



NEWS RELEASE

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VCIC ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 54TH ANNUAL LYNCHBURG HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

*2022 Humanitarian Awards will be presented by
the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities on May 26, 2022*

(Lynchburg, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 54th annual Lynchburg 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 Lynchburg community. The 2022 awards will be presented by the Lynchburg Chapter of VCIC on Thursday, May 26, 2022. A watch party and reception will take place that evening at the University of Lynchburg.

The 2022 VCIC Humanitarian Award Recipients

William J. Bodine is President & CEO of the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation. In that capacity, he has worked to enhance the lives of central Virginians, with a particular focus on the arts, education, and historical preservation. Active in the community, Bill has served on several boards, including Virginians for the Arts, Riverviews Artspace, the Academy Center for the Arts, Cherry Tree Players, the Commerce Street Theater, and as President of the Lynchburg College Alumni Board of Directors. He has volunteered for Friday Cheers, the Academy Center for the Arts, Park View Community Mission, The United Way, and the Virginia Ten-Miler, among others. Bill has performed professionally with Endstation Theatre Company, Opera on the James, and Wolfbane Productions. He has been seen on stage in over 60 productions locally and has sung with the Jefferson Choral Society.

Christina Delzingaro is the CEO of Community Access Network. Under her leadership, Community Access Network has grown to serve over 9,000 patients, providing over 40,000 medical and social services visits each year. Christina has been a member of the Blue Ridge Institute of Southern Human Services Executives for over 30 years and currently serves as President-elect. Her service also includes the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics where she serves as President, the Board of the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation, the Board of Roads to Recovery, a founding Board member of Pierce Street Gateway, as well as serving on the Lynchburg Department of Social Services Advisory Board, the Centra Health Institutional Review Board, and the Medical Education Advisory Board for Lynchburg Family Practice Residency.

JoAnn B. Martin recently retired as Director of Communications and Public Engagement for the City of Lynchburg. Throughout her over 39-year tenure with the City, she pioneered innovations in community empowerment and economic development. JoAnn's legacy is evident in a number of accomplishments including the creation of the Lynchburg Citizen's Academy, the employee resource committee Action For Change, the International Festival, the State of the City Address, the Community Dialogue on Race and Racism, and the award-winning Share The Parks Initiative. She serves as Project Manager for a Kindergarten Reading Readiness Program with the One Community One Voice Organization, and as Project Manager for a Strategic Communications Initiative of the local NAACP. She is a lifelong member of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Monroe and a longtime advocate for community safety.

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Nina V. Salmon is an English professor at the University of Lynchburg and an Episcopal priest, currently serving St. Paul's Episcopal Church as an Associate Rector for Youth and Families. Anne Spencer was the subject of much of her early scholarly work, and for a decade, students in Salmon's classes participated in Service Learning and research projects on Lynchburg's Harlem Renaissance poet. Currently, Nina serves on the Pierce Street Gateway Board, the University's NCBI Team for the Office of Equity and Inclusion, and she was a member of the University's Land Acknowledgement Committee. She is the convener of the guiding team for Becoming Beloved Community in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and secretary for the legislative committee on Race and Racial Reconciliation for the upcoming 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

T.D. and Virginia Thornton are active community volunteers who are especially dedicated to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lynchburg. T.D. is founder of Progress Printing. He served on the Bedford County Board of Supervisors and served as chairman during his second term. He also served as treasurer and board member of Region 2000. Other activities included the former President of Printing Industries of Virginia, Board of Directors of the University of Lynchburg, and Central Virginia Planning Commission. **Virginia** practices civil litigation law. She has been an active volunteer since the age of 15, giving time to Seven Hills Nursing Home (Avante), Medical Care Center, Foster Care, the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lynchburg to name a few. Her desire to help others was also facilitated by her pageantry participation on local, state, and national levels. She also served as a national spokesperson for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Fifty-five years ago, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities - then called the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews - began a tradition in Central Virginia, "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 87-year-old organization delivers programs to middle school and high school students in the region through the Connections Institute, Diversity Dialogue Day, and the Prejudice Awareness Summit. VCIC also provides professional development for many local educators, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve success.

The Humanitarian Sponsor of the 2022 Awards are BWX Technologies, Inc. and Centra Health, and Benefactor sponsors are Bank of the James / Pettyjohn, Wood & White, Inc., Dodson Pest Control, Richard & Robin Loving, and the University of Lynchburg.

For more information about the organization or the Awards Dinner, visit www.inclusiveVA.org.

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