

Honouring difference makers

Nominations accepted for those who improve lives of people with disabilities

LETHBRIDGE HERALD

Nominations are being accepted for two special awards honouring those who are making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

The South Region Self-Advocacy Network (SRSAN) is accepting nominees for the Clarence Marsh Memorial Award. SRSAN is a group of more than 100 people with a mission to teach those with disabilities to advocate for themselves and others. Marsh was an outspoken self-

advocate, volunteer and president of SRSAN who passed away suddenly on Sept. 22, 2004. SRSAN created the award to honour Marsh and recognize other self-advocates who stand up for what they believe in and encourage others to do the same.

Since its inception in 2005, SRSAN has awarded several worthy candidates, including 2009 winner Edmund Zaiser. At the time, Edmund was the chairperson of Dynamii, a self-advocacy group housed out of Taber Special Needs. Edmund understood how important advocacy was, always approaching his work with enthusiasm in his nominators could only describe as "contagious."

Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association (SAIPA), which provides resources and support to SRSAN, is also accepting nominations for the Ally Recognition Award. This award recognizes individuals, organizations, businesses and

families which support people with disabilities to become fully participating members of the community.

"Recognizing advocates and their allies is a great way to showcase the impact people with and without disabilities are making in our communities," Sharon Rempel, SAIPA's executive director, said in a news release. "We continually strive to achieve inclusion for people with disabilities, and we know it takes every single citizen to get there."

Those who wish to nominate need to fill out the appropriate form for the award, and provide an explanation no greater than 200 words explaining why the nominee should win.

Nominations will be accepted until March 31; winners will be awarded in May.

For more information or to nominate, connect with SAIPA and SRSAN on social media, or call SAIPA at 403-320-1515 (toll-free 1-866-320-1518).