



To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: VII.D.

From: Annie Coyle
Staff Liaison

Action

Discussion

Date: February 25, 2014

Information

Subject: Tom Oye Award

Action Requested:
Select 2014 Tom Oye Award Recipient

Information / Background:

Five individuals have been nominated for the 2014 Tom Oye Award. Please review each application and come prepared to vote on the 2014 award recipient.

The 2014 Nominees include:

Andrea Knoll

Gail Shore

Kristin Aarsvold & Tom McKenzie

Mamie Segall

Jessi Kingston

Attachment:

2014 Tom Oye Award applications.

NOMINATION FORM

TOM OYE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

The Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission is seeking applications for its annual Tom Oye Human Rights Award. This award will honor the late Tom Oye and other members of the Edina community whose good works promote human relations and advance human rights.

Submit one nominee per form. **PLEASE ATTACH AN ESSAY, UP TO 500 WORDS, AND OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND INCLUDE YOUR NAME.** Provide specific examples, including attachments if necessary.

Selection Criteria

Anyone who lives or works in Edina is eligible for this award. Nominees will be evaluated based on their efforts to:

- (1) foster respect and dignity for others
- (2) model courage and/or compassion in the advancement of human rights
- (3) demonstrate leadership by example for improving human relations and/or advancing human rights

Who are you nominating?

Name Andrea Knoll
Occupation Volunteer
Home address 4601 Arden Ave, Edina MN 55424
Work address _____
Email aknoll@comcast.net
Telephone numbers 952 915 1536

Who makes this nomination?

Name of Person or Group Heather Wallace
Contact name, if different than above _____
Email jschuet@notmail.com
Telephone numbers 952 926 0855 or 612 968 9965
Relationship to Nominee friend

Comments Regarding Nominee (up to 35 words)

Words that will be printed inside the program if this nominee is selected

Andrea Knoll's work with Oasis for Youth serves as an example of the power and possibility of committed citizens. It reminds us that we can make a difference in the lives of individuals and in our communities

Submit Information

Applications must be received by **January 15, 2013**. Applications will be reviewed by members of the Human Rights and Relations Commission. The Commission may decline to make an award if in its view no nominee meets the criteria. The award will be presented in the spring of 2013 at the annual Volunteer Recognition Reception in the Warren C. Hyde Clubhouse at Braemar Golf Course.

Mail the completed nomination form to: City of Edina, Human Rights and Relations Commission, 4801 West 50th Street, Edina, MN 55424.

Questions? Contact Ari Klugman at (952) 826-0429 or aklugman@edinamn.gov.

Nomination of Andrea Knoll for the Tom Oye Human Rights Award

My friend Andrea Knoll is one of the founders of Oasis for Youth, a drop-in center for homeless youth in Bloomington, Richfield and Edina. She currently serves as Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator for Oasis. Andrea meets the selection criteria for the Tom Oye Human Rights Award in many ways, but I am nominating her for her work at Oasis.

In 2007, she was one of a group of seven women who began to have concerns about services for needy suburban youth. What started as a concern, grew into research, then needs assessment and finally in 2010 the opening of Oasis for Youth. By 2012, Oasis had hired its first part-time case manager. They are now seeking an Executive Director.

Andrea's work specifically fosters respect and dignity, by providing the most basic of resources: clean clothes, food, help with finding a place to stay. Oasis sends a message to youth that they are worthy and valued, that they matter, at times when their own families might be sending them a different message. Oasis strives to meet the basic needs of youth within their own communities. By remaining close to home, Oasis recognizes the value in maintaining school, family and friend relationships. Homelessness is disruptive enough without having to navigate an unfamiliar city.

Reaching out to youth not much older than her own children, Andrea's compassion for the clients of Oasis comes from her faith and also from a mom's perspective. At a summer fundraiser, she shared stories of clients happy to have toothbrushes, happy to have a place to do laundry. As a mom who is still reminding her own children to do these things, she is heartened at clients' appreciation of the basics. Also as a mother, she recognizes that many of these young people are the victims of their parents' troubles; they find themselves without a place to stay through no fault of their own.

Suburban homelessness may seem an oxymoron. For an Edina mom to call attention to problems in our community that need to be addressed is a courageous undertaking. The needs of these youth were more important than the reputations of the communities. The founders of Oasis were not afraid to ask what was available, and not afraid to take it upon themselves to create a resource where one was needed. At the most basic level, a group of citizens came together to provide a needed service.

I cannot tell you exactly what Andrea Knoll has contributed to the creation of Oasis for Youth. I know she was there from the beginning, she attended hours of meetings, she has been steadfast in her support of this endeavor. As her friend, she talks about Oasis for Youth as an inevitable end result, almost as if it grew organically from the concerns of seven women. We all know that these things take determination and hard work. That hard work is why I think she deserves the Tom Oye Human Rights Award.

In lieu of an attachment, I would ask you to visit www.oasisforyouth.org.

Andrea Knoll's community involvement includes service to the Edina Ed Fund, Vote Yes Edina, to Concord, South View and Edina High Schools and support of local candidates who meet her criteria of helping the poorest among us. I am sure this is not all, she is very humble.

Nomination Form

Tom Oye Human Rights Award

Nominees:

I am Nominating City of Edina Parks and Recreation Supervisor **Kristen Aarsvold** and Edina Police Detective **Tom McKenzie** as co-nominees for the Tom Oye Human Rights Award

Edina City Hall: 4801 West 50th St. Edina MN 55424

Kristen Aarsvold Kaarsvold@EdinaMn.gov

Thomas McKenzie Tmckenzie@EdinaMn.gov

Nomination made by:

Chief Jeff Long

Police Chief; Edina Police Department

Edina Police Department

Jlong@EdinaMn.gov

952-826-1610

Nomination Statement:

Edina Parks and Recreation Supervisor Kristen Aarsvold and Edina Police Detective Tom McKenzie have collaborated in making city programs and services available to many families who have experienced cultural, language, transportation, and financial barriers. Their efforts have modeled compassion, dignity, and respect for many families in the diverse Parklawn Neighborhood of Edina.

Nomination Essay

Edina Parks and Recreation Supervisor Kristen Aarsvold and Edina Police Detective Tom McKenzie teamed up in 2010 after recognizing barriers faced by Somali Diaspora as well as other lower income families who have settled in this Edina neighborhood, known as Parklawn neighborhood, which is located in the southeast quadrant of Edina along West 76th St and Parklawn Avenue.

The duo had attended several Cornelia Elementary School Somali Parent Council meetings and learned that families who had settled in Edina faced barriers to city services and programs due to their language and cultural differences, as well their geographic location in Edina. They further explored this issue and found that the children in this entire neighborhood also had limited access to programs and services, and did not have a safe route to the local playground or school in the way of sidewalks or bike paths.

McKenzie, who understands law enforcement issues experienced by Somali immigrants, and Aarsvold who is experienced in developing summer programs, pooled their talents and knowledge to assist families in overcoming barriers.

Several unique programs that they brought to this neighborhood are:

Collaboration with the American Red Cross and the management of Edina Park apartments to host a babysitting clinic for 11-15 year old Somali children in the building's community room. The Edina Crime Prevention Fund provided scholarships for the clinic fee, and each of the Somali children received certificates from me for successfully completing the clinic.

59 children were transported via school bus from seven locations to the Cornelia Playground for the 2012 Tuesday-Thursday Summer Program, up from 36 who had registered in 2011. Aarsvold utilized high school age program leaders to supervise the children in a variety of healthy activities. Detective McKenzie made visits with a squad car for kids to explore. The Red Cross Safety Mobile taught water safety, weather awareness, household safety, and other age appropriate safety lessons. The Edina Crime Prevention Fund financially supported the bus transportation and Safety Mobile.

In 2012, Aarsvold initiated a Leader in Training program for a selected High School student.

Aarsvold developed a Traveling Teens Summer Program that included field trips to various local attractions and the teens also participated in community service projects at Countryside Park and at the Edina Fire Station..

McKenzie initiated Police Department involvement in the annual **Night to Unite** party at the Edina Park apartment complex, visiting with residents, showing the residents a squad car and equipment, and answering questions. He collaborated with the Edina Target to bring school supplies to the party. Aarsvold taught large group lawn games to the children as well as promoted established programs to the residents. Parklawn Estates managers grilled food and provided refreshments. About 150 residents attend this party annually.

Aarsvold initiated a "Meet on the Sidewalk" event, which introduced Somali Parents, as well as others in this Parklawn neighborhood to City and School services, while McKenzie interacted with kids, letting them explore the squad car and get their photos taken. They invited the Chief of Police, the Director of the Park and Recreation Department, and City Counselors to attend. DO Town, Veap, and the Cornelia Elementary Reading Specialist also attended.

This collaborative effort also brought to the attention of the City leaders the need for a safe route to connect the neighborhood to Cornelia School, and funding for a new bike path has now been approved by the City Council.

Aarsvold and McKenzie have collaborated with the Edina Family Resource Center, Edina Community Foundation, American Red Cross, Bloomington Department of Health, Edina Public Schools, DO Town, VEAP, Target, and the Edina Crime Prevention Fund to support this neighborhood.

Kristen and Tom's inter-department teamwork, has demonstrated a concerted effort to foster respect and dignity not only for the Somali residents, but for this entire neighborhood, and have demonstrated leadership by example for improving and advancing human rights in Edina.

Cornelia School Playground Program

2011 Highlights

- ◆ 36 children registered for transportation provided by **Edina Crime Prevention Fund** (the bus made 7 stops on it's way to the program, mainly in the Parklawn Area)

- ◆ 27 families with kids ages 6-14 were served

- ◆ Over \$1,700 Grant in Aid given to families

Van Valkenburg Children's Fund/Edina Community Foundation

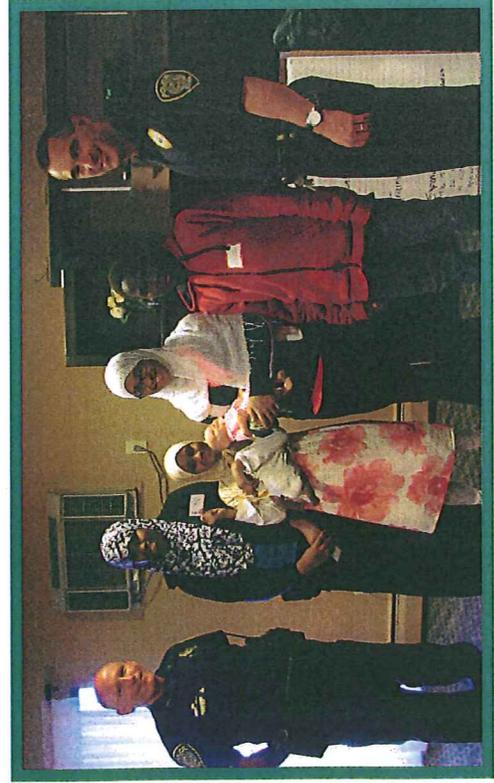
- ◆ 12 Field Trips for Traveling Teens (ages 11-14) including Service Project at ARC in Richfield

- ◆ 4 visits from Red Cross Safety Mobile

Topics include: Water Safety, Prevention of Common Injuries, Summer Weather Safety and Chemical Safety

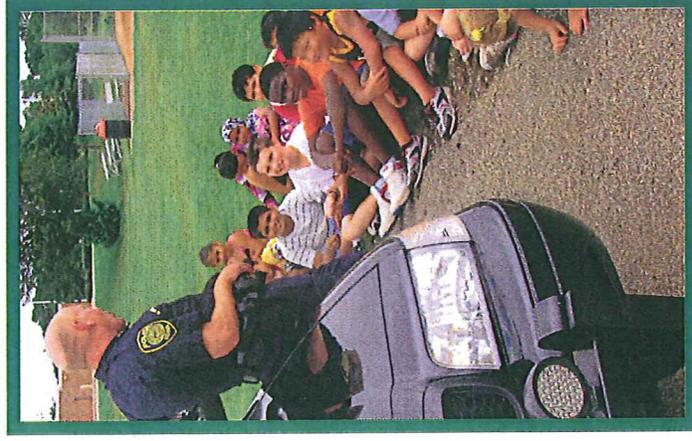
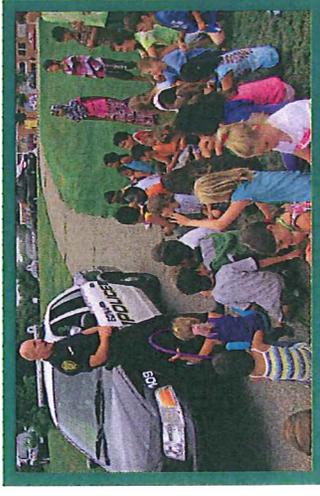
- ◆ First ever Red Cross Babysitting Course held at Edina Park Apartments

- ◆ Special Visits from Detective Tom McKenzie



2012 Happenings

- ◆ **NEW** Volunteer opportunity for ages 13-16 to learn leadership and job skills as a **Leader in Training**
- ◆ Potential summer reading program with Cornelia Elementary School Media Specialist, open library time & book clubs
- ◆ Partnership with Edina Community Education to offer programs and services



Cornelia School Playground Program



2012 Highlights

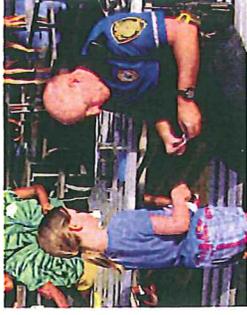
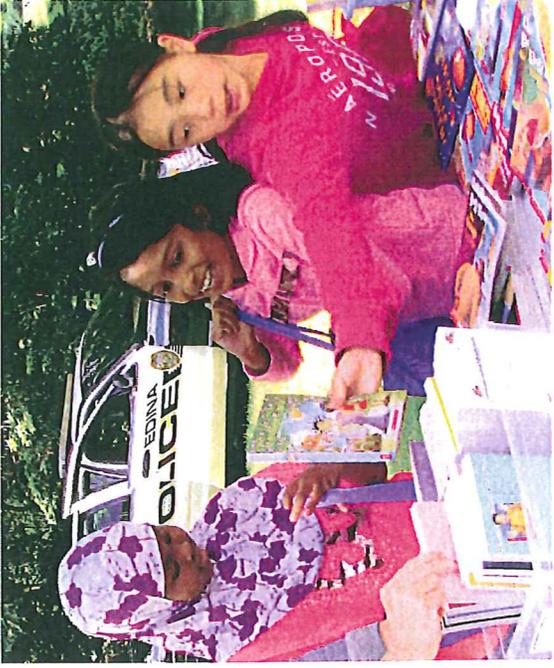
- ◆ "Meet on the Street" event held at Lake Edina Park prior to the program start to share resources, summer program information with FREE books!!
- ◆ 59 children registered for transportation provided by the

Edina Crime Prevention Fund to and from Cornelia School Park

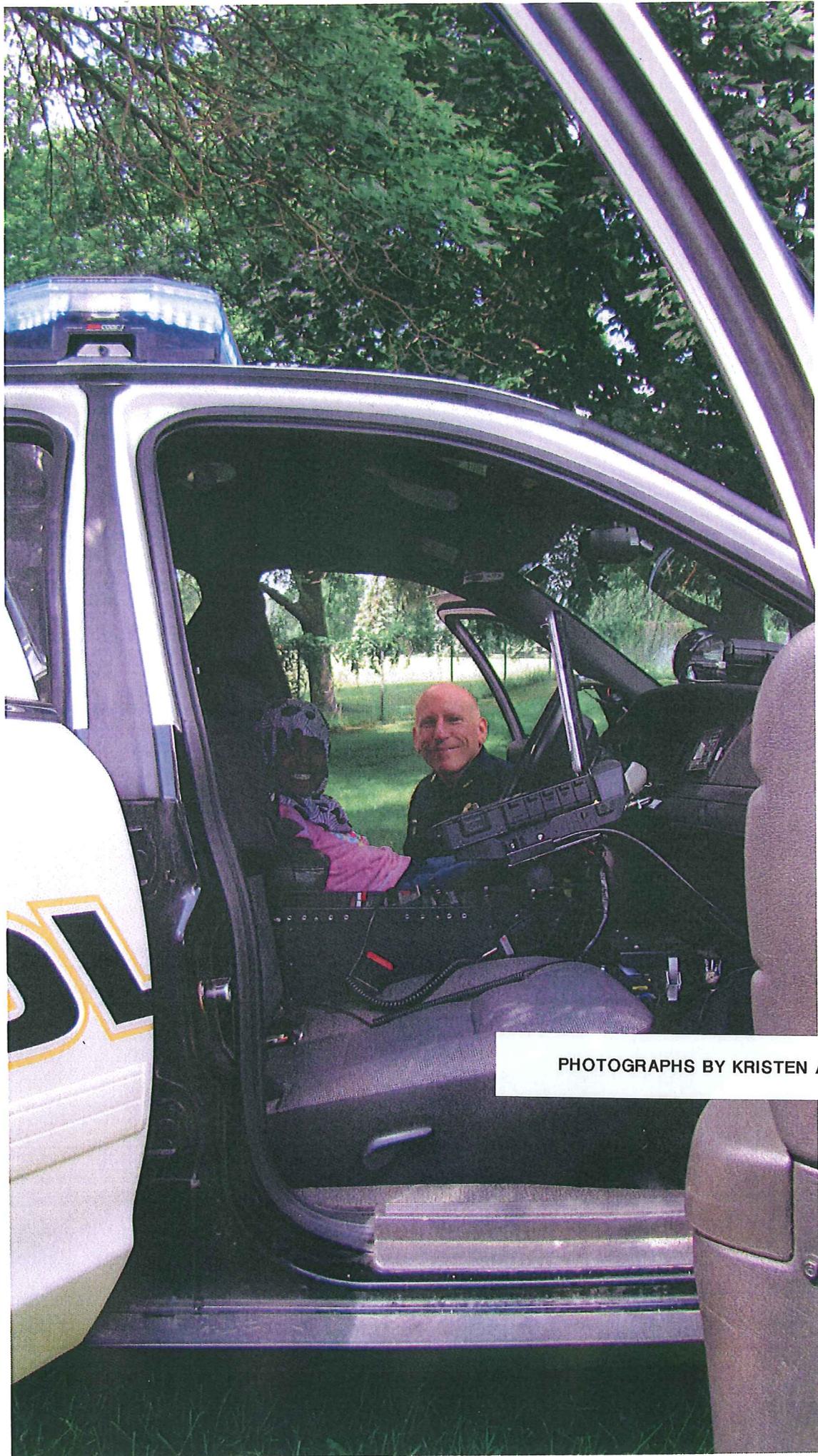
- ◆ Over 40 families with kids ages 6-14 were served
- ◆ \$1,800 Grant in Aid given to families (Van Valkenburg Children's Fund/Edina Community Foundation)
- ◆ 12 Field Trips for Traveling Teens (ages 11-14) including service project at Countryside Park
- ◆ One volunteer participated in the new Leader in Training program, program will continue in 2013



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KRISTEN AARSVOLD



- ◆ NEW partnership with Cornelia Elementary School Media/Reading Specialists for a Summer Book Club, participants received free books
- ◆ Participants visited the school media center every 2 weeks to check out books
- ◆ Visits from Detective Tom McKenzie
- ◆ Night to Unite Event at Parklawn Apartments wrapped up the summer in August



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KRISTEN AARSVOLD

NOMINATION FORM

TOM OYE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

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Submit one nominee per form. **PLEASE ATTACH AN ESSAY, UP TO 500 WORDS, AND OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND INCLUDE YOUR NAME.** Provide specific examples, including attachments if necessary.

Selection Criteria

Anyone who lives or works in Edina is eligible for this award. Nominees will be evaluated based on their efforts to:

- (1) **foster respect and dignity for others**
- (2) **model courage and/or compassion in the advancement of human rights**
- (3) **demonstrate leadership by example for improving human relations and/or advancing human rights**

Who are you nominating?

Name Momnie Segall
Occupation Health care attorney
Home address 5713 Brook Drive, Edina, MN 55436
Work address same
Email msegall18@comcast.net
Telephone numbers 953-829-5683(A), 612-202-1838(M)

Who makes this nomination?

Name of Person or Group Edina Community Foundation
Contact name, if different than above Dick Crockett
Email edfoundation@edina.mn.gov
Telephone numbers 952-833-9573(O), 612-309-9207(M)
Relationship to Nominee Professional colleague

Comments Regarding Nominee (up to 35 words)

Words that will be printed inside the program if this nominee is selected

Momnie Segall chaired The Edina Challenge Team, leading 14 community organizations in a collaborative effort to improve the human rights of financially challenged youth by reducing the barriers to their full participation in community life.

Submission Information:

Applications must be received by January 31, 2014. Applications will be reviewed by members of the Human Rights and Relations Commission. The Commission may decline to make an award if in its view no nominee meets the criteria. The award will be presented in the spring of 2014 at the annual Volunteer Recognition Reception in the Warren C. Hyde Clubhouse at Braemar Golf Course.

Mail the completed nomination form to: City of Edina, Human Rights and Relations Commission, 4801 West 50th Street, Edina, MN 55424.

Questions? Contact Annie Coyle at (952) 826-0429 or acoyle@edinamn.gov.



STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

December 31, 2013

City of Edina
Human Rights and Relations Commission
4801 West 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BRAD BEARD

BERNIE BEAVER

PETER DAHL

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SCOT HOUSH

JAMES HOVLAND

STEVEN McDONALD

PAUL MOOTY

RICHARD OLSON

BRENDA QUAYE

MAMIE SEGALL

MAXINE WALLIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DICK CROCKETT

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

MARSHA BUCHOK

RE: Tom Oye Human Rights Award

Dear Commission members:

I write in support of the attached nomination for this Award of **Mamie Segall**, who made a singular contribution to the welfare of financially challenged youth in the Edina community in 2013 by serving as volunteer chair of the Edina Challenge Team.

This Team was organized by the Edina Community Foundation to ensure that Edina youth living in poverty or near-poverty can more fully participate in the community, educational and recreational programs that will allow them to develop as healthy, productive adults. Its mission was to minimize the discrimination and lack of opportunity that is often experienced by such youth in their access to such programs, either by the lack of a focused effort to include them or by the lack of resources available to meet their need. The Foundation and Team were thus committed to a collaborative effort to improve the human rights of these youth by reducing the barriers to their full participation in the life of our community.

The Edina Challenge Team consists of representatives of 14 grant makers and service providers in our community who met throughout 2013.

City of Edina Park & Recreation Department
Connecting With Kids
Edina Community Foundation
Edina Community Lutheran Church
Edina Education Fund
EdinaGiveAndGo
Edina Morningside Rotary Club
Edina Public Schools
Edina Public Schools Community Education Services
Edina Resource Center
Oasis for Youth
Questscope/One2One
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Southdale YMCA

Mamie's effective leadership of this Team led to their consensus identification of the top five priorities for serving the youth who qualified for Free and Reduced Price Meals in Edina--Mentoring, Transportation, Tutoring, Extracurricular Engagement, and Housing. The Team also reviewed a broad range of proposed programs to meet those needs, endorsed five of those programs for community support, and recommended three of those for funding by the Edina Community Foundation:

- **One2One**, a community-based mentoring program in collaboration with Southdale YMCA that will serve some 20 middle school youth in need;
- **Oasis for Youth**, an organization providing substantial support services to homeless youth in Edina and the surrounding area; and
- **The Last Mile**, a program of the Edina Resource Center to assist youth in need after their high school graduation succeed in their goal of enrolling in college

In recognition of the solid work of Mamie and the Edina Challenge Team, the Edina Community Foundation Board of Directors approved all of these funding recommendations and \$31,000 in grants for the first six months of 2014.

Throughout this year of effort, Mamie's volunteer work and leadership clearly reflected the selection criteria for the Tom Oye Human Rights Award:

1. foster respect and dignity for others
2. model courage and/or compassion in the advancement of human rights
3. demonstrate leadership by example for improving human relations and/or advancing human rights

For these reasons, I am delighted to nominate Mamie Segall for the Tom Oye Human Rights Award.

Respectfully submitted,



Dick Crockett
Executive Director

NOMINATION FORM TOM OYE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

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(ATTACHED)

Selection Criteria

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- (1) foster respect and dignity for others
- (2) model courage and/or compassion in the advancement of human rights
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Who are you nominating?

Name: Gail Shore
Occupation: Executive Director, Cultural Jambalaya
Home and Work address: 6059 Blake Ridge Rd., Edina, MN 55436
Email: gshore@winternet.com
Telephone numbers: 952-925-6102 (home/work); 612-770-4106 (cell)

Who makes this nomination?

Name of Person or Group: Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, Co-Director, Human Rights Center,
University of Minnesota Law School
Email: krp@umn.edu
Telephone number: 612-626-7794
Relationship to Nominee: friend and colleague

Comments Regarding Nominee (up to 35 words)

Words that will be printed inside the program if this nominee is selected
(ATTACHED)

Submit Information

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Mail the completed nomination form to: City of Edina, Human Rights and Relations Commission, 4801 West 50th Street, Edina, MN 55424.

NOMINATION FORM TOM OYE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

500-word essay

There are few culturally unique places on the planet that longtime Edina resident Gail Shore hasn't visited. For four decades, the globe trekker and photographer has embarked on self-funded solo treks to faraway places. Her work focuses on people and the traditions, rituals and religions that enrich fragile cultures around the world.

At the core of Gail's work and mission is human rights. Through her photography, we are inspired to fight discrimination and promote human rights by simply respecting all people. She believes that photography is an effective medium to illustrate the diverse cultural backgrounds that continue to make up more of America's rich mosaic. To begin to break down cultural barriers, she asks us to admire and value each other's *similarities* as well as our differences, because the more we know about each other's background, history and religion, the more respectful we can become of one another.

For years, Gail has presented her unique images and stories to nonprofits and civic organizations, and has exhibited her work at galleries and art fairs, including the Edina Art Fair. But over the years, friends and colleagues encouraged her to take her large library of photos and accompanying experiences to a new level to engage others. Finally in 2005, Gail founded Cultural Jambalaya, an Edina-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that uses international photography to promote understanding and respect for all people.

Along with a board of directors and advisors (that includes a remarkable roster of accomplished Twin Cities professionals), Gail and Cultural Jambalaya set out to **produce creative programs that would benefit schools, charitable organizations as well as businesses that advance diversity, human rights and social justice.** With in-kind support from its board and financial contributions from like-minded corporations, the volunteer-based nonprofit began to create one-of-a-kind educational videos for teachers.

Produced by Twin Cities-based Tremendous! Entertainment, creator and producer of *Travel Channel's* hit series, "Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern," Cultural Jambalaya's "*Windows and Mirrors*" educational series features images collected during Gail's more than 40 years of travels to distant regions, including North Korea, Syria, Myanmar, Mali, Bhutan, Namibia, New Guinea, Rwanda and Tibet, among others.

The "*Windows and Mirrors*" series is a creative teaching tool for educators in the classroom. Supported by an online study guide, the videos are a resource for middle school and high school teachers and aim to promote cultural understanding and acceptance through a variety of subjects, including social studies, geography, history, diversity and language. The complimentary study guide, available at www.CulturalJam.org, includes instructional exercises designed to spark students' imagination and to encourage them to think broadly as they learn about the new cultures and individuals in the programs.

Cultural Jambalaya has already produced four videos in its educational series, including programs on the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The nonprofit is currently in production of its next video on Latin America.

Gail's work has already earned four national Telly Awards for excellence in cultural education.

In addition to Tremendous! Entertainment, Cultural Jambalaya has also received key support from Colle + McVoy, which created the nonprofit's brand and manages its website. Generous sponsors include Delta Air Lines, Carlson Companies, Comcast, Great Clips, Robins, Kaplan Miller & Ciresi, Verizon, Video Guidance, Wells Fargo, Wells Fargo Advisors, Hi-Fly'n Productions, Kraus-Anderson Companies, D'Amico Catering, Tom & Marlene Kayser, and others.

Further information

Gail's work has been recently featured in the following:

MINNPOST - by Education Reporter Beth Hawkins: April 23, 2012

http://www.minnpost.com/learning-curve/2012/04/gail-shore%E2%80%99s-photos-offer-minnesota-students-world-view?utm_source=MinnPost+e-mail+newsletters&utm_campaign=771187477e-4_23_2012_Daily_Newsletter4_23_2012&utm_medium=email

Edina Magazine - by Eric Larson: September 2012

<http://edinamag.com/article/arts/photographer-gail-shore-shares-travel-photos?page=0,0>

Further information about Cultural Jambalaya is available at www.CulturalJam.org,

Comments Regarding Nominee (up to 35 words)

Words that will be printed inside the program if this nominee is selected

Gail Shore is the founder and executive director of Cultural Jambalaya, an Edina-based nonprofit that uses global photography to promote human rights by inspiring others to respect our cultural similarities as well as our differences.

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Who are you nominating?

Name JESSI KINGSTON
 Occupation DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, CITY OF ST. PAUL
 Home address _____
 Work address _____
 Email J.KINGSTON2@COMCAST.NET
 Telephone numbers 952-491-1165

Who makes this nomination?

Name of Person or Group JOHN CASHMORE
 Contact name, if different than above _____
 Email JOHN@OPINIONDIVE.COM
 Telephone numbers 612-730-9004
 Relationship to Nominee FRIEND

Comments Regarding Nominee (up to 35 words)

Words that will be printed inside the program if this nominee is selected

JESSI EXEMPLIFIES THE TRUE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF THE TOM OYE AWARD THROUGH HER CONTINUAL CREATION AND PASSION FOR DIVERSITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION OF ALL PERSONS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Submit information

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Questions? Contact Annie Coyle at (952) 826-0429 or acoyle@edinamn.gov.

Jessi Kingston

Tom Oye Award nomination Application 2014

While working at General Electric Jessi assisted in creating a diverse supplier network for vehicle deliveries and maintenance services. This included working with manufacturers and researching various companies to identify potential suppliers who qualified as either a Woman Owned or Minority Owned supplier. Once identification was made, Jessi worked with the supplier to understand their qualifications and validate their certification status. Jessi set up a tracking and reporting process for the business that could help drive business for clients who had specific requests to use Woman and/or Minority Owned suppliers.

While working at Digital River, they moved its corporate headquarters from Eden Prairie to Minnetonka in August 2011. As part of the move, Jessi analyzed current vendor relationships and looked at future needs for the company as it continued to grow. A challenge within the technology industry is identifying Women and/or Minority Owned businesses who can supply services to Digital River. Also while at Digital River, Jessi was able to work with and develop a relationship with an office and promotional item supply vendor who was not only local to Minnesota and could support all the Digital River offices within the United States, but also qualified as a certified Women Owned business.

Jessi has been a member of the Twin Cities Women's Council which was created by and managed by the University of St. Catherine's Leadership Institute for more than seven years. While at ING and currently at Digital River, Jessi worked with St. Catherine's team to provide training and networking opportunities for women in both companies. Over the past five years, Digital River has been a four-time sponsor of the St. Kate's Leadership Challenge, an all day conference with more than 300 women in attendance. As part of that sponsorship, Jessi worked to get Digital River's name in the community and represent the business in a way that would excite people to want to learn more about the company and possibly seek employment at Digital River. Jessi has been fortunate to meet women of various ethnic backgrounds who are dedicated to the advancement of women and minorities, and has been able to form connections to help assist others, either through coaching or networking, in providing opportunities for professional advancement.

When Jessi was first appointed to the Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission, one of the first projects the Commission worked on was a Request for Proposal for funding human services organizations that served the residents of Edina. The process included working with city staff to update and send out the Request for Proposal, receiving and reviewing responses, visiting potential recipients, working with other commissioners to develop a recommendation on which service providers would receive funding and how much, and then presenting the recommendation to the City Council for approval.

The second project Jessi worked on as a commissioner was the creation of the Domestic Partnership Ordinance for the City. At the time, there were only three cities within Minnesota who had a Domestic Partnership Ordinance. A resident of Edina asked that the City consider an Ordinance and Jessi became the lead commissioner to work on the Ordinance. Jessi worked with another commissioner in gathering information about Domestic Partnership Ordinances from different cities and states. We determined we needed additional assistance and engaged an attorney from OutFront MN to provide guidance on what a city could and could not provide residents or workers within the City due to Federal Laws. With assistance from another commissioner and OutFront MN, Jessi created the first draft of the Ordinance and presented it at an Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission meeting for review. As the members on the commission were fairly new, there was a significant amount of discussion around the construction of the Ordinance, how far as a commission should we be creating an Ordinance around domestic partners, how do we separate this from marriage rights, and are we in a position to mandate benefits from companies. Over several months the commission tackled these issues and received feedback from the City Attorney, the City Manager and OutFront MN. Jessi encouraged members of the public who had reached out to her and those that she knew to express their feelings about the Ordinance at a public hearing and/or send in letters to the City Council.

An initial draft was presented to the City Council for review. While there was overwhelming support for the Ordinance, there was a question about whether the City needed to offer a registry in order to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Ordinance and were we

presenting something that was in essence another way of pushing for marriage for the GLBT community. After the work session with the City Council, Jessi worked with other commissioners on how to create a better message about the importance of a registry for couples in a committed relationship, such as hospital visitation rights. The Ordinance was updated and presented to the City Council for a first reading. A couple of letters were received were discussed during the meeting. However, no one chose to speak, either in favor or against the Ordinance, during the Public Hearing, and the Ordinance unanimously passed both the first and second reading.

Other activities Jessi was involved with as a Commissioner included:

Key Achievements:

- Served two 1-year terms as HRRRC Commission Chair
- Managed the adoption of a resolution opposing the marriage amendment by the city council in March 2012
- Provided feedback on the Public Meetings and Religious Observance Policy; adopted March 2012
- Led Edina HRRRC participation in the National Holocaust Museum, traveling Persecution of Homosexuals in Nazi Germany exhibit, 2012.
- Organized the passage of the Days of Remembrance Proclamation and celebration in conjunction with the national celebration of Yom Hashoa
- Presented the resolution Expressing Support for the Purchase of Products Containing Only Conflict-Free Minerals; adopted May 2012
- Participated in the creation of the community-wide anti-bullying event; April 2011

Jessi is currently the Director of the Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity at City of Saint Paul where she continues her efforts in providing the platform in the City of St. Paul for all minority groups and individuals to advance economically and socially as they desire.

Throughout her career and life, Jessi has worked on developing her skills in order to help create processes that mirror her passion for diversity, equality and inclusion of all perspectives. She exemplifies the true meaning and purpose of the Tom Oye Award.