

Real Estate agent lauded for philanthropic work

By JASON SPENCER
Staff

There's a reason Asha Singh gives her free time to support organizations like Interim Place. She is an abuse survivor herself.

Twenty-six years ago, just months into her career as a realtor, Singh found herself living in the Peel wom-

en's shelter with her two daughters.

"The irony was, I was selling homes to people, but I was staying in a shelter with my daughters, and nobody knew that," said Singh, who now works for Royal LePage.

The Applewood resident remained silent on the matter until her granddaughter's first birthday, when the toddler's mother had all gifts donated

to the Mississauga-based shelter.

The move inspired Singh to come forward: "My daughters are proud of what they went through... I look at my life and I look at my children, they do not have any shame in what we had gone through — they are stronger because of that."

From then on, she decided to share her story with other victims as

a symbol of hope.

"(My story) might change even one women's life because, if they can relate to that, it's worth it," said Singh, who also works with the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness as well as anti-human trafficking organization Walk with Me.

Because of her dedication to charitable works, which also includes

years of supporting disability charity Easter Seals Canada, Singh has been named the 2014 recipient of The Ronald E. Sanderson Community Service Award by the Mississauga Real Estate Board. She will receive the award at City Hall on Thursday.

"I look at the people who have received the award before me and I just think 'Wow,'" she said. "When your peers acknowledge you, it's a great honour."

But philanthropy is only one half of the award's requirements. Singh is also the Mississauga president of the Business and Professional Association and her devotion to her job also helped put her in the top spot in the voting.

Not only does she love her career, Singh says viewing her clients as family is key to success because, after all, buying a home is a huge life choice.

"It is so interesting to sit down with (my clients) and see what their hopes are, where they want to go, what they want to achieve and have them fulfill it," she said. "You feel part of the family — it's really a rewarding career."



Asha Singh