



NEWS RELEASE

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VCIC Announces Recipients of 52nd Annual Tidewater Humanitarian Awards

*2016 Tidewater Humanitarian Awards Dinner is presented by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities
April 7, 2016 - Norfolk Waterside Marriott.*

(Norfolk, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 Humanitarian Awards. This 52nd presentation of the awards by the Tidewater Chapter of VCIC will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. The awards celebration honors individuals and organizations for making significant humanitarian contributions to the South Hampton Roads community.

The 2016 Tidewater Humanitarian Awards Recipients

Charles G. Barker –

Mr. Barker is the chairman of Charles Barker Holdings Inc. He has multiple automotive locations throughout Hampton Roads, a real estate company and a private jet company. He has forged a working collaboration between his company and local charitable and educational organizations to serve the needs of disadvantaged youth with financial support through his foundation, Charles Barker Champions for Kids. Created in 1994, this charity's goal is raising funds to provide counseling, drug and alcohol awareness, educational scholarships, and community mentorship programs to the youth of Hampton Roads. One of his proudest accomplishments was establishing a scholarship program for every high school in Virginia Beach. Mr. Barker also currently serves on the Board of An Achievable Dream, amongst other past and current organizations.

Cynthia A. Cutler –

Over the years, Ms. Cutler has earned a reputation both as an expert in real estate lending, and as a fierce and tireless advocate for some of the most marginalized members of society. She has advocated at the local and state level for the dignity and civil rights of the LGBT community. She introduced the highly successful Dining Out for Life to the community, and helped bring HAMPTON ROADS PRIDE, Out in the Park and the nation's only PRIDE Boat Parade to Town Point Park. She was a founding member of HRBOR, the Hampton Roads Business OutReach organization that recognizes the substantial contributions of the LGBT business community to the economic health of the community. Cindy draws strength and inspiration from a passionate love of the arts (TR Dance, Governor's School for the Arts, the Chrysler Museum, WHRO and many others).

B. Courtney McBath –

For the past 25 years, Bishop McBath has worked diligently to realize an ever expanding vision for ministry in Hampton Roads and beyond. Starting Cavalry Revival Church in a hotel conference room with 21 congregants, McBath and his wife moved locations several times, finally ending at the current location which serves thousands of weekly attendees. Cavalry Revival Church takes an active interest in its community, with a Food and Clothing Pantry, a Mentoring Program and Nursing Home Ministries. In addition to serving as CRC's senior pastor, Bishop McBath serves as the presiding bishop of Calvary Alliance of Churches and Ministries. In his oversight role, he provides guidance, leadership training, and opportunities for accountability to affiliated ministries around the world.

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Alvin A. Wall – Mr. Wall is a founding shareholder of Wall, Einhorn & Chernitzer, P.C. (WEC) and has practiced in the area of taxation for more than 40 years. Over the years Mr. Wall has accumulated considerable experience in the real estate industry and works closely with the firm's Real Estate Services Team. Alvin serves on the boards of numerous organizations, including Tidewater Jewish Foundation, United Way of South Hampton Roads, and Westminster Canterbury Chesapeake Bay. His interests outside of the office include golf, photography and working on his wheel in the pottery studio.

The 2016 Tidewater Jeffrey B. Spence Award for Interfaith Understanding Recipient

Voices of Faith – For over three decades, Voices of Faith has been an important resource for the community to foster interfaith understanding. The program began as a television program in 1982 as “Focus on Faith,” composed of Rev. Richard Faris, a United Methodist pastor, Rev. David Garth, a Presbyterian pastor, Rabbi Lawrence Forman, Jim Bergdoll, and Robert Edwards of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. In 2012, the name of the series was changed to “Voices of Faith,” and the interfaith dialogue is now being presented monthly as a podcast on the web site of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College, with Jim Bergdoll continuing as moderator and coordinator.

The 2016 Tidewater Distinguished Merit Award Recipient

The Institute of the Humanities at Old Dominion University for the “Birth of An Answer” Program – *Birth of an Answer* celebrated 100 years of African American creative and critical responses to *Birth of a Nation* (1915). Not nearly enough attention had been paid to the ways Black artists, filmmakers, and patrons responded to the *Birth of a Nation* both then and now, nor to the national significance of local resistance to the film's racist vision in Hampton Roads. The program featured a screening of *Within Our Gates* (1919), a moderated conversation with a multigenerational panel of prominent African American filmmakers, a musical performance, and a screening of the Old Dominion University-produced short fiction film “Our Nation,” which tells the story of the Norfolk response to Birth of a Nation in 1915 through the eyes of Douglas, a young African American boy and budding cinephile.

The Humanitarian Awards are presented annually in communities across the state by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Begun in Tidewater in 1965, when the organization was part of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Humanitarian Awards honor individuals and organizations who have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. The 2016 VCIC Tidewater Humanitarian Awards dinner is being chaired by Jody M. Wagner, Founder and President of Jody's Popcorn.

For 81 years, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has been addressing prejudices, in all forms in order to improve academic achievement, increase workplace productivity, and enhance local trust. Today through workshops, retreats, and customized programs, VCIC works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion.

For more information about the organization or about reservations for the Awards on April 7th, go to www.inclusiveva.org.

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