranging expertise in the field of mental health, children and youth development, domestic violence prevention and service delivery, and the provision of services for new Canadians and refugees. Mosaic is also the home of Pathways to Education and the Family Violence Project of Waterloo Region.

www.mosaiconline.ca