



ANYTOWN

YOUTH HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD 2010
CELEBRATING THE CHANGE MAKERS OF TODAY!

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National Conference for Community and Justice

Dear ANYTOWNers,

The National Conference for Community and Justice is pleased to announce that it is accepting nominations for the 2010 Youth Human Relations Award! Each year, NCCJ of CT and WMA awards one or two young people from Connecticut AND Western Mass, who have distinguished themselves by exemplifying the principals of NCCJ in their daily lives. Since 2002, 18 amazing youth have received this competitive award for taking their ANYTOWN learnings back to their homes, schools, and communities by creating positive change. The awards are presented at our awards banquet to be held in April and June of 2010 in front of community leaders, business partners, and many members of the NCCJ family. This banquet is also a time when we celebrate the success of our programs including ANYTOWN, BRIDGES, and Youth Action Coalition. This has been a great year so far with many youth involved in passionate campaigns for change in their schools. NCCJ is excited to celebrate some of these youth for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to bringing social change.

The nomination process is very easy and you may nominate yourself! Simply fill out the attached questionnaire and send it to Muneer Panjwani at mpanjwani@nccjctwma.org by January 1st, 2010. After a careful review of nominees by a team of NCCJ staff and board members, the finalists will be contacted for an interview by January 8th, 2010. The two winners (one from CT and one from Western MA) will be announced at our ANYTOWN Reunion on January 16th, 2010.

Here is a list of characteristics that past winners have had and what the Youth Award Committee looks for in a strong candidate. NCCJ Youth Human Relations Award Nominee is:

- A past ANYTOWN delegate and/or staff member.
- A high school student in Western Massachusetts or Connecticut.
- A leader in their school and/or community. Community can be as small as your home, and as large as the world. It can be your school, your faith community, your neighborhood, your town, your state, etc.
- Someone who practices the following ethical principals in their daily lives:
 - Respect and caring for others
 - Open-mindedness
 - Not just tolerates, but *celebrates* differences
 - Leads by example
 - Committed in their fight for human rights and dignity
 - Believes that oppression of anyone is an oppression of everyone.
- Active in organizations or student clubs that combat racism, sexism, heterosexim, ableism, ageism, faith based oppression and classism.
- Someone who contributes their time to volunteer for their school and/or community for positive change.
- Someone who has worked on action projects in their schools to create any kind of positive change.

The NCCJ Youth Human Relations Award does not require that nominees have ALL the characteristics listed above. A strong nominee is someone who shows sincere commitment to making their communities bias and bigotry free. If you are or someone you know is an ideal candidate for this award, please fill out the short questionnaire and email it to mpanjwani@nccjctwma.org by January 1st, 2010. Please remember to proof-read your nomination form and include as much detail as possible.

Best of luck!

Muneer Panjwani
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HONORING YOUTH THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

YOUTH HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD 2010 NOMINATION FORM

Due: January 1st, 2010 by email to mpanjwani@nccjctwma.org

Directions: Please read the questions carefully and answer with as much detail as possible. The Review Committee will judge the nominees based solely on this form, so you must convince the committee by providing a thorough picture of the individual and their work.

Nominee Information

Nominee Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

School/Organization:

Your Information (if nominating others)

Your Name:

Phone Number:

Email address:

School/Organization:

Relationship to Nominee:

1. How do you this person? In what capacity have you worked with them?
2. What assets does this person have? What qualities and characteristics does this person have that make her/him an effective leader?
3. What are some shortcomings or challenges that this person has? What are some qualities or characteristics that this person needs to work on? How have they overcome this challenge?
4. How does this person show respect for others, caring for others, open mindedness and tolerance, leadership by example, diligence in their fight for human rights and dignity, and responsible leadership in their daily life?
5. How is this person actively fighting prejudice, discrimination, bigotry, or oppression? In other words, what has this person done as an individual to fight against prejudice, discrimination, bigotry, or oppression?
6. How has this person contributed to different organizations in your community and school? (This doesn't have to be money, it can be time, energy, fundraising, leadership, etc.) What sort of projects have you been involved in? (Give details about the project, what the goal was, and the plan, as well as the results.)
7. Share an inspiring story that demonstrates why this person is a deserving recipient of NCCJ Youth Human Relations Award?
8. How has being a part of NCCJ through ANYTOWN, BRIDGES, and/or Youth Action Coalition helped to positively change this person? How has this change benefitted them in their life?