

Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award Recipients

1974: Elbert Clark

Instigated hiring of minorities at Thermo King, in Bloomington, where he served as Industrial Relations Assistant.

1974: Robert Timpfe

As Curriculum Coordinator for Bloomington high schools, introduced American Studies Program and Inter-Cultural History.

1975: Frances Berns

Sun-Current reporter/editor who was an activist for the rights of the disabled.

1975: David Cleary

Awarded for his work with persons who are mentally and physically disabled.

1977: Sally Bosanko

Former Human Rights Commissioner.

1977: Gail Cywinski

From Normandale Community College, organized Human Rights Day Observance.

1978: William V. Belanger, Jr.

State Senator who assisted the Commission in advocating for low and moderate income housing.

1978: Arlo Hasse

City staff member involved and committed to American Indian rights and culture.

1979: Evelyn Carter

Former Human Rights Commissioner and teacher in Bloomington schools.

1979: Donald Bartlette

City staff member coordinated the Office of Special Services. Served as a strong advocate for persons who are disabled.

1980: Patricia Helmberger

Former Human Rights Commissioner.

1980: Ellsworth Stenswick

Director of Special Education in Bloomington who worked with special needs children.

1981: Rev. Harry Stroessner

Former Human Rights Commissioner.

1983: Danny Berenberg

Owner of Lincoln Del who was recognized for his Kaiser Roll initiative and employment of persons with disabilities.

1988: Bill Kalina

Owner of Dave's Shoe Repair and an actively involved citizen who worked towards employing persons with disabilities.

1989: Decathlon Athletic Club

Awarded for their employment training program for persons with disabilities.

1989: Mavis Klefsaas

ESL teacher in Bloomington, who was actively involved in integrating new families into our community.

1989: Hedy Bolden

Teacher in Bloomington who established a multicultural education program for the School District.

1995: Yvonne Price

Former Human Rights Commissioner who was active in helping people with disabilities find housing and employment.

1996: Eloise Kelle

Indian Mounds Elementary School teacher promoted self-esteem and respect of cultural differences in the classroom and community. Committed to establishing global human rights practices.

1997: Bloomington Airport Marriott

Accommodated, mentored and provided job training, through a Vocational Internship Program for students with special needs from Jefferson High School.

1998: Paven Malhotra

Youth member of the Human Rights Commission who after observing discrimination at Jefferson High School, used education through hate crime workshops to improve student awareness.

1999: Flora Tsukayama

Committed to community leadership, promoting diversity, volunteering and mentoring. Board member and translator in the Sister City Organization, which provides cultural exchange programs with the city of Izumi, Japan.

2000: Progressive Technologies

Offered employment to people who are developmentally disabled, focusing on their abilities and gifts.

2001: Dr. Ghafar Lakanwal

Founded Minnesota Cultural Diversity Center, that promotes multicultural understanding and inclusiveness in the workplace and community. Used education to improve understanding and relationships between all people.

2002: Seagate Technology's Diversity Action Council

Coordinated diversity training seminars, workshops and special events within the company to encourage understanding of cultures around them. Built an environment in which diversity is valued.

2003: The Toro Company

Promoted community projects and activities benefiting at-risk youth, elderly and civic organizations. Started a volunteer program allowing employees 20 hours off each year to volunteer at non-profit organizations on company time.

2004: Dinna Wade-Ardley

Diversity Coordinator for Bloomington Schools, 1995-2003. Started DDAC (District Diversity Advisory Council), 1995. Director of Department of Educational Equity since 2003. Emphasized family involvement and collaboration with community agencies.

2004: Thomas Jefferson High School Diversity Committee

Made up of students, faculty and community organizations committed to an inclusive environment in which all students feel respected and valued. Facilitated multicultural awareness activities with the student body and faculty.

2006: Larry Yazzie

International lecturer, educator, performer and world champion fancy dancer. Dedicated to understanding and promoting bridge building through traditional and cultural diversity.

2009: Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

An outstanding community organization with a long history of working with community partners to improve the lives of the diverse residents of Bloomington.

2012: Robert "Bob" Peters

Disability advocate and educator whose work includes first statewide handicapped parking legislation, accessibility design for Mall of America and patient care practices at the Courage Center and Sister Kenny Institute.

2013: Stephanie Hope Smith

Organizer who worked with the Dakota people on organization and implementation of the 2011 World Peace and Prayer Day. This event included a two-week horse ride culminating at Bdote, near Fort Snelling.