

## United Way unveils class of 2010 during awards ceremony

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EMC News – Ottawa residents who have been working to improve the city and lives of its residents received permanent, public recognition of their efforts last week.

The 2010 class of recipients of the United Way Ottawa's Community Builder awards had their names unveiled on the Scotiabank Wall of Inspiration at city hall March 22.

Throughout the previous year, about 50 individuals and organizations were honoured with certificates recognizing their contributions towards building a "stronger, healthier and safer community."

Last Tuesday's annual luncheon in Jean Pigott Hall was an opportunity to publicly celebrate the efforts of award recipients such as blind-deaf multi-athlete Kevin Frost, Ottawa Senators Daniel Alfredsson and Chris Phillips and services like Together for Vanier and the Navan Women's Institute.

"It's pretty special," said Michael Allen, United Way Ottawa president and CEO. "Sometimes we hit a little bump in the road and something like this important not for self-recognition but for staying motivated and because it inspires others."

When the individual Community Builder awards are handed out, they are always surprises for the recipients. Last year, Frost received his award during a September fundraising barbeque and was surprised when, during the supper-hour slot of the event, a group of well-dressed peo-



Photo by Charelle Evelyn

**Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, left, congratulates the 2010 United Way Ottawa Community Builder of the Year Ottawa Police chief Vern White with Michael Allen, United Way Ottawa president and CEO.**

ple commanded the crowd's attention.

"I couldn't hear what was going on, so I went up to the front so I could lip read," Frost recalled last year. What he ended up reading was a list of his own accomplishments, presented by CTV reporter Karen Solomon, who is also a member of United Way Ottawa's volunteer recognition team.

"We catch them in all sorts of locations and places," Solomon said, during Tuesday's presentation.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson thanked the recipients as well as their families.

"When you've been out doing good deeds in the community, you've take that time away from your family to help your broader family, that being the City of Ottawa," Wat-

son said.

The United Way Ottawa also recognized their 2010 Community Builder of the Year, Ottawa Police Chief Vern White.

"He is just one among equals," said Allen.

White spoke of the work that has gone into project s.t.e.p (support treatment education prevention), which has raised \$6 million for residential youth drug treatment centres in the city.

"(Youth drug addiction) is not a school problem, but a community problem and I think with project s.t.e.p, we have found a community solution," White said. "This city has the greatest amount of clay and we're moulding something different for this city than any city in the country."