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VCIC Announces Recipients of 62nd Annual Richmond Humanitarian Awards

*2024 Richmond Humanitarian Awards Dinner will be presented on October 29, 2024
by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.*

(Richmond, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2024 Richmond Humanitarian Awards. This 62nd presentation of the awards by VCIC's Richmond Chapter will be held Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at the Hilton Hotel & Spa in Short Pump. The awards celebration honors individuals and organizations making significant humanitarian contributions to the Richmond community.

The 2024 Richmond Humanitarian Awards Recipients

Edward H. "Ed" Baine is the president of Dominion Energy Virginia, overseeing all operations for the utility serving 2.7 million customers in Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. Under his leadership, Dominion Energy has set clear goals for increasing diverse workforce representation and has made significant progress towards these goals. He serves on numerous boards, such as the Dominion Energy Credit Union, ChamberRVA, Venture Richmond, and serves as the first Black Rector at Virginia Tech. Ed is also involved with MEGA Mentors, Virginia Learns, and the American Revolution 250 Commission. His accolades include the Black Engineer of the Year Hall of Fame induction (2023) and the YMCA Chester Social Responsibility Award (2022). Ed holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and completed advanced management training at Duke University.

BK Fulton, a former Verizon president, has become a media mogul, producing over 20 films, 19 books, and four Broadway shows. His company, Soulidify Productions, focuses on creating inclusive narratives and has produced numerous films that highlight diverse stories and talents. BK also supports emerging filmmakers from underrepresented backgrounds through mentorship and education with MediaU and establishing an endowed scholarship at Virginia Tech supporting underrepresented students in fields like science, technology, engineering, architecture, and mathematics. A Virginia Tech, Harvard, and New York Law School graduate, BK has received numerous awards, including the Smithsonian Laureate Medal. He serves on several boards, such as TowneBank and the Library of Virginia, and is a member of the Producers Guild of America.

Sheryl L. Garland, Chief of Health Impact at VCU Health, leads initiatives to improve community health and address health disparities. With a career at VCU Health since 1987, she has held various leadership roles, including Executive Director of the VCU Office of Health Equity. Sheryl's work focuses on social determinants of health, such as housing and food insecurity. She has received numerous awards, including the YWCA of Richmond Outstanding Woman of the Year in Health/Science. Sheryl serves on several boards, including the Virginia Board of Social Services and the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, and she previously served on the boards of the Institute for Public Health Innovation and the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation. She collaborates with local organizations to implement health equity programs.

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Karen A. Legato, Executive Director of Health Brigade, has over 35 years of experience in the not-for-profit sector, focusing on lifting up the most vulnerable in society. Under her leadership, Health Brigade has expanded significantly, serving over 12,000 low-income individuals annually with comprehensive medical, mental health, and outreach services. Karen's background includes roles in ministry, social work, and program development. She serves on the State Health Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity and is a member of The Health Equity Collective. Karen has received several awards, including the YWCA Outstanding Women Award for Non-Profit Management (2022) and the Richmond Times Dispatch Person of the Year Honoree (2018). She advocates for policy changes to improve healthcare access.

George Keith Martin, a distinguished attorney and former managing partner of McGuireWoods' Richmond office, has over 25 years of experience in construction, commercial real estate, and local government law. Born in Fort Lee, Virginia, and raised in Washington, D.C., he earned his J.D. from Howard University School of Law. George has served on the boards of James Madison University, Regent University School of Law, and the University of Virginia, where he became the first African American rector. His community service includes roles with the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners. George's contributions have been recognized with awards like the Raven Award and the Jasper Trailblazer Award. He continues to impact the community through his professional and philanthropic efforts.

Richard J. November is celebrated for his leadership in civic and philanthropic endeavors and his success as a residential real estate developer. He founded Delami Corporation in 1965 and Continental Development Corporation in 1975. Richard has significantly contributed to the Jewish community, serving in various roles, including President of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond and the Jewish Community Center. He has been honored with numerous awards, such as the Tree of Life Award and the Distinguished Community Service Award. Richard's involvement extends to the Home Builders' Association of Virginia, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond, and various state commissions. Currently, he serves on the advisory board of Illume Family Recovery, supporting families with loved ones facing substance use disorder and mental health challenges.

Sixty-two years ago, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities - then called the National Conference of Christians and Jews - began a tradition in Richmond "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 89-year-old organization delivers programs to educators and students in the region through the Connections Institute, Prejudice Awareness Summit, Diversity Dialogue Day, and the Educational Equity Initiative. VCIC also provides professional development for many local businesses and nonprofit organizations, leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve success. In the last year, VCIC delivered over 650 programs and trained nearly 17,000 people across Virginia.

The 2024 VCIC Humanitarian Awards Dinner is sponsored by several organizations and individuals. Bon Secours is the Humanitarian sponsor of the event.

For more information about the organization or to make reservations for the October 29 Humanitarian Awards Dinner, visit www.inclusiveVA.org.