



NEWS RELEASE

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VCIC Announces Recipients of 53rd Annual Peninsula Humanitarian Awards

(Newport News, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 53rd annual Peninsula Humanitarian Awards. The awards honor individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds in the Peninsula community. The 2021 awards will be presented virtually by the Peninsula Chapter of VCIC on Thursday, February 25, 2021.

The 2021 Peninsula Humanitarian Award Recipients

Jennifer O. David – Jennifer “Jenny” David is a partner at David, Kamp & Frank, where she focuses on family law litigation. With a commitment to education, religion, the law, and the community, Jenny has served as a member of the Family Law Board of Governors for the Virginia State Bar, the Board of Trustees for Hampton Roads Academy, the Board of Directors of the Newport News Bar Association, the Regional Selection Committee for the Jefferson Scholars Foundation at the University of Virginia (where she served as chair), the Board of Trustees for the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula, Inc., the Jewish Federations of North America National Young Leadership Cabinet, the Board of Directors for Rodef Shalom Temple, and the Board of the Friends of the Library for The Mariners’ Museum. She also chaired the Campaign Council for the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula, Inc.

Katherine G. Dermanis – A retired Hampton City School teacher, Katherine “Kathy” Dermanis currently works at Gloria Dei Lutheran School. For many years, she co-directed the Greek Language Evening School at Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church. Kathy has also served as a member of the Parish Council, the Daughters of Penelope, and the Philoptochos Society, where she chairs the committees focusing on Literacy Outreach, Disaster Relief, and USO Care Packages. In 1990, she co-founded the Hellenic Youth Dancers, a nationally recognized and award-winning dance troupe. Her other love is documenting, researching, and promoting the history of Hampton, particularly Buckroe Beach, through her involvement with the Hampton History Museum, Buckroe Historical Society and the Buckroe Improvement League, where she has served as President for the last 8 years.

W. Fanchon Glover – Dr. W. Fanchon “Chon” Glover is the founding Chief Diversity Officer at the College of William & Mary. In that capacity, she serves on the President’s Executive Leadership Team and provides strategic leadership on campus and in the community that advances initiatives to foster inclusion, equity, and excellence. She is also an Executive Faculty member in the William & Mary School of Education. Chon serves on community Boards and volunteers with local civic and national organizations. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Williamsburg Alumnae Chapter); Newport News Chapter of The Links, Inc.; YJCW NAACP (Scholarship Committee); the Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities; and she is a former Board member for Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, All-Together Board, and the Williamsburg Community Foundation.

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Joycelyn Spight Roache – Joycelyn Spight Roache is Vice President, Commercial Relationship Manager and Lead Underwriter at Old Point National Bank. Active in the community, she is Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula and she serves on the Board of the Peninsula Industrial Finance Corporation and the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Joycelyn is also a member of the Board of Directors of Versability Resources, Inc., an organization which provides services and support to individuals with disabilities. She previously served two terms as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and is a Past President of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank Board. Joycelyn is a recipient of the prestigious Inside Business 2020 Women in Business Achievement Award.

Kevin G. Swann – Rev. Dr. Kevin G. Swann is the Senior Pastor of Ivy Baptist Church, where he has served since 2006. Under his leadership, the church has provided transformational service and outreach to the community. In 2003, Dr. Swann co-founded Six House, Inc., a non-profit faith-based community outreach ministry. In 2007, he co-founded the “Pastor’s Study,” a weekly radio broadcast. In 2008, Dr. Swann founded Kevin Swann Enterprises, a non-profit faith-based organization that provides services to underprivileged youth and adults in Southeastern Virginia. The mission is to inspire, instill and ignite programs and services that empower youth and adults through character building, capital empowerment and community service. Rev. Swann is also a motivational speaker and has given presentations on college campuses, at schools, and for businesses throughout the United States.

Housing Development Corporation of Hampton Roads – Housing Development Corporation of Hampton Roads (HDCofHR) was formed in October 2005 and became a nonprofit in December 2006. The organization was started in order to provide quality, affordable housing opportunities to the clients of nonprofits on the Greater Virginia Peninsula and in Gloucester County. The target populations are individuals and families from low income backgrounds, people experiencing homelessness, and people with disabilities. HDCofHR has a vision of helping to end homelessness in Hampton and Newport News. The organization was able to purchase its first mortgaged house in 2008. Since that time, 371 individuals have been housed in neighborhoods across the Peninsula, intentionally building diverse and inclusive communities.

Fifty-three years ago, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities - then called the National Conference of Christians and Jews - began a tradition on the Virginia Peninsula, “to honor the work of our friends, neighbors, and family members who gave to others the same rights, respect and dignity that they sought for themselves.” Today, VCIC works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion. The 86-year-old organization delivers programs to educators and students in the region through Diversity Dialogue Day, Project Inclusion, and professional development sessions. VCIC also conducts workshops for many local businesses and nonprofit organizations, leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve success. The organization opened an office in Hampton Roads in 2018 to better serve the community.

The 2021 VCIC Humanitarian Awards Dinner is chaired by Guy G. Levy. Metro Productions is the Humanitarian sponsor, and the Benefactor sponsors are Old Point National Bank and TowneBank.

For more information about the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities or about reservations for the Awards Dinner on February 25, go to www.inclusiveVA.org.

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