

**Nominee:** JOE ZELENKA

**Brief Description:** HIS ANNUAL TRIPS TO HAITI OVER THE LAST 20-30 YEARS AT HIS OWN EXPENSE TO AID THE POOR BY ARRANGING MEDICAL TREATMENT, SUPPLIES, AND DONATIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO THOSE IN NEED.

AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHURCH FEDERATION OF INDIANAPOLIS HE ORGANIZES AND LEADS PRAYER VIGILS FOR THOSE KILLED BY VIOLENCE IN OUR CITY. HE HAS A LONG AND PASSIONATE HISTORY FOR WORKING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND DISENFRANCHISED.

HE ALSO HAS ATTENDED THE ANNUAL NATIONAL PROTEST TO CLOSE DOWN THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS IN GEORGIA FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS. HE TIRELESSLY WORKS TO PROMOTE PEACE IN HIS CHURCH AND COMMUNITY. HE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FREQUENTLY IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, PARTICULARLY BY DAN CARPENTER.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** GENEROUS, DEDICATED, SELFLESS

**Nominee:** Burmese American Community Institute

**Brief Description:** Since formation 2 years ago, BACI has been very instrumental in Burmese community in Indianapolis. BACI has been involved in several situations to resolve in factions of Burmese community. BACI has offered many times of education and help for the refugee group. BACI believes and lives the important idea of inclusiveness. With Elaisa as ED, BACI has made huge inroads in advocacy, education (HS and beyond), training for small businesses, and informative meetings and bulletins in several dialects for those new families who do not have enough knowledge of English to communicate in their neighborhoods or in the work place. The success rate has been outstanding in helping HS enter college, in summer research to train young people in leadership and understanding of those beyond their culture.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** visionary, inclusive, detailed

**Nominee:** The Excel Center Franklin Rd Student Council

**Brief Description:** The Excel Center (TEC) student council consists of local adults who have returned to school (mostly full-time) to earn a high school diploma. Many TEC students have and or currently face challenges (single parents, unemployment, housing & transportation barriers etc) of balancing school and life circumstances. Returning to school is a milestone, but creating a council, contributing to the community and serving as an example to others is even more impressive.

Some of their recent projects include:

- Volunteering at Thrifty Threads
- Collecting shoes for the WaterStep Project
- Collecting food, clothing and toy donations for other Excel Center students, and donated remaining
- Working on a second chance prom (really cool idea)for Excel Center students, as many dropped out of school before being able to attend a prom.
- Currently conducting a "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Driven, Caring, Team-oriented

**Nominee:** Voice Of The Victims

**Brief Description:** Speak to and motivate women that are challenged with the batyle of domestic violence. Ms Renita Hill is a wonderful motivation speaker. She gives of herself and resources to the community and is a conquer of domestic violence herself. She deserves to be recognized.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Devoted, Consistent, and True

**Nominee:** Brandon Randall

**Brief Description:** Brandan Randall organized the Peace Rally held during Black Expo in Summer 2013. Since and before that event, Brandan has also organized the annual Faith Walk rally. He is extremely active on social media organizing, energizing and campaigning for peace, positive awareness and support for the youth in this community. Operation Yellow Square is his latest effort designed to bring more awareness to the issue of youth violence particularly in the African American community, His work with the Ian Smith Foundation, Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center, Tru Colors, Juvenile Detention Center, The Kings Feast and other events demonstrate his continued committment to the youth of this city. I cant imagine anyone doing more this past year to advocate for peace in the community. While he is not the only active in this area, I dont see anyone else more deserving of this honor.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Energetic Committed Fearless

**Nominee:** Jane Zobel

**Brief Description:** Jane is an Indianapolis Public School social worker. Jane's passion is teaching students how to be peaceful and utilize conflict management skills. She encourages everyone to be accepting of differences and to take a stand against bullying. She has several peace celebrations and activities throughout the school year for students. Jane visits every classroom on a monthly basis as well as meets with small groups of students daily to teach them ways to be peaceful and to be leaders. Jane also selects students to be conflict managers to help guide classmates how to settle a conflict. Students and close friends of Jane's often share that when they see a peace symbol they immediately think of Jane.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Encouraging, supportive, and peaceful

**Nominee:** McCutcheon High School Drama Students

**Brief Description:** The McCutcheon High School drama team have performed at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis on Holocaust Remembrance Day for 6 years now. Each year they represent the voices of 6 million lives lost in the Holocaust. They also help raise money at their school which are given to the Life in a Jar Foundation which assists the Holocaust rescuers living in Poland who are in nursing homes. These performances are free at their school and students their teacher, Stella Schafer, talks to the students about the importance of accepting one another, standing up when something isn't right. I think this group embodies what it means to passionate about something and doing what it takes to get the message out there.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Passionate, Loving, Peaceful

**Nominee:** Cameray Boyden & the West Indy Peace Park

**Brief Description:** In the winter of 2010 two young men from West Indianapolis lost their lives due to their involvement with drugs and violence. One of these guys was Cameray's best friend. While their untimely deaths were not connected there was a lot of hostility between the two groups of friends. Cameray decided something needed to be done to stop the death and violence.

Over the summer of 2011 she worked tirelessly to unite the community in the formation of the the West Indianapolis Peace Park. In just 66 days the Peace Park became a reality and still serves as an example that good things happen...even during the struggle of overcoming pain and heart ache. The Peace Park is living proof that change can happen when people work together.

Cameray graduated from IU this past spring and returned to West Indianapolis in order to continue her work in our community. She is passionate about bringing positive change to our community and is highly deserving of the Power of Peace Award.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Engaging, Inclusive, Enthusiastic!



**Nominee:** Derrin Slack/ Pro[act] Ministries

**Brief Description:** Derrin smiles. Every day.

He wants to help every hand he shakes, and every new face that comes his way. The times have changed, its not a "safe" world any more, and I think Derrin rejoices in the change and embraces the idea that there is power in prayer and in people. He sees hope for the world when everyone else seems to be swept up in pain and hardening of the soul. He keeps his clean and unadulterated.

Derrin Loves. Every day.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Unabashed, creative, kind.

**Nominee:** Group - Pedal for Peace

**Brief Description:** Pedal for Peace supports organizations throughout the world that are committed to peace through education. Check out our website at <http://www.pedalforpeace.org/>

Pedal for Peace supports organizations throughout the world - globally & locally committed to peace through education. An annual peace driven fund raising event that culminates as a non-competitive 6-hour team bike relay on the Major Taylor Velodrome has a very strong & diverse interfaith, multi-age, multi-culture participant base. Each team recruits peace driven members - each team raises a minimum of \$1000 & rides as a group at Major Taylor Velodrome & socializes w/ other groups w/ a common mission.

2013 recipients: Indpls Interfaith Hunger Initiative - Gleaners & Umoja Project, World Bicycle Relief, Indy Cycloplex

2011 recipients: Indpls Interfaith Hunger Initiative - Gleaners Umoja Project

2010 recipients:

Central Asia Institute (Greg Mortenson's organization, author-Three Cups of Tea & Stones into School)

**Three words to describe leadership style:** inclusive, inventive, inspiring

**Nominee:** KI Eco Center

**Brief Description:** This small group has organized itself into an individual and community empowerment organization whose primary focus is mentoring and leading neighborhood youth to engage in their community. One focus is on developing the local economy. Youth create a business plan, and are then given help implementing it. One group is working on Open Source Activism--using open source software to develop community applications. The first is Neighbor to Neighbor, which is used to help neighbors find out who can provide needed services, such as auto repair, home repair, etc.

The Eco Center also regularly sponsors community programs and discussion of issues of concern to the community; for example: racism and the prison system.

The Eco Center is also implementing ways to live more sustainably in an urban environment, including setting up an aquaponics system, composting, and promoting the design and use of rain barrels.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** empowering self-mastery community

**Nominee:** Derrin Slack Pro(ACT) Community Partnerships, Inc.

**Brief Description:** I had the pleasure of working along side Mr. Slack as he helped young people from all walks of life discover that they can make a difference. With his organization (Pro(ACT) Community Partnerships, Inc). He has been able to give hundreds of children the feeling of what is like to be of service, a feeling that many adults never get. If this does not bring about peace here in Indy I am not sure what will.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Quiet, Calm, & Selfassured

**Nominee:** Charlie Wiles

**Brief Description:** He is kind and humble. He has high multicultural knowledge and skills, transformation leadership, and peace builder. He has strong leadership and knowledge that enable him to bring people with differences to work as team. He is able to work with anyone as a team. Everyone feels comfortable to work with him. He is very supportive and senses people's needs. If he has given more power and resources, will make the world safe and peaceful.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Inspiring, peace builder, knowledgeable & humble

**Nominee:** Carla Sallee

**Brief Description:** Carla is an amazing person. She has overcome unimaginable obstacles, lived through atrocities no person should have to, and emerged a loving, embracing, sincere woman. She is in her second term of the Public Allies program and has easily made the most impact of any of the other Allies. Carla works tirelessly to bring communities together through her connections with Public Allies. She also uses her talent with spoken word to help youth cope with and overcome trauma by volunteering to teach them poetry. She is just compassion incarnate.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Inclusive, genuine, compassionate

**Nominee:** Peer Information Center for Teens, Inc.

**Brief Description:** Since 1986 784 PICT Peer Helpers have made over 140,000 high quality helping contacts w/same age & younger peers. The Mission is: HELPING OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES, & the goal is: To help teenagers & younger peers make informed & responsible decisions about their own behaviors, leading to reduction in unwanted teenage pregnancies, substance abuse, early school dropout, and violence. PICT is well grounded in adolescent research & uses proven methods to provide protective factors & increase resistance skills. Properly trained positive role model peers have the greatest impact on children at risk. PICT Peer Helpers listen to & help peers thru 1:1 discussions, prevention/education, mediations, & referrals. Everything is confidential. Fewer than 15 of those mediated have broken their agreements in 28 years.

PICT is the 1st nationally Certified Peer Program. Awards include 2 from IN Governors & 2 from U.S. Presidents, 5 from Lilly Endowment, & National Peer Program of the Year.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Accepting, compassionate, knowledgeable.

**Nominee:** Nicole Tobin

**Brief Description:** Nicole is a social worker currently working as a member of SORRT (Street Outreach Rapid Response Team). She has worked intensively with individuals experiencing homelessness for over 5 years now. Most of her work is with chronic homeless individuals struggling with substance abuse and/or mental health issues and linking them with substance abuse/mental health treatment and additional resources in the community to help move them towards self-sufficiency and stabilization. She's a huge asset in the community through her advocacy efforts with the local hospitals, IMPD, Community Court, and other social service agencies serving the homeless population. She demonstrates tremendous strength, peace, professionalism, empathy, integrity and compassion for both the homeless population and her fellow colleagues in the community.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Peaceful, professional & ethical



**Nominee:** Terri Morris Downs, Immigrant Welcome Center

**Brief Description:** Terri's enthusiasm, kindness, and care for our community's immigrant population is unmatched. As Executive Director for the Immigrant welcome center, Terri has collaborated across communities, organizations, and populations to ensure new immigrants to our area are supported, welcomed, and not forgotten. She continuously inspires others to open their doors, minds, and hearts in welcoming the men, women, and children who most certainly will be a part of our community's multicultural future. The Immigrant Welcome Center of Indianapolis is a resource for the growing community of immigrant newcomers to Indianapolis. Through Natural Helpers and community partners, the Immigrant Welcome Center connects newcomers to the resources, services, and opportunities they need to fully participate in the economic, civic, social and cultural life of the community.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Welcoming, Collaborative, Unconditional

**Nominee:** Minister Nemia Cooper

**Brief Description:** Minister Nemia Cooper is the minister of Christian Education at Salt of the Earth Church, and found her own ministry, "Woman at the Well", at the church. As a victim of domestic violence, she has been a community champion on educating the community on domestic violence. She uses her ministry as a vehicle to educate churches, women, and the communities on the ills of domestic violence. In 2013, she developed and implemented a four part series called, "From Broken to Blessed", where she empowered women to build their own personal action plans, heal from broken relationships, and forge a new path to a successful life. She spoke that NAACP's annual breakfast on domestic violence and was the coordinator on Domestic Violence Awareness for the Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Passionate, Energetic, Visionary

**Nominee:** Derrin S. Slack-Pro(Act)Community Partnerships

**Brief Description:** Growing up, Derrin Slack lacked confidence and self-esteem but as he grew older, his personal issues were helped by many teachers and mentors who believed in his potential to succeed. Therefore, he made a promise to help others just as others have helped him; He quickly realized that he could make a difference in the community by working with young people and exposing them to service work. This led Derrin to create ProAct Community Partnership a community service organization for youth. This year alone ProAct has helped dozens of young people enhance unknown talents and develop a sincere passion for helping their fellow man by engaging them in over 800 hours of community service work! This work includes: planting gardens, feeding the hungry, building ramps for the elderly and conflict resolution techniques. In addition, Derrin is a volunteer sports coach teaching pride and sportsmanship to dozens of youth. Thanks to his efforts hundreds of youth will now forge a path towards service.

**Three words to describe leadership style:** Passionate, Effective, Unique