

The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



Lise Marchand

St-Jean-de-Matha, Quebec

Teacher, organizer, researcher, writer—despite her many roles, Lise Marchand has dedicated much of her life to giving of her time and talent to disadvantaged youth. She has long been, and continues to be, a voice for children, here in Canada and abroad.



As Quebec representative and spokesperson for UNICEF Canada, Lise has supported missions in Brazil and Colombia that help street youth. She organized several public awareness campaigns in Quebec through which she offered hope for a better future. She also supported La Maison des enfants in Montréal's Hochelaga-Maisonneuve neighbourhood. Her "Letters from the Heart" initiative gives children who are struggling a chance to be heard.

As administrative secretary of the Regroupement missionnaire laïque for several years, Lise spearheaded several community development projects in Latin America.

She was directly involved in developing a bakery, a woman's co-op, and a microcredit project. She also managed a home for children whose mothers were in prison and supported a home for children with HIV.

With the utmost sensitivity and despite at times having

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René Marchand, brother of the recipient

little means, she is always willing to go above and beyond to restore the dignity of the poorest members of society. "Quite simply, Lise has always refused any sort of recognition, arguing that her greatest joy is to spread joy to those most in need and to help them achieve their most heartfelt dreams," shared her brother René Marchand.



The Caring Canadian Award was presented to Lise Marchand on April 17, 2012, at Rideau Hall. Sgt Ronald Duchesne 2012 © Rideau Hall