



North End project a worldwide winner

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A project to chart a course for a healthy and safe community in the city's North End has won an international award.

The Lakeshore chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI) was honoured for developing a strategic plan for the Robert Land Community Association. PMI represents more than half a million project-management practitioners in more than 185 countries.

The Lakeshore chapter, which has almost 2,000 members in an area reaching from Peel to Niagara, won the community advancement award as "a testament to the value PMI Lakeshore brings to their community and to their dedication," Gregory Balestrero, CEO of PMI, said in a statement.

Alison Copoc of the Lakeshore chapter said the award is gratifying as "this is a very important project for Robert Land in getting support for its work in the North End. The plan is a road map of where they are going."

She said a key to the project was identifying ways to secure solid ongoing funding which are "the stepping stones to help people get out of traps. You can't deny people the basic necessities."

Members donated more than 1,000 hours over a six-month period.

A key to the project was a Voice of Community Day, which visited more than 600 homes to raise awareness about services in areas like health, education, housing and recreation, said Ted Hodkinson, manager of programs and services for Robert Land.

"The significance of the project is that it solidifies the work of this organization for years to come."

Hodkinson said the PMI group brought expertise in project management to supply a clear set of steps to follow to achieve goals.

He added that for the 12 people in the Lakeshore group to be singled out from an organization of more than 500,000 project managers worldwide is tremendous acclaim.

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