

# Terra Centre among non-profit groups honoured with Laurels

BY ELISE STOLTE, EDMONTONJOURNAL.COM SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 7:27 AM



Patrick Cadieux, left, Dana Johnston and Laura Slomp receive a Laurel Award on behalf of the Terra Centre on Monday.

**Photograph by:** Rick MacWilliam, Edmonton Journal

EDMONTON - The Terra Centre, Dogs with Wings, and Big Brothers Big Sisters were honoured Monday in Edmonton at the Laurel Awards for innovation and creativity in not-for-profit organizations.

The awards, \$6,000 divided among the three winners, are sponsored by the law firm Duncan and Craig, and have been offered for the past 15 years. A dining room at the downtown Westin Hotel was filled with tables of MLAs, city councillors and well-wishers.

Alberta has 19,000 registered not-for-profit organizations, said Premier Ed Stelmach, who announced the gold award for the Terra Centre for Pregnant and Parenting Teens.

"You recognize need in your communities better than government can," he said.

Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel thanked all the not-for-profit groups in and around Edmonton, even those that were not nominated this year for their programs.

"It's their efforts that allow us politicians to be successful," he said. "You're wonderful people."

The Terra Centre won gold for its youth leadership program, where young mothers develop public speaking and advocacy skills.

Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society won silver for its program training service dogs for children

with autism.

The dogs calm the children, reduce emotional outbursts and create a positive link for the children between their homes, schools and other places in the community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Edmonton & Area won bronze for their 5th dimension after-school homework club.

Thirty-nine organizations were nominated this year.

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