2020 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD GUIDELINES

25 Years of Recognizing People Working Together to Build Better Communities
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Mission Statement

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 Financial Group
The Community Partnership Award

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.

This year, five organizations will be selected by an independent committee to receive our Community Partnership Award. From this group, Mutual of America will award $100,000 to the Thomas J. Moran national award-winning program and produce a documentary video of that program, featuring the principals involved in its success. In addition, each of the four honorable mention recipients will receive a $50,000 grant.

To watch videos of prior national award-winning programs, visit the official YouTube channel for the Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award.

Since its inception in 1996, the Community Partnership Award has recognized 240 partnerships from cities and towns all across America.
About Mutual of America

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 in 1945 and that continue to serve us well. For more information, visit mutualofamerica.com.

Thomas J. Moran Award

The Thomas J. Moran Award is presented annually to the Community Partnership Award national award-winning program. This award recognizes the important contributions that nonprofit organizations, in partnership with public, private and other social sector organizations, make to society.

Mr. Moran served as Chairman, President and CEO of Mutual of America during a distinguished 43-year career at the Company from 1975 to 2018. He championed the Community Partnership Award as a way to recognize the extraordinary leadership of nonprofit organizations and highlight the numerous contributions they make to improve the lives of countless individuals.
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.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2020. Applications that fail to meet the selection criteria will not be considered.
2019 Award Recipients

2019 National Award-Winning Program
Thomas J. Moran Award Recipient
Survivor Advocate Program
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
Los Angeles, CA

Honorable Mention Award Recipients
Center for Driver’s License Recovery
Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.
Milwaukee, WI
Mobile Dental Unit
WV Health Right, Inc.
Charleston, WV

Merit Finalist Award Recipients
Advanced Manufacturing for Young Veterans
Workshops for Warriors®
San Diego, CA

Arizona’s Kinship Support Services
Arizona’s Children Association
Tucson, AZ

Citywide Charitable Bail Fund
The Liberty Fund
New York, NY

Family Engagement Liaisons
Beyond Housing
St. Louis, MO

HabiCorps
Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake
Baltimore, MD

Recycling Avenue
Avenues to Independence
Park Ridge, IL

Seeing the Future: Vision Health Initiative
Care For the Homeless
New York, NY
Few nations protect the individual rights of their residents as carefully as does the United States. Yet, every day, victims of human trafficking are forced to engage in commercial sex, labor or both through physical, psychological or economic coercion. These individuals are of any age, race or gender, each one trapped in a cycle of exploitation and abuse.

The Los Angeles-based Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (Cast) was founded in 1998 in response to the discovery of 72 Thai workers who had been enslaved and held in debt bondage in Los Angeles County. The first nonprofit created to address the issue of human trafficking in the U.S., Cast provides a continuum of care for victims, including emergency response, counseling and skills training, legal services, shelter, peer-to-peer mentorship and survivor-led advocacy.

In 2018, Cast created the Survivor Advocate Program in partnership with Dignity Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to improve the support provided when a victim of human trafficking seeks medical attention. Because health professionals may not immediately recognize that their patients are dealing with trauma beyond their physical injuries, the program embeds a Cast “survivor advocate” within Dignity Health’s participating hospitals to help ensure that no victim of human trafficking is overlooked.

Cast’s survivor advocate is also a survivor of human trafficking, helping this trained professional to play a critical role in supporting victims at the point of crisis and linking them to essential services. Equally important, the survivor advocate provides valuable training to hospital staff, helping them to respond to victims in a trauma-informed way.

“Human trafficking is a complex and often stigmatized crime, and the process of recovery can be long and arduous. Through our leading-edge partnership with Dignity Health, we’re identifying and providing support to more victims in healthcare settings and empowering them to begin their journey to freedom and recovery,” said Kay Buck, Chief Executive Officer for Cast. “Last year, Cast served 1,316 survivors of human trafficking and their families. Today, we are working on a training manual to help other hospitals replicate the Survivor Advocate Program nationwide.”
Employment is essential to lifting individuals and families out of poverty. However, there is one common requirement that can make getting a well-paying job a challenge, particularly for low-income and minority job seekers: they need a valid driver’s license.

Recognizing the adverse impact that driver’s license suspensions have on lower-income families, local leaders in the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County got together to create the Center for Driver’s License Recovery (CDLR). Officially launched in 2007, CDLR is one of the first programs in the country designed to help low-income individuals resolve active suspensions or revocations that prevent them from obtaining or reinstating a valid driver’s license – whether due to prior incarceration or the inability to pay citations for non-moving traffic violations.

CDLR is a collaborative effort: Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) provides program and administrative oversight and case management, working closely with participants, the courts, and the Department of Transportation to create an individualized license recovery plan. Attorneys from Legal Action of Wisconsin provide free on-site legal services, including structuring alternatives to financial obligations, such as affordable payment plans or supervised community service. Milwaukee Area Technical College provides free office space, and the City of Milwaukee helps to fund the program.

Through August of 2019, CDLR has provided services to nearly 16,800 low-income Milwaukee residents and has helped more than 3,900 individuals recover their driver’s licenses. CDLR also has championed state-level reforms, including reducing the maximum length of a driver’s license suspension due to failure to pay a forfeiture from two years to one, and reducing suspensions resulting from uninsured accident damage judgments from 20 years to five.

“Gaining a driver’s license eliminates a significant barrier to employment,” said Clarence Johnson, Executive Director of WCS. “It also helps break the cycle of generational poverty by enabling individuals to drive their children to school, seek medical attention, and access food and other vital resources. With a license recovery rate approaching 70%, we are eager to share our program with other cities across the country.”
Mounting evidence suggests that poor oral health plays a significant role in serious health problems, including heart disease and stroke. For low-income individuals without access to dental care, poor oral health also has broader consequences: untreated decay and missing teeth can impact their employment opportunities and self-esteem, creating a terrible cycle of pain and poverty.

Established in 1982, WV Health Right, Inc., is the state’s oldest and largest free and charitable clinic, providing comprehensive primary and specialty medical and dental care to 28,000 low-income, uninsured and underinsured adults. In 2017, it entered into a unique collaboration with local nonprofit, education, government and dental partners to create the Mobile Dental Unit to address barriers preventing West Virginians in rural communities from accessing preventive dental care and treatment. The program provides preventive and restorative dental services, including dentures, both to low-income adults who are either uninsured or have Medicaid or Medicare and to veterans ineligible for dental care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Mobile Dental Unit, housed in a fully equipped trailer with three treatment chairs, travels across six rural counties on a weekly rotation with dental hygienists and technicians. Marshall University School of Medicine staffs the vehicle with a faculty dentist and dental residents, giving students a unique opportunity to apply their skills beyond the classroom and incorporate diversity in learning. The other partners provide on-site access to the internet and utilities at no cost to the program.

“In just two years, the Mobile Dental Unit has provided more than $2.2 million worth of care to over 5,000 adults. We’re already seeing marked success in terms of improved oral hygiene, reduced oral-related infection and oral-related emergency department visits, and a decrease in the number of workdays missed due to oral pain and infection,” said Dr. Angie Settle, DNP, West Virginia Health Right’s CEO and Executive Director.

“By filling a void in West Virginia’s healthcare safety net, the Mobile Dental Unit also provides a measure of comfort, support and social justice for our state’s most vulnerable citizens.”
2019 Award-Winning Programs

Advanced Manufacturing for Young Veterans
Workshops for Warriors®
2970 Main Street
San Diego, CA 92113
619-550-1620
info@wfw.org
Hernán Luis y Prado, Chief Executive Officer

Arizona’s Kinship Support Services
Arizona’s Children Association
KARE Family Center
220 E. Speedway Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-323-4476
aloeb@arizonaschildren.org
Anna Loebe, Ed.D., Program Director

Citywide Charitable Bail Fund
The Liberty Fund
428 Broadway, Suite 629
New York, NY 10013
646-373-0327
dlong@libertyfund.nyc
Dave Long, Executive Director

Family Engagement Liaisons
Beyond Housing
6506 Wright Way
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-533-0600
ckrehmeyer@beyondhousing.org
Chris Krehmeyer, President and Chief Executive Officer

HabiCorps
Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake
3741 Commerce Drive, Suite 309
Baltimore, MD 21227
410-366-1250
mposko@habitchesapeake.org
Mike Posko, Chief Executive Officer

Mobile Dental Unit
WV Health Right, Inc.
1520 Washington Street East
Charleston, WV 25311
304-414-5931
asettle@wvhealthright.org
Dr. Angie Settle, DNP, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director

Recycling Avenue
Avenues to Independence
Jane and Albert Wohlers Center
515 Busse Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068
847-292-0870 ext. 1116
shoolin@avenuestoindependence.org
Michele Shoolin, Vice President, Development

Seeing the Future: Vision Health Initiative
Care For the Homeless
30 East 33rd Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10016
212-366-4459
gnashak@cfhnyc.org
George Nashak, Executive Director

Survivor Advocate Program
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
3751 West 6th Street, #70308
Los Angeles, CA 90070
213-328-3992
kiran@castla.org
Kiran Gupta, Philanthropy