

HUMANITARIAN AWARDS CRITERIA & PROCEDURE

“Honoring Inclusive Leadership”

The **Humanitarian Award** of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is presented to those individuals who have demonstrated a personal commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. On occasion, the organization may bestow the “**Jeffrey B. Spence Award for Interfaith Understanding**” to individuals who have conducted exceptional work in the area of interfaith understanding. The “**Distinguished Merit Citation**” recognizes corporations or community organizations for their humanitarian work.

The criteria for Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities awards follow:

- Awards are given to individuals/organizations that are respected *throughout* the community.
- Awards are given in recognition of work and/or activities that have facilitated understanding among people of different religious faiths, ethnic groups and racial groups.
- Awards are given in recognition of helpful contributions toward better understanding among all people, either through association with Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities or its goals and ideals, by opposing prejudice in all its forms through community efforts.
- Awards are given to those who have made an identifiable creative achievement and/or a significant contribution toward the improvement of human relations, social welfare and justice, and the quality of life of the people in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Nominees who are professionally employed in positions in which furtherance of human relations is a part of their professional responsibilities will only be considered for an award when their contribution meets the following guidelines:
 - The work has been significantly above average for their profession.
 - The work is clearly well beyond the professional requirements of their position.
- Award nominations are accepted only for living persons.
- Awards may not be given to the current Humanitarian Awards Dinner Chairman, past recipients of the award in Virginia, or current employees of the organization.