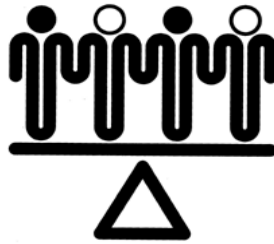


SONOMA COUNTY
COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS



2009 Sonoma County Human Rights Awards

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED: October 12, 2009

The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights is honored to sponsor the annual Human Rights Awards to recognize, honor and celebrate the outstanding contributions made in the field of Human Rights. Our goal is to make Sonoma County a welcome home to a diverse population. The individuals and organizations we honor each year play an important role in making that goal a reality. Established in 2004, the Human Rights Awards, in addition to the current recipients, will again recognize Reverend James E. Coffee, Pastor for Community Baptist Church, who has been an admirable role model through his outstanding contributions for the rights of all in our community.

Awards Nomination Criteria

Submissions in all categories must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated involvement with, support for, or leadership of a specific or series of related project/s promoting “**Human Rights**” in Sonoma County. The project/s should demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of our community through education, advocacy or other actions that foster diversity awareness and appreciation.
- Significant and identifiable impact of the project/s on the community.
- Commitment to “**Human Rights**” by serving as a “role model” for better human relations among all people in Sonoma County, and by embracing diversity, without regard for race, ethnicity, national origin, creed, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, medical condition, or economic status.
- Residency in or service to the residents of Sonoma County.

For the purposes of nominations, “**Human Rights**” work is broadly defined as “*efforts to eliminate prejudice or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, creed, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or medical condition and/or to foster diversity awareness and appreciation in Sonoma County.*”

Please review the Nominations Requirements and complete the entire 4-page Nomination form insert.

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

Nominations may be submitted for one of the following categories:

Professional: An individual whose work/employment is dedicated to furthering "Human Rights."

Volunteer: An individual whose volunteer work is focused primarily on "Human Rights." If a nominee is employed in the field of "Human Rights," the recognition must be for effort beyond the workplace.

Youth: An individual age 18 or younger who has devoted time and effort to "Human Rights" causes.

Business: Public or private company operating in Sonoma County that demonstrates a commitment to equal opportunity/affirmative action/upward mobility and has a diversified workforce.

Non-Profit (Non-Profit Organization or Community Group): An organization serving Sonoma County that demonstrates sustained commitment to raising the level of awareness and/or concern for violations of human rights.

Public Sector (e.g., Government, School, and/or Law Enforcement Program): A public entity (or a program thereof) that demonstrates sustained commitment to raising the level of awareness and/or concern for violations of human rights.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

- Provide information about the individual, business, organization or program by responding to all three parts of the "Nominee Profile" on the Nomination Form.
- Responses can be provided on the space allotted or on separately attached pages.
- Include a copy of the appropriate license(s) for any business or organization (e.g., a business license for a company or a 501(c)(3) determination letter for a non-profit organization). If copies are not available, provide the licensing agency information and license number.
- Additional relevant information (e.g. letters of support, newspaper clippings, and photographs) are encouraged and should be included with the Nomination Form. All supporting documentation must be "photocopy ready" on 8 ½ x 11 paper.
- The total submission, including supporting documents, cannot exceed 10 pages. Pages should be submitted "loose leave" without covers, staples or binding.

- Please Note:**
- 1) Nominations are submitted to the Selection Panel as black & white copies.
 - 2) The information provided is critical in the determination and selection of nominees. Incomplete nominations may not be submitted to the Selection Panel for consideration.
 - 3) If the nominee is selected, the information provided may be used in press releases and printed in the Awards event program.

Nominations must be received no later than October 12, 2009 at the address/fax or e-mail address below:

**Human Rights Awards c/o Commission on Human Rights
2300 County Center Drive, Suite B-167, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone: 707-565-2693 Fax: 707-565-3166 E-mail: chr@sonoma-county.org**

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission on Human Rights by telephone: (707) 565-2693 or by email: chr@sonoma-county.org

2009 Sonoma County Human Rights Awards Nomination Form

(NOTE: Please complete all four pages of this form.)

NOMINEE INFORMATION (Please Type or Print clearly.)

Nominee Category (Check one only.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit (Non-Profit Organization and/or Community Group) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sector (e.g., Government, School, and/or Law Enforcement Program) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (Age 18 or Younger) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | |

Nominee's Name _____
First Middle Initial Last (For an organization, list contact name.)

Position/Title _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____
Street Address/P.O. Box City State Zip

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Nominator's Name _____
First Middle Initial Last

Position/Title _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____
Street Address/P.O. Box City State Zip

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

CONTACT PERSON INFORMATION (Provide only if different from Nominator – person will be responsible for responding to any requests for additional information.)

Contact's Name _____
First Middle Initial Last

Position/Title/Organization _____

Mailing Address _____
Street Address/P.O. Box City State Zip

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Nomination materials must be received no later than October 12.
Nominations can be mailed to the Commission on Human Rights' Office located at 2300 County Center Drive, B-167, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Nominations can also be submitted by fax to (707) 565-3166 or by e-mail to chr@sonoma-county.org

NOMINEE PROFILE – PART ONE

Demonstrated Involvement with or Leadership of a Human Rights Project: Describe the nominee's involvement with, support for, or leadership of a project/s promoting human rights in Sonoma County. How does the nominee's project/s work to eliminate prejudice or discrimination, demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of our community through education, advocacy and/or foster diversity awareness and appreciation?

NOMINEE PROFILE – PART TWO

Demonstrated Impact of the Project/s or Work on the Community: Describe the impact of the individual, project/s in eliminating prejudice or discrimination and or promoting an appreciation of diversity in the community and/or workplace.

NOMINEE PROFILE – PART THREE

Demonstrated Commitment to Human Rights: Describe the nominee's ongoing/sustained commitment to Human Rights in Sonoma County. How is the nominee a "role model" for Human Rights? How has the individual or project/s worked to eliminate prejudice or discrimination and/or raise awareness of concern for Human Rights in Sonoma County?

2008 Honorees

Professional: **Dr. Lorna Catford**, Professor of Psychology, Sonoma State University. Dr. Catford created the Collaborative Autism Training and Support (CATS) Program, providing family support, training, community awareness, education and autism seminars. A growing network of autism experts, agencies and, SSU students participate in this ongoing program, providing much needed support, education and awareness of this often misunderstood disability.

Volunteer: **Margo Warnecke Merck**, President of the Board of Community Housing Sonoma County, is a tireless and visionary volunteer in our community. Ms. Merck has served as Board President for over 10 years and devotes the majority of her time to working for the housing needs of extremely low income people living with disabilities. Ms. Merck continues to position Community Housing Sonoma County in collaborative roles with experienced consultants and non-profit housing developers to plan and develop Permanent Supportive Housing projects for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Business: For over eight years, the **Gong Family**, owners of G&G Market, has employed those with disabilities and those who do not speak English. The Gong Family has worked to promote an appreciation of diversity in our community by demonstrating that those who are developmentally challenged and those who do not speak English can contribute to the productivity of the workplace and the richness of our community. G&G Market management and staff exemplify going that one step further to ensure that the disabled and non-English speakers are given every opportunity to contribute to the workplace and to our community.

Non-Profit (Non-Profit Organization or Community Group): Founded in 1988, the **Committee on the Shelterless (COTS)** is one of the primary providers of emergency shelter, shared housing, and related services in Sonoma County. At the core of the work done by COTS is respect for the unique value and dignity of each person. COTS provides a complete continuum of support for homeless individuals and families from emergency shelter through proven stability in independent housing. Services provided by COTS include addressing the root causes of homelessness that not only include food and shelter, but education, employment and counseling. COTS strives to end the cycle of homelessness by helping families and adults get homes of their own.

Previous Honorees

2007

John McCue
Marie Sparks
The Pasta King
Social Action Committee of Shomrei Torah
City of Healdsburg Day Labor Center
Migrant Education Region 2
Mehari Haile

2005

Laure Reichel
Shirlee Zane
Becoming Independent
State Farm Insurance Companies
Cloverdale High School FHA/Diversity Club's
Hate Free Campus Project

2006

Karen Erickson
James P. Foster
Joanna Martinez
Rialto Cinemas Lakeside
Community Action Partnership
of Sonoma County
Sarah's Group Homes

2004

Shirley Gordon
Kendra Hasenick
Jesse Love
Listening for a Change
Agilent Technologies