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2017

*Outstanding
Old Brentonian
Award*

Honouring an Old Brentonian who has made
outstanding contributions in his or her chosen profession,
and/or to society

Jaya Murthy

ROGERS 1993

After completing Bachelors and Master's degrees in Communications at Carleton and McGill, respectively, Jaya began an international humanitarian career in 2002 working with a local NGO to promote local language literacy in rural, deprived communities of Ghana. In 2003, with an International NGO, Jaya prepared the persecution claims of at-risk Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees from various countries of asylum across West Africa for resettlement to the USA.

From 2004-06, with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Jaya was responsible for repatriating Rwandan and Burundian refugees who fled the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan genocide and 1990s Burundian civil war, respectively, back to their home countries.

As part of the roll-out of UN-led humanitarian reforms, in 2006-07 Jaya co-lead the Protection Cluster in South Kivu province, eastern DRC, with UNHCR, to develop measures that would better protect vulnerable civilians from predatory armed groups. Jaya then went on to service as UNICEF's Spokesperson in eastern DRC (2007-09), publicly advocating for international support for Congolese children in acute need during multiple conflict-driven internal displacement crises. Based in Baghdad from 2009-13, Jaya then served as UNICEF Iraq's Chief of Communication where he advocated with the Government of Iraq and other key stakeholders to focus their investments on the most marginalized children across Iraq, as well as mobilized support for an influx of Syrian refugee children into northern Iraq. In late 2011, Jaya served as UNICEF's acting Chief of Communication in Somalia where he managed UNICEF's communications during the 2011 Somalia famine.

Jaya has been serving as the Chief of Communication and Strategic Partnerships for UNICEF in Uganda since October 2013, where he is galvanizing stakeholders from Government, the private sector, media, civil society and faith-based organizations to increase investments in Uganda's most deprived children.

He is currently executing a communication strategy to mobilize support that will enhance UNICEF's response to the more than 2,000 South Sudanese refugees who are arriving in Uganda every day.

In 2012, Jaya was a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal which was awarded to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.