

Standout people

Citizen one: Sharon Young Kipp

March 3, 2009

AGE: 64

OCCUPATION: Phys-ed teacher at London Central secondary school

PROFILE: A teacher for more than 30 years, she was instrumental, as athletic co-ordinator, in getting funds for special projects and equipment. Known for school spirit, Young Kipp transferred that enthusiasm to her longtime volunteer work with the United Way. She has volunteered for the organization for about 12 years and chairs the football committee for the charity, along with the school campaign at Central. Her work for the organization this year earned her the Images of Hope Award, a lifetime achievement honour. She has also raised money for the Women of Excellence and the Make A Wish Foundation, vowing to raise enough money to grant one child's wish every year. She teaches students about organ donation and is involved with the transplant program at the London Health Sciences Centre.

She is active with the University of Western Ontario's alumni association and was UWO's homecoming chair in 2005. Active in her teachers' union, she's served as its branch president since 1997.

MOTIVATION: Volunteering, she says, has enriched her life. She hopes her students have the same experiences and make volunteering a lifestyle.

QUOTE: *"If anything, doing that volunteer work for the United Way, has made me a better person. It's not only giving, you (also) get back more than you give. It opens you up to see what's going on in your community and how you can contribute and it forces you to grow."*

Kelly Pedro is a Free Press reporter.

