

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**DARLENE GILLIES NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

Neepawa, Manitoba, July 10, 2018 – Darlene Gillies of Neepawa was named the 2018 Volunteer of the Year of UCT (United Commercial Travelers), an international membership organization focused on volunteer community service, at the organization's recent annual convention in Savannah, Georgia.

"I usually have lots to say, but receiving this award is a shock," Gillies explained upon presentation of the award. "My dad told me to always look out for the underdog, and I guess that stuck because that's what I've tried to do all of my adult life."

Gillies is a longtime member of UCT's Neepawa Council 924 and a past international president of the organization, having served six years on the board of governors. According to Neepawa's Anne Pritchard, who nominated her for the award, Gillies uses her UCT local council to address the needs in her community by encouraging her fellow members to join her in getting involved in projects and events that make a difference for others.

Some of these projects include coordinating Join Hands Day projects with local youth, assisting with UCT safety poster contests, co-chairing the committee for the Progressive Agricultural Safety Day, volunteering for Special Olympics and more. It is estimated that she puts roughly 500 hours into these volunteer activities each year.

In addition to the community service Gillies spearheads with her UCT local council, she provides significant service on her own – nearly 1,000 hours' worth each year that includes volunteering as a palliative care worker who sits with terminally ill patients during their final hours, visiting bereaved families in their homes, driving cancer patients to chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and assisting at the local flu clinic.

"What Darlene does is truly impressive," said UCT Chairman of the Board Numan Loafman. "She's always giving of herself, and she's a great asset to our organization and the people she serves. She cares about making life better for others and people respond positively to that."

About UCT

UCT (United Commercial Travelers) is a fraternal benefit society driven by its members and their commitment to community service across North America. Members decide on a local basis which causes and charities to support and how to best meet the needs of their communities. As a 501(c)8 non-profit, the organization's charitable efforts are made possible through the sales of its insurance products. Visit www.uct.org to learn more.

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