

MUTUAL OF AMERICA



# 2019 Community Partnership Award Guidelines

Twenty-Three Years  
of People Working  
Together to Build Better  
Communities



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# Mission Statement

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The Mutual of America Community Partnership Award recognizes outstanding nonprofit organizations in the United States that have shown exemplary leadership by facilitating partnerships with public, private or social sector leaders and working together with them as equal partners, not as donors and recipients, to build a cohesive community that serves as a model for collaborating with others for the greater good.

John R. Greed  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Mutual of America Life Insurance Company



# The Community Partnership Award

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The Mutual of America Community Partnership Award annually honors the outstanding contributions that nonprofit organizations, in partnership with public, private and other social sector organizations, make to society.

Each year, the Mutual of America Foundation sponsors a national competition in which hundreds of organizations demonstrate the value of their partnership to the communities they serve, their ability to be replicated by others and their capacity to stimulate new approaches to addressing significant social issues.

From this group of applicants, an independent committee selects 10 organizations for a Community Partnership Award. The national award-winning partnership receives \$50,000 and a documentary video of their program. The video serves as a valuable tool in the partnership's efforts to expand public awareness of their crucial work and helps them attract additional partners and new sponsors.

Videos of each of the past national award-winning programs can be viewed at the official YouTube channel for the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award.

Since its inception in 1996, the Community Partnership Award has recognized 230 partnerships from cities and towns all across America.



# About Mutual of America

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Mutual of America has specialized in providing retirement products and related services to organizations and their employees, as well as individuals, for over 70 years. As a mutual company, we do not have stockholders and are not publicly traded. We operate solely for the benefit of our customers, managing the Company for their long-term interests, rather than for the short-term demands of stockholders.

Mutual of America is a leading provider of retirement products, offering personalized service at a competitive price to help plan participants and individuals build and preserve assets for a financially secure future. Integrity, prudence and reliability are the values that have guided us since our inception and that continue to serve us well. For more information, please visit us at [mutualofamerica.com](http://mutualofamerica.com).

Connect with us on social media: [!\[\]\(e2376d476d06eb31946dc01a69a4403a\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(bbb3388d591ef640dd8a8c4262f2866a\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(ef6e697e79b33cfafe8ba6744dc11bd6\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(36a26e5b369c5d231b75de2efc184e39\_img.jpg\)](#)

## To Download an Application

PLEASE CLICK HERE

For additional information, please contact:

Mr. Thomas Gilliam  
Chairman and CEO  
Mutual of America Foundation  
320 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10022-6839  
Telephone: 212-224-1147  
thomas.gilliam@mutualofamerica.com

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2019. Applications that fail to meet the criteria will not be considered.

Connect with us on social media:



# Selection Criteria

To be considered for the Mutual of America Community Partnership Award, an organization must complete an application and provide a typewritten statement, not to exceed three pages in length, that addresses the following criteria:

- a description of the partnership and the role of each partner;
- an explanation of how the partnership was started;
- the duration of the partnership to-date (a minimum of one year);
- a demonstration that the partnership has made a difference;
- the ability of the partnership to replicate and stimulate new ideas in addressing social issues; and
- the partnership's commitment to advancing the mission and principles of the applicant organization.

In addition, the organization should include a copy of its most recent annual report; audited financial statements; a comprehensive list of the individuals comprising the governing body of the organization (board of directors or trustees and principal officers); and the name, telephone number and email address of the person at the organization to contact concerning the application.



# 2018 Award Recipients

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**2018 National Award-Winning Program**  
**Governor Hugh L. Carey Award**  
**Recipient**

**Baltimore City**  
**Deconstruction Project**  
Humanim, Inc.  
Baltimore, MD

**Honorable Mention**  
**Award Recipients**

**Ending Veteran Homelessness**  
Community Rebuilders  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Family Services Programs at**  
**Bedford Hills Correctional Facility**  
Hour Children, Inc.  
Long Island City, NY

**Merit Finalist Award Recipients**

**Governors' Scholarship for**  
**Foster Youth**  
College Success Foundation  
Bellevue, WA

**More Than a Roof**  
Families Together  
Raleigh, NC

**NAC Kids Can Education**  
**Partnership**  
New Alternatives for Children, Inc.  
New York, NY

**READI Chicago**  
Heartland Alliance for Human  
Needs & Human Rights  
Chicago, IL

**The Station Community Hub**  
Teen Action and Support Center  
Rogers, AR

**Twitter NeighborNest**  
Compass Family Services  
San Francisco, CA

**We the Living**  
Hospice Savannah, Inc.  
Savannah, GA



**ORGANIZATION**  
Humanim, Inc.

**PROGRAM**  
Baltimore City  
Deconstruction Project

**PARTNERS**  
Baltimore City Housing and  
the Office of Sustainability  
U.S. Forest Service  
Maryland Department of  
Housing and Community  
Development  
Room & Board

2018 National Award-Winning Program  
Governor Hugh L. Carey Award Recipient

## Baltimore City Deconstruction Project

**In Baltimore, empty, dilapidated buildings stretch for blocks in every direction. The economic and human cost of this increasingly common urban decay is enormous. As the city works to stem the tide of the vacant housing crisis, Humanim, Inc., and its partners are providing an innovative solution that offers hope for Baltimore's future.**

For nearly 50 years, Baltimore-based Humanim has empowered individuals facing social and economic challenges through innovative workforce development services. In 2014, it launched the Baltimore City Deconstruction Project – a pioneering collaboration with Baltimore City Housing and the Office of Sustainability that created the first municipal contract to dismantle by hand, rather than wrecking ball, abandoned buildings as part of a blight elimination, economic development and workforce strategy.

Humanim is deconstructing vacant houses in Baltimore's hardest-hit neighborhoods, hiring and training residents to do the work. Many of these workers were formerly incarcerated people

trying to change their lives; today, all earn a living wage and are eligible for raises and benefits as they gain experience. As they take apart buildings, piece-by-piece, much of the materials saved are being sold through a thriving sales and distribution channel for reclaimed brick and board that Humanim developed. Rather than ending up in landfills, 1.2 million bricks and more than 425,000 board feet of lumber have been salvaged and sold in 20 states and six countries to-date. Once the buildings are cleared, Humanim makes way for the City of Baltimore and the U.S. Forest Service to turn the empty lots into green spaces.

“The Baltimore City Deconstruction Project is a win for the city, for residents who might not otherwise find work and for the environment. Over 185 individuals have been employed to-date, and in the past two and a half years, not a single previously incarcerated worker has reoffended,” said Henry Posko, President and Chief Executive Officer. “Based on this success, the State of Maryland has agreed to expand our program to develop employment opportunities for other returning citizens.”



**ORGANIZATION**  
Community Rebuilders

**PROGRAM**  
Ending Veteran  
Homelessness

**PARTNERS**  
The Salvation Army Housing  
Assessment Program  
U.S. Department of Veterans  
Affairs – Health Care for  
Homeless Vets

2018 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

## Ending Veteran Homelessness

**In a country as prosperous as the United States, no one should be without a place to call home. Yet, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that every night, more than 40,000 veterans experience homelessness, and another 1.4 million are considered at risk due to poverty and other reasons.**

For nearly 25 years, Community Rebuilders has worked to end homelessness in Kent County, Michigan, through housing opportunities and support services for families in transition. In 2016, after receiving the Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Community Rebuilders began the Ending Veteran Homelessness program with a pledge to end veteran homelessness in Kent County. Within two years, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness certified Kent as the first county in Michigan and the 54th county in the nation to effectively achieve that goal.

In achieving this success, Community Rebuilders demonstrated how transformative change is made possible when space is opened for new ideas, citizens are trusted to know what's best for themselves and collaboration around public problem-solving is improved. Through

the Ending Veteran Homelessness program, Community Rebuilders identified specific services and support needed to end veteran homelessness and then asked community partners to formally identify, pledge and commit to the resources they could deliver in a dedicated manner. At the same time, they organized a multiagency outreach team to find and name every homeless veteran in Kent County. Based on what they learned from veterans about their needs and wants, Community Rebuilders developed an assessment tool to prioritize and connect current veterans to appropriate services, including transitional housing, rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.

"We've been able to bring hope to veterans who are struggling by providing strengths-based, consumer-driven housing options," said Vera Beech, Executive Director. "Since 2016, more than 600 homeless veterans have gained access to safe and decent housing of their choosing. As we look into the future, Community Rebuilders remains dedicated to ensuring that homelessness in Kent County will be rare, brief and nonrecurring for the men and women who valiantly served our country."

**ORGANIZATION**

Hour Children, Inc.

**PROGRAM**Family Services Programs at  
Bedford Hills Correctional  
Facility**PARTNER**New York State Department  
of Corrections and  
Community Supervision

2018 Honorable Mention Award Recipient

## Family Services Programs at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

**An estimated 1.3 million children across America have a mother in the criminal justice system. When the prison door slams shut on one of those moms, it creates an echo that reverberates through their kids' lives as well. In fact, research shows that children of mothers who are incarcerated face a range of negative effects, including an increased risk of anxiety and stress, troubled attachments and developmental regressions.**

Established in 1986 and incorporated six years later, Hour Children is a leading provider of prison- and community-based services for women who are currently or formerly incarcerated and their children. In 2013, they entered into a groundbreaking partnership with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to enhance and administer its long-standing prison-based programs at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, the largest women's prison in New York.

Hour Children oversees the prison's Nursery program – the only one of its kind in New York that allows mothers who are incarcerated to live with their babies for up to 18 months. It also has

instituted three groundbreaking programs: The Teen program enables up to 42 adolescents to visit monthly with their mothers at Bedford Hills, while the Overnight and Summer programs provide extended opportunities for children to spend time with their mothers during the day, while staying with a host family in the evenings. In addition, Hour Children now provides transportation to bring families together, advocacy, parenting education, case management and mentoring.

"We named Hour Children to acknowledge the most important hours that shape the life of a child with an incarcerated mother: the hour of their mother's arrest, the hour of their visit, and the hour of her release," said Sister Tesa Fitzgerald, Executive Director. "Last year, Hour Children hosted more than 2,000 visits between mothers who are incarcerated and their children. We also facilitated more than 2,000 advocacy sessions, parenting classes, and case-management support sessions for moms in prison. Together, we're working to end the cycle of intergenerational incarceration by helping these women and their children to strengthen their bonds and build healthy, independent and secure lives."

# 2018 Award-Winning Programs

## **Baltimore City Deconstruction Project**

Humanim, Inc.  
1701 N. Gay Street  
Baltimore, MD 21213  
410-381-7171  
hposko@humanim.org  
Henry Posko, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

## **Ending Veteran Homelessness**

Community Rebuilders  
1120 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 220  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
616-458-5102  
vbeech@communityrebuilders.org  
Vera Beech, Executive Director

## **Family Services Programs at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility**

Hour Children, Inc.  
36-11 12th Street, Lower Level  
Long Island City, NY 11106  
718-433-4724  
tfitzgerald@hourchildren.org  
Sister Tesa Fitzgerald, Executive Director

## **Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth**

College Success Foundation  
15500 SE 30th Place  
Bellevue, WA 98007  
425-416-2000  
jdorsey@collegesuccessfoundation.org  
James Dorsey, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

## **More Than a Roof**

Families Together  
908 Plainview Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
919-212-1123  
lisa@familiestogethernc.org  
Lisa Rowe, Executive Director

## **NAC Kids Can Education Partnership**

New Alternatives for Children, Inc.  
37 West 26th Street  
New York, NY 10010  
212-696-1550  
agoldsmith@nackidscan.org  
Arlene Goldsmith, LCSW, Ph.D.,  
Executive Director

## **READI Chicago**

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs  
& Human Rights  
208 S. LaSalle, Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-660-1300  
bhoffman@heartlandalliance.org  
Barbara Hoffman, Chief External  
Affairs Officer

## **The Station Community Hub**

Teen Action and Support Center  
2525 W. New Hope Road  
Rogers, AR 72758  
479-636-8272  
madi@taschnwa.org  
Madi Hutson, Executive Director

## **Twitter NeighborNest**

Compass Family Services  
37 Grove Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415-644-0504  
ekisch@compass-SF.org  
Erica Kisch, Executive Director

## **We the Living**

Hospice Savannah, Inc.  
Box 13190  
Savannah, GA 31416  
912-355-2289  
jespina@hospicesavannah.org  
Jamey Espina, Vice President,  
Development and Community Services