

Congratulations to our Award Winners!

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence is proud to announce the winners of its Pyramid of Excellence Awards. The 2009 conference, *Reshaping our Futures, the Nonprofit in the 21st Century: Big Picture – Bold Ideas*, will be held at the Galt House Rivue Tower (West). The award winners represent that theme, as they help form the pillars of nonprofit success required to serve the larger good of our community. Please join your colleagues in the annual celebration of nonprofit excellence.

Pyramid Award of Excellence - Art of Collaboration

Sponsored by: Deming, Malone, Livesay & Ostroff.

Winner: Leadership Louisville Center, Ignite Louisville Program, Christine Johnson, President

In their 30-year history, the Leadership Louisville Center has assimilated numerous distinguished programs. They are receiving the Pyramid Award for Excellence in the Art of Collaboration for their *Make Your Mark Challenge*, a service learning component of Ignite Louisville. The program, supported by Makers Mark Distillery Inc., pairs Ignite Louisville teams with Louisville area nonprofits to plan, execute and sustain new strategies for success. In return, Ignite Louisville participants gain experience in community leadership, board involvement and teamwork.

Pyramid Award of Excellence – Art of Diversity

Sponsored by: Fifth Third Bank

Winner: Family Health Centers, Inc., Bill Wagner, Executive Director

Family Health Centers is committed to providing health care services to all patients regardless of their ability to pay. The Center recognized that patients with limited English proficiency (LEP) are an important part of Jefferson County's underserved population. Adhering to their principles of inclusion, the Center committed to meet the language needs of all their current patients. The organization also reaches out to immigrant and refugee groups in need of a medical home. Despite the many financial challenges represented in reaching LEP patients, FHC continues to recognize and commit to the important contributions of the diverse kaleidoscope of people who make up our community.

Pyramid Award of Excellence - Art of Governance

Sponsored by Wyatt Tarrant & Combs

Winner: Board of Directors for Gilda's Club of Louisville

Against quite a few odds, Gilda's Club of Louisville has "done it right, done it big, and done it with class." When the founding board consulted with other Gilda's Clubs around the nation, they were met with lots of cautions. They were warned that funds would be hard to raise, that reaching a diverse group of clients would be difficult, and that starting out in a small space would be best. They took these cautions in stride, and then proceeded to beat the odds. Gilda's Club of Louisville's board has a sharp focus on key areas of organizational health through regular review of hard data and performance indicators and through the implementation of thoughtful and creative programming. The board also helps staff create lasting community partnerships that lead to impactful collaboration.

Pyramid Award of Excellence - Art of Leadership

Sponsored by Dean, Dorton and Ford CPA's

Winner: Ramona Johnson, President & CEO, Bridgehaven, Inc.

Ramona Johnson has spent her 33-year career as a psychiatric nurse demonstrating profound respect for, and instilling hope in, people who suffer from mental illnesses. She has become highly skilled at providing compassionate and skillful support both directly to clients and to the staff who serve them.

Ramona has demonstrated remarkable leadership while at Bridgehaven, directing a major shift in programming, from a medical model of treatment to a more recovery-oriented and client-empowered model of psychiatric rehabilitation, in keeping with best-practice standards in the field. This transition was a three-year training process and included an intense multidisciplinary approach. Ramona's "in the trenches with you" approach, along with her sense of humor, cheerleading, and flexibility to alter plans to take into account changing circumstances, is a superb example of strong leadership.

Pyramid Award of Excellence - Art of Vision

Sponsored by: Chilton & Medley

Winner: Hand in Hand Ministries, Wayne Fowler, Executive Director

In November 1994, Hand in Hand Ministries co-founder Wayne Fowler visited Kingston, Jamaica. On the short holiday from his teaching job, in what was his first trip outside the United States, Fowler visited a home for disabled and abandoned children. That simple visit was the seed of Hand in Hand Ministries.

Since 1999, Hand in Hand Ministries has run a variety of education, medical, and economic development programs throughout Central America, the Caribbean and Appalachia, including the only holistic day treatment and outreach program for children infected by HIV/AIDS in the country of Belize.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented by the Center for Nonprofit Excellence Board of Directors

Winner: Charlotte Tharp, Vice President of Mission and Outreach at Norton Healthcare

Charlotte has been a longtime force within the Louisville nonprofit community, a recognized leader in fields such as journalism, women's advocacy, higher education, health care, and economic development. In her tenure with Norton Healthcare, Charlotte continues to guide the organization through a time of great change with the sort of grace and commitment to real people that exemplifies the power of a life well lived.

Charlotte's accomplishments reverberate through so much our community, it is difficult to begin naming all the groups she has helped guide and support. She is only the fourth recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award, which will be presented by Dr. Robert Taylor, board chair of CNPE.

Special thanks to our *Reshaping our Futures, the Nonprofit in the 21st Century: Big Picture – Bold Ideas* presenting sponsor, Altman Insurance:

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About the Center for Nonprofit Excellence: The Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNPE) is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to co-create a vibrant, exemplary nonprofit community in Greater Louisville through collaboration, shared learning, advocacy and promotion of excellence. For more information about the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, or to support the work it does, call (502) 315-2673, or log onto www.cnpe.org.