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PRESS RELEASE – Immediate Distribution



Peterborough, Ontario: Local Youth Receives Global Changemaker Ambassador Award

Rachelia Giardino has a wonderful ability to view worldwide change through the lens of small communities. Working with the Kawartha World Issues Centre, she helps youth enact change through training, workshops and community outreach events. On Feb 2nd, Rachelia was recognized by the Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC) during the Global Citizens Forum 2017: Mobilizing Leadership for Global Sustainable Development in Toronto. The Global Changemaker Youth Ambassador Program is organized annually by OCIC with an aim to increase the capacity of youth working with OCIC member organizations and institutions.

For the last 3 years, Rachelia has worked with the Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC), a global education and resource centre that promotes dialogue and understanding of global issues and their local connections, in Peterborough and the Kawartha area, with a focus on youth leadership.

After working with the Peterborough youth engagement program Speak Up Speak Out from the age of 17, Rachelia quickly transitioned from shy teenager to outspoken community advocate. She came across KWIC initially as a high school student, and again when she attended Trent University and was looking to continue her service work. “I love their {KWIC’s} mandate and mission,” she says. “It marries two things I didn’t think I could bring together: youth engagement and social justice.” Rachelia is currently the coordinator of KWIC’s Seeds for Justice Youth Program, which creates opportunities for youth engagement, including training in workshop design and facilitation of global education workshops using a peer-mentorship model.

“The award is important recognition of Rachelia’s work which builds youth capacity for leadership and action, as well as awareness about important global-local issues. She’s really amazing!” explains Julie Cosgrove, Executive Director at KWIC. Last year, Rachelia was nominated for The Everyday Political Citizen award for political role models between ages 18-29 and hosted by Samara, a non-partisan charity that works to increase political participation in Canada; the SFJ youth program was awarded Honourable Mention in the Healthy Communities category by Sustainable Peterborough, as well.

Community members are asked to support Rachelia and the SFJ youth program with an opportunity to win an additional \$500.00 to support their work through a social media competition during the next 2 weeks.

An easy way to engage is to share & like this

post: <https://www.facebook.com/LikeOCIC/photos/a.378718947734.170272.207487687734/10154073621292735/?type=3> OCIC is also asking people to tag Ontario Council for International Cooperation

on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (@OCICtweets) and use the hashtag #GCYArachelia

To view Rachelia’s video, please visit kwic.info.

The Kawartha World Issues Centre is a charitable global education and resource centre serving Peterborough community and Kawartha region which promotes dialogue and understanding of world issues and their local connections to enable people to effect positive social and environmental change.