



NEWS RELEASE

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Cincinnati to Honor Six Organizations for Promoting Diversity and Inclusion

Nonprofits and Businesses Will Be Recognized with the Prestigious Spencer Awards

The Cincinnati Association will present the Donald and Marian Spencer Spirit of America Awards for the fifth year, honoring six Cincinnati area businesses and nonprofits for promoting diversity and inclusion.

The awards dinner will be held Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6 pm at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 W. Fifth Street, Cincinnati. Dinner tickets and sponsorships are still available. More information is available at www.cincinnatiassoc.org, admin@cincinnatiassoc.org or 513-939-2652.

The awards honor nonprofits and businesses who exhibit conspicuous and enduring contributions to promoting greater inclusion and diversity in the community. The Spencer Awards are named after Cincinnati's "First Couple of Civil Rights" to celebrate their achievements in civil rights. Though Mr. Spencer died in 2010 – before the inception of the awards – Mrs. Spencer, who is in her late 90s, has participated in the dinner each year – either in person or on the phone.



Donald and Marian Spencer

Marian Spencer is known for fighting to integrate Coney Island amusement park so her children could swim in the pool. She also was the first African American president of the Woman's City Club of Cincinnati and the first African American member of Cincinnati City Council. Donald Spencer was the first African American on the Cincinnati Park Board, the first African American broker on the Cincinnati Board of Realtors and the first African American trustee at Ohio University.

"When reading the nominations we receive each year for the Spencer Awards, the outstanding work being done by so many organizations in our community to improve the lives of our citizens is an inspiration to us all. Cincinnati has this unique opportunity to recognize and share with you the efforts of our honorees to help those in need achieve the 'American Dream' through their services, education and inclusion of all citizens" says Susan Noonan Chair of Spencer Dinner Committee.

The Spencer Awards will be presented to:

- **The Cincinnati affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness:** The local affiliate, which was created in 1982, is called the Urban Greater Cincinnati Network on Mental Illness. Since 2000, the grassroots organization has been providing support for people and their families affected by mental illness.
- **Ohio Justice & Policy Center:** OJPC, a nonprofit law firm based in Cincinnati, works to create fair, intelligent and redemptive criminal justice systems. OJPC offers legal services, advocates for policy reform and provides community education. Its goals are to substantially and safely reduce the size and racial disparity of prisons, expand the freedom of people with criminal records to participate fully in the community, and protect the human rights and dignity of inmates.
- **Shelterhouse:** Shelterhouse provides basic human services to homeless people, especially housing. It started in the early 1970s when its founder began sheltering people in his apartment to prevent them from freezing to death. Now, it is the largest homeless shelter system in Greater Cincinnati, serving more than 3,000 people each year, making it one of the nation's largest systems of its kind.
- **Reds Community Fund:** As a nonprofit arm of the Cincinnati Reds, the fund uses baseball to reach out to youths. Whether it's renovating community baseball fields, providing opportunities to children with disabilities or underwriting expenses for inner-city teams, the programs allow youths to experience baseball and softball while promoting education, character and service. The programs involve more than 45,000 children.
- **The Model Group:** This business is a property development, construction, and management company with a passion for revitalizing urban neighborhoods. It emphasizes historic preservation, mixed-use urban development, senior living communities and affordable housing. It has supported inclusion efforts by developing partnerships with human services organizations and other nonprofits.
- **Procter & Gamble:** P&G has fought racial bias and gender inequality. P&G created a film about "The Talk" that many African American parents have with their children about racial bias to prepare, protect and encourage them. P&G announced a goal to get 100 percent of consumer products advertisements accurately portraying women and girls while ensuring that half of its advertising production roles go to women. Additionally, P&G has 140 nationalities represented on its workforce. And it is one of the founders of the Cincinnati Community Chest, now known as the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

Founded in 1920, Cincinnatus is a civic organization dedicated to reducing poverty and helping more people in Greater Cincinnati achieve The American Dream. The association does that not only by advocating for diversity and inclusion but also for good education and government. More information: www.cincinnatusassoc.org

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