



An Evening to Promote Racial Justice Event

Award Recipients

Est. 2005

Award Categories

Empowering Women

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to empowering women in Southeast Wisconsin through their volunteer or paid work, advocacy, and leadership.

Eliminating Racism

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to eliminating racism in Southeast Wisconsin through their volunteer or paid work, advocacy, and leadership.

Bright Futures

This award recognizes a young woman between the ages of 14-18 who has demonstrated leadership by addressing social inequities.

As of 2010, we no longer accept nominations for groups or organizations.

Award Recipients

Year	Name	Award
2019		
2019		
2019	Rachel Monaco-Wilcox	Empowering Women
2018	August M. Ball	Eliminating Racism
2017	Lakaya "Fade" Horton	Bright Futures
2017	Dawn Helmrich	Empowering Women
2017	Dr. Monique Liston	Empowering Women
2016	Kyrieale Thomas	Bright Futures
2016	Tanya Atkinson	Empowering Women
2016	Dr. Fran Kaplan	Eliminating Racism
2015	Alida Cardós Whaley	Empowering Women
2015	Reggie Jackson	Eliminating Racism
2014	Donna Hietpas	Empowering Women
2014	Rev. Bryan Massingale	Eliminating Racism
2014	Soreh Milchtein	Bright Futures
2013	Ronisha Howard	Bright Futures
2013	Brenda Coley	Empowering Women
2013	Emilio De Torre	Eliminating Racism
2012	Nicole Brown	Bright Futures
2012	Mary Mazul	Empowering Women & Eliminating Racism
2011	Kaela McBeath	Bright Futures
2011	LG Shanklin-Flowers	Empowering Women
2011	Nacarci Feaster	Eliminating Racism
2010	Donnesha O'Bee	Bright Futures
2010	Cathedral Center	Empowering Women
2010	Bob Peterson	Eliminating Racism
2009	Jacinta Miller	Bright Futures
2009	The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee	Eliminating Racism
2009	Wisconsin's Pink Shawl Initiative	Empowering Women
2008	Shenicqua Billings	Bright Futures
2008	St. Joan Antida High School	Empowering Women
2008	Honorable Joan F. Kessler	Eliminating Racism
2007	Katrina Harris	Bright Futures
2007	Bonnie Bockl-Joseph	Empowering Women
2007	John Fitzgerald	Eliminating Racism
2006	Alverno	Empowering Women
2006	Reggie Moore	Eliminating Racism
2005	Sarah D. Noble	Empowering Women
2005	Martin F. Stein	Eliminating Racism

Eliminating Racism Award

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to eliminating racism in Southeast Wisconsin through their volunteer or paid work, advocacy, and leadership.



Recipient: **Martin F. Stein**

Year: 2005

Biography: Marty Stein was a cherished community hero and philanthropist, who pursued justice and equality and served as a volunteer leader with America's Black Holocaust Museum, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Hunger Task Force, Task Force on Family Violence and United Way, among many others.



Recipient: **Reggie Moore**

Year: 2006

Biography: Reggie Moore, Executive director and co-founder of Milwaukee's Urban Underground, recognizes an inclusive environment is crucial in creating social change and believes his role is, "to transform the relationships of power between young people and the institutions that are supposed to serve, educate and protect them."



Recipient: **John Fitzgerald**

Year: 2007

Biography: John Fitzgerald began his public commitment to racial justice in 1991 as a participant and later facilitator in the *Beyond Racism* program of the *Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee* and Master Coach for the *Mosaic Partnerships Program*.



Recipient: **Honorable Joan F. Kessler**

Year: 2008

Biography: Judge Joan Kessler demonstrates her life-long commitment to racial justice through volunteer involvement in many organizations including Milwaukee Urban League, Legal Aid Society, Michael's Community School, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Criminal Justice Council and Girls Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast.



Recipient: **The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee**

Year: 2009

Biography: The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee is a public foundation with a mission to stand for social change through women and girls. It is known for its social change grant making focus through a gender lens.



Recipient: **Bob Peterson, La Escuela Fratney**

Year: 2010

Biography: For nearly 40 years Bob Peterson has been an active anti-racist leader in the community and Milwaukee Public Schools. He is the founder, editor, and writer for the national publication, *Rethinking Schools* and the author of several books and articles addressing globalization and justice. Bob is also the founder of the Educators Network for Social Justice



Recipient: **Nacarci Feaster**

Year: 2011

Biography: Nacarci Feaster is a seasoned activist and advocate on the front lines for racial justice in the building construction trades. Mentoring young African-American workers and working with contractors to ensure a diverse workforce on their projects. Nacarci also co-founded the Skilled Trades Collaborative, which offers professional support and advice for African-American tradespeople.



Recipient: **Mary Mazul, MSN**

Year: 2012

Biography: Mary Mazul, an advocate for better patient care, is deeply committed to providing a voice for the injustices that women of color and their families face. She has held memberships in the Milwaukee Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR), the United Way Healthy Birth Outcomes Initiative and the Statewide Advisory Board for Racial Disparities.



Recipient: **Emilio De Torre**

Year: 2013

Biography: Emilio De Torre aims to reduce racial disparities by educating young people and adults about their rights. He serves on the Board of Directors for Milwaukee Public Theatre and TRUE Skool, using the arts to engage the community on social justice issues. Previously, he worked as director of education services at Madison Square Boys & Girls Clubs and as a New York City public school teacher.



Recipient: **Fr. Bryan Massingale**

Year: 2014

Biography: Fr. Bryan Massingale is a professor of theology at Marquette University and at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, Louisiana. His projects explore the contributions of Black religious radicalism to Catholic theology; the notion of “cultural sin” and its challenge to Catholic theological ethics; and the intersections of race, sexuality, and faith. He served as a consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and as a theological consultant for the National Black Catholic Congress, and the National Catholic AIDS Network, among others.



Recipient: **Reggie Jackson**

Year: 2015

Biography: Reggie Jackson is an independent public historian who has served as board chair & head griot of the Dr. James Cameron Legacy Foundation, the parent organization of America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM) and has been instrumental in the development of ABHM's virtual museum. He served on the boards of Rid Racism Milwaukee, the Zeidler Center for Public Discussion, and the Wisconsin Humanities Council.



Recipient: **Fran Kaplan, EdD**

Year: 2016

Biography: Fran Kaplan has worked actively against poverty and for social justice, diversity, equity, and peace for almost 50 years. An author and filmmaker, her professional practice as a social worker, community organizer, and adult educator has included working with America's Black Holocaust Museum and the Dr. James Cameron Legacy Foundation where she helped launch the Foundation's imprint, LifeWrites Press and publish a recently expanded edition of Dr. Cameron's memoir, *A Time of Terror*.



Recipient: **Monique Liston, PhD**

Year: 2017

Biography: Monique Inez Liston is a daughter of the African Diaspora -- from Atmore and Gary and Memphis and Washington, DC and Milwaukee -- and is progeny of THE MECCA, Howard University. She is the founder of Ubuntu Research and Evaluation, a beloved community of strategic consultants, a lecturer at Marquette University's Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies and a Teacher Leader for Race and Identity at Wauwatosa West High School.



Recipient: **August M. Ball**

Year: 2018

Biography: August M. Ball is founder of Cream City Conservation, a two-prong social enterprise that helps organizations institute strategies to attract/retain top talent from diverse candidate pools, while simultaneously, cultivating the next generation of land stewards by engaging traditionally underrepresented youth in environmental career pathways.

Empowering Women Award

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to empowering women in Southeast Wisconsin through their volunteer or paid work, advocacy, and leadership.



Recipient: Sarah D. Noble

Year: 2005

Biography: Sarah made empowering women and girls her life's work. Whether creating and executing innovative programs, helping to elect women to office, volunteering for the Latino Community Center and Urban Underground, or addressing issues of HIV-AIDS in the community, Sarah influenced lasting change.



Recipient: Alverno College

Year: 2006

Biography: Since 1887, Alverno College has fulfilled its mission of fostering the personal and professional development of women; its ability-based curriculum and performance-assessment methods are nationally lauded. This core curriculum is designed to foster leadership and service in the community through a hands-on approach to learning.



Recipient: Bonnie Bockl-Joseph

Year: 2007

Biography: Bonnie Joseph began her involvement helping women over 40 years ago as a social worker with the Department of Welfare in Milwaukee. Since that time, she has been a dedicated volunteer in support of organizations that serve the needs of low-income women and children. She holds the distinction of being elected as the first woman to serve as president of the board of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.



Recipient: St. Joan Antida High School

Year: 2008

Biography: Since 1954, St. Joan Antida (SJA) High School has been preparing young women to lead and serve in a global society through a values-based Catholic education. Enrolling students of all faiths from more than 60 schools throughout Metro Milwaukee, it is the only diverse, urban, all-girls high school in Wisconsin.



Recipient: Wisconsin's Pink Shawl Initiative

Year: 2009

Biography: The Wisconsin Pink Shawl Initiative's mission is to raise awareness and educate the American Indian community and people worldwide about breast cancer. It serves as an evidence-based and culturally expert resource for those seeking advice, education, and direction on breast care health and lives by the motto: dream the cure.



Recipient: Cathedral Center

Year: 2010

Biography: The Cathedral Center provides emergency shelter and case management services for women and families who are homeless or experiencing a housing crisis. Families served include single mothers or fathers, as well as married couples with their children. Founded in 2002, the Cathedral Center is dedicated to advocacy and building support for the women and families they serve.



Recipient: LG Shanklin-Flowers

Year: 2011

Biography: LG Shanklin-Flowers is a consultant, trainer, and social justice advocate committed to creating inclusive communities. She is fearless in her work with women and has served as a program manager at the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, founding the Women of Color Fundraisers Network, and as the Wisconsin **Regional Director of the International Re-evaluation Counseling Communities**. LG has lent her talents to Cardinal Stritch University's Leadership Center, the Reproductive Justice Collective, Everytown Wisconsin, Public Allies Milwaukee, and the Black Infant Mortality Initiative.



Recipient: Mary Mazul, MSN

Year: 2012

Biography: Mary Mazul, an advocate for better patient care, is deeply committed to providing a voice for the injustices that women of color and their families face. She has held memberships in the Milwaukee Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR), the United Way Healthy Birth Outcomes Initiative and the Statewide Advisory Board for Racial Disparities.



Recipient: Brenda Coley

Year: 2013

Biography: Brenda Coley is a member and leader of the African-American LGBT community. At Diverse and Resilient, Brenda implemented SHEBA, an empowerment program with transgender individuals, and Grow Great Women, a leadership development program for lesbian and bisexual women, among other initiatives. She served on the board of the Milwaukee Reproductive Justice Collective and is the past chair of the State of Wisconsin's Minority Health Leadership Council.



Recipient: **Donna Hietpas**
Year: 2014
Biography: Donna Hietpas has more than 25 years of experience working successfully with women involved in the criminal justice system. Her success comes from her ability to help women uncover their own strengths and develop them in order to create safer and healthier lives for themselves and their children. [Wasn't she the original Program Director for the Benedict Center's "Sisters Project?"]



Recipient: **Alida Cardós Whaley**
Year: 2015
Biography: Alida Cardós Whaley, a xicana mama from the north side of Milwaukee with roots in Mérida, Yucatán, is a co-founder and corazón organizer with STITCH Milwaukee where she spends time building intentional spaces for healing and nourishment with her fellow xingonas. She is also a birth doula and founding member of the Wisconsin Doulas of Color Collective in Wisconsin. In addition, Alida is an academic programs coordinator and advisor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS).



Recipient: **Tanya Atkinson, MSSW**
Year: 2016
Biography: Tanya Atkinson is Chief External Affairs Officer with Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin (PPWI) and serves as the executive director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin. Tanya was the Director of the Milwaukee office of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and a Legislative Aide and Policy Analyst in the Wisconsin Legislature. She has served as a board volunteer with Diverse and Resilient and Citizen Action of Wisconsin.



Recipient: **Dawn Helmrich**
Year: 2017
Biography: Dawn Helmrich is the director of data and outcomes at United Way of Greater Milwaukee where she helped develop the Community Outcomes Project into a nationally recognized model that works directly with the community to assure that programs are meeting their outcomes. Dawn has served on the Board for the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Board for LOTUS Legal Clinic. In 2009, Dawn brought National Denim Day, and international awareness campaign honoring survivors of sexual violence, to Wisconsin.



Recipient: **Rachel Monaco-Wilcox, JD**
Year: 2018
Biography: Rachel Monaco-Wilcox, is founder and CEO of LOTUS, a Milwaukee-based legal clinic for victims of trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence. She started LOTUS while Chair and Professor of the Justice Department at Mount Mary University, where she currently teaches in the Art Therapy doctoral program. Rachel is a frequent speaker on victims' rights, human trafficking, dispute resolution and systems change.

Bright Futures

This award recognizes a young woman between the ages of 14-18 who has demonstrated leadership by addressing social inequities.



Recipient: **Katrina Harris**

Year: 2007

Biography: Katrina Harris, 17, was a senior at Vincent High School in Milwaukee. Katrina first came to the YWCA SEW as a participant in the **Skillz 4 Success** summer camp; a youth workforce development program for girls. She was actively involved in her community through tutoring younger children and participating in city beautification projects.

Recipient: **Shenicqua Billings**

Year: 2008

Biography: Shenicqua Billings, was a sophomore at Shalom High School in Milwaukee. Shenicqua came to the YWCA SEW through Life Skills Humanities program where she completed **Skillz 4 Success**, youth workforce development program. She enjoyed volunteering, helped out with the Obama campaign, and served on the student council.



Recipient: **Jacinta Miller**

Year: 2009

Biography: Jacinta Miller was an active participant in the YWCA SEW's **Just Us** program at the Milwaukee School of Entrepreneurship in the fall of 2009. Jacinta maintained a 3.7 GPA, was the school's student office assistant, and found time to be a mother to her young daughter. She was accepted to Marquette University and attended in 2010.



Recipient: **Donnesha O'Bee**

Year: 2010

Biography: A junior at Oak Creek High School, Donnesha O'Bee was an honor roll student and an active participant in the school's marching band. She was a leader in the Youth Department at Ebenezer Church of God in Christ, and actively volunteered with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin where she assisted with events such as the Make a Promise Dinner and AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

Recipient: **Kaela McBeath**

Year: 2011

Biography: Kaela McBeath was a junior at Messmer Catholic High School. She was a hard-working student, excelled in math, sociology, English and business. When Kaela was only 10 years-old her mother became seriously ill and went into a coma; she moved in with her grandmother, and despite facing a difficult challenge at a young age, has always been focused on her future. She is involved with Urban Underground, a youth leadership development organization and is particularly proud of her work on a recent domestic violence awareness event.



Recipient: Nicole Brown
Year: 2012
Biography: Nicole attended Milwaukee Community Cyber High School. She was a volunteer assistant teacher at Garden Homes Lutheran School where she mentored young girls and encouraged them to work together and support each other. Nicole is a natural hair activist and regularly encourages black women to wear their hair natural by providing them with encouragement, tools and information Nicole was a summer **Skillz 4 Success** participant and was one of two young women chosen to submit art work to represent the YWCA Southeast Wisconsin at the Day of the Girl Child celebration at the YWCA of Montreal.



Recipient: Ronisha Howard
Year: 2013
Biography: As a junior at Ronald Reagan IB High School, Ronisha formed two school groups: African-American Club and the Cheerleading Squad. She was involved with Student Council, Yearbook, and Spoken Word Poetry Club. She attended multiple pre-college programs and volunteered with Boys and Girls Club, The Children's Outing Association, and Outlet. Her goals are to attend medical school to become an OB/GYN, and to start her own clinic to help women in poverty receive the care they need.



Recipient: Soreh Milchtein
Year: 2014
Biography: In the past year, Soreh Milchtein has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity Restore, several political campaigns, and is a member of the Urban Ecology Center's High School Outdoor Leader Program. At Nicolet High School, Soreh chairs the Multicultural and Spoken Word clubs and participates on the Mock Trial and track teams. She is a dean's list and National Honor Society student and plans to become a lawyer.

Recipient: Kyrieale Thomas
Year: 2016
Biography: Kyrieale was a junior at Greendale High School, having transitioned from Washington High School. Though the transition proved challenging, it did not stop her from working diligently every day to do her best in school; Kyrieale believes every generation has its obstacles and we must learn about them so they will not be repeated. She is involved with PEARLs for Teen Girls and Campus Life, a Christian youth group at her school.



Recipient: Lakaya "Fade" Horton
Year: 2017
Biography: Lakaya "Fade" Horton is a musician, activist, city ranked slam poet, and native of Madison, Wisconsin. She is a junior at Malcolm Shabazz City High School and is active in her school's community. Lakaya founded the Black Student Union at her school and currently serves as president. Her commitment to her school's community is unmatched.