The Awards Celebration (formerly the Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon) is Nonprofit Connect’s signature event, and Kansas City’s oldest and largest celebration of nonprofit excellence. Now in its 38th year, the Awards Celebration has honored over 300 nonprofit leaders, organizations, and business owners for their contributions to the community.

Nonprofit Connect is proud to celebrate the work being done by nonprofits in Kansas City. We invite you to nominate the nonprofit professionals and organizations who performed tremendous acts of service in 2021, as well as the individuals and entities who advocated for them.

The online nomination form has also been simplified compared to previous years in order to encourage nominations, and does not request recommendation letters. The nomination process includes basic information about the nominee as well as two open-ended questions that match the bulleted criteria listed under each award description.

2022 Award Descriptions

**Persevering Advocate**
Presented to an individual* who:
- Demonstrated an **outstanding commitment to champion a nonprofit organization** in 2021.
- Exhibited support for the organization through personal leadership and service.

*Note: Designation of primary role (i.e. executive director, nonprofit staff member, board member, volunteer) will be requested on the nomination form. We welcome and encourage nominations of individuals in any role.*

**Equity in Action**
Presented to two **nonprofit organizations** (one large, one small) that:
- Exhibited an outstanding commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging.
- Took initiative in addressing societal issues in 2021.
- Fostered an inclusive culture.

**Nonprofit Catalyst**
Presented to two **nonprofit professionals** (one executive, one staff member) who:
- Demonstrated extraordinary commitment to their organization in 2021.
- Used exceptional leadership and / or teamwork skills to find solutions to relevant issues in 2021.

**Stronger Together**
Presented to a nonprofit organization and another entity (i.e business, foundation, government agency, or another nonprofit) that:
- Achieved greater results in service to the community by joining forces and leveraging combined resources than one entity could have achieved on its own.
- Directly responded to relevant issues in 2021.

**Excellence in Impact**
Presented to two **nonprofit organizations** (one large, one small) that:
- Found creative and inclusive solutions to expand the scope and / or reach of their programs to meet the needs of their community in 2021.
- Demonstrated resourcefulness and determination to continue mission fulfillment.
Nomination Criteria

- Nominees must live and work in the Greater Kansas City area, and the impact of their work should focus on the Greater Kansas City area.
- All candidates must be willing and available for any pre-event production in Spring 2022. (Nonprofit Connect verifies this information upon selection.)
- All nominations are confidential, and Nonprofit Connect will not contact nominees unless they are selected.
- By submitting a nomination, you agree to allow Nonprofit Connect to use any nomination information submitted at the 2022 Nonprofit Connect Awards Celebration or for any associated communication or promotions.
- There is no limitation to the number of nominations that you may submit. Any duplicate submissions from multiple sources will be collectively considered as one nomination.
- A nonprofit organization or individual may be nominated in more than one award category, but separate form submissions are required.
- We welcome and encourage nominations for nonprofit organizations of all sizes.
- Some stories of nonprofit organizations and individuals are broadcasted louder than others; we encourage nominations from all.
- Self-nominations are allowed. You are your strongest advocate and best storyteller!

Nomination Instructions

- Submit nominations online at https://bit.ly/2022AC_nominate
- The online Nomination Form includes two open-ended questions that match the bulleted criteria listed under each award description.
- Open-ended questions are limited to approximately 350 words each.
- Nominations will only be accepted via the online form. If assistance is needed, please call 816-759-8614 or email events@npconnect.org
- Submission deadline is Friday, February 11, 2022.

Honoree Selection

A selection committee of community leaders will review all nominations and select honorees from each category to be recognized at the event on May 18. Honorees will be chosen in late February.

If you are interested in being a judge for the 2022 Nonprofit Connect Awards Celebration, please submit your interest here: https://bit.ly/2022AC_judge. The deadline for judges is Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

Questions

If you have questions about the nomination form or criteria, please contact Hannah Bernardini at 816-759-8614, events@npconnect.org or visit https://www.npconnect.org/awards-celebration/.
2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Brilliance in Resilience*
Children’s Mercy Kansas City
Hope Faith

Equity in Action
Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
Heart to Heart International
Troost Market Collective
United Inner City Services

Stronger Together
YMCA of Greater Kansas City with United Methodist Church of the Resurrection
Turn the Page KC with Camp Fire Heartland, Boys & Girls Club of Greater KC, The YMCA of Greater Kansas City, and the Upper Room

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS*

Emerging Philanthropist of the Year
2016  Jennifer Matney
2017  Jessica Best & Brian Stewart
2018  Randy & Cheryl Reinhardt
2019  Darren Prenger
2020  Nora & Marshall Lockton

Emerging Nonprofit Professional of the Year
2016  Deborah Wiebrecht
2017  Sarah Reape
2018  Jeremy Lillig
2019  Gillian Helm
2020  Audra Clark

Emerging Volunteer of the Year
2016  Rachel Hack Merlo
2017  Jake Jacobson
2018  Nicole Jacobs-Silvey
2019  Chris Rosburg
2020  Chuck Cuda

Excellence in Impact Award
2016  Community Services League
2017  Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City
2018  United Way 2-1-1 of Greater Kansas City
2019  Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City
2020  Reconciliation Services

Excellence in Collaboration Award
2016  Rainbow Services, Inc. & Kansas City, Kansas Police Department
2017  Artists Helping the Homeless & Saint Luke’s Hospital
2018  Women’s Foundation & City of Kansas City, Missouri
2019  Giving the Basics with KCMO Police Department and KCMO School District
2020  Vibrant Health & The University of Kansas Health System

*Nonprofit Connect no longer presents this award title.
**Past Award Recipients**

### Philanthropist of the Year
- 1985: Donald J. Hall
- 1986: John B. Francis
- 1988: Marjorie Powell Allen
- 1989: Henry W. Bloch
- 1990: Ewing M. Kauffman
- 1991: Clarence H. Goppert
- 1992: Shirley & Stan Rose
- 1993: Adele Hall
- 1994: Herman Sutherland
- 1995: Shirley & Barnett Helzberg
- 1996: James P. Sunderland
- 1997: R.R. Osborne
- 1998: Rose S. Teicher
- 2000: Virginia & James Stowers
- 2001: Shirley Pryor
- 2001: Fred Pryor
- 2002: Elaine & Norman Polsky
- 2003: Laura & Richard Cray
- 2004: Jeannette Nichols
- 2005: Senia & Will Shields
- 2006: Bernadette & Richard W. Miller
- 2007: Julia Irene Kauffman
- 2008: Robert D. Regnier
- 2009: The Ann & Gary Dickinson Family
- 2010: Carolyn & Bob Reintjes
- 2011: Mary & Alan Atterbury
- 2012: Mary Davidson Cohen
- 2013: Betty & Tom Scott
- 2014: Benny Lee
- 2015: Annette Bloch
- 2016: Marlys & Michael Haverty
- 2017: Dr. William A. & Mary Reed
- 2018: John Isenberg, Tom Isenberg & Carol Barnett
- 2019: Deanna & Greg Graves
- 2020: The Sunderland Family

### Business Philanthropist of the Year
- 1999: Sprint Foundation
- 2000: JE Dunn Construction Company
- 2001: Bernstein-Rein Advertising
- 2002: Ford Motor Company
- 2003: General Motors/United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 31
- 2004: Applebee's
- 2005: Right Management
- 2006: Metcalf Bank
- 2007: Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas City
- 2008: Commerce Bank
- 2009: New Theatre Restaurant
- 2010: KCP&L
- 2011: Hallmark Cards, Inc.
- 2012: Burns & McDonnell
- 2013: McCownGordon Construction
- 2014: KSHB-TV & KMCI-TV
- 2015: Country Club Bank
- 2016: Kansas City Chiefs
- 2017: The Miller Group
- 2018: H&R Block
- 2019: CommunityAmerica Credit Union
- 2020: Bank of America

### Volunteer of the Year
- 1996: Mary Shaw Branton
- 1997: C. Stephen Metzler
- 1998: Patty Garney
- 1999: Marcia H. Bailey
- 2000: Barbara Potts
- 2001: Beverly Bodker
- 2002: Judy Henry Hunt
- 2003: Mary Kay McPhee
- 2004: David Oliver
- 2005: Pam & Gary Gradinger
- 2006: Nancy & John Dillingham
- 2007: Gayle Price Krigel
- 2008: Rose Bryant
- 2009: Anita B. Gorman
- 2010: Ramón Murguía
- 2011: Katie & Clyde Wendel
- 2012: Maurice A. Watson
- 2013: Gene Wilson
- 2014: Jan Regan
- 2015: Peggy Borkon
- 2016: Peggy & Terry Dunn
- 2017: Linda & Terry Ward
- 2018: Kevin Connor
- 2019: Joseph Jacobs III
- 2020: Gene Balloun

### Nonprofit Professional of the Year
- 1985: T. Henry Stafford
- 1986: W.L. "Tom" Tompkins
- 1987: Maurice M. McNellis
- 1988: Robert L. Campbell
- 1989: Jane White Brown
- 1990: John A. Shehane
- 1991: Kenneth E. Smith
- 1992: Jessie A. Fuller
- 1993: Robert W. Buchanan
- 1994: Sister Olive Louise Dallavis
- 1995: Marie Whitmer
- 1996: William J. French
- 1997: Davoren Tempel
- 1998: Jeffrey D. Byrne
- 1999: Harold J. Schultz
- 2000: Thad A. Henry
- 2001: Mary Baker
- 2002: David A. Smith
- 2003: Daniel J. Bradbury
- 2004: Paul Gemeinhardt
- 2005: Sheridan Y. Wood
- 2006: Myra Christopher
- 2007: Brenda Sharpe
- 2008: Sister Berta Sailer & Sister Corita Bussanmas
- 2009: Barbara G. Head
- 2009: Mark L. Litzler
- 2010: Karen T. Haren
- 2011: John W. Bluford III
- 2012: David Warm
- 2013: Hilda Fuentes
- 2014: Jane Chu
- 2015: George Guastello
- 2016: Wayne Sims
- 2017: Frank Byrne
- 2018: Jeffrey Bentley
- 2019: Randy Wisthoff
- 2020: Cris Medina

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PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS*

Rising Stars 2009
Kate Ferrell Banks
Jamie Montgomery Helzberg
Chris Mounts
Dan Nilsen
Jeanette Prenger
Gwyn Prentice
Ryan Reid
Kimberlee Ried
Abby & Alex Wendel
Jean-Paul Wong

Rising Stars 2010
Bruce Allen
Erika Dickey
Christina Eldridge
Wesley Fields
Kevin Gabriel
Trudy Kopf Gabriel
Bill Gautreaux
Laura & David Hall
Jenny Murphy
Luke Norris
Ken Sonnenschein, MD

Rising Stars 2011
Jamie Berg
Lisa Hallier
Sheri Johnson
Erin Mos
Kathy Schikevitz
Laura Curry Sloan
Rob Smith
Mary Wetzel
Richard Wetzel

Rising Stars 2012
Katie Dunn Fitzgerald & Matt Fitzgerald
Colby Jones
Amy McAnarney
Mark Moberly
Casey Simmons & S. Sloane Simmons
Ursula Terrasi
Dan Walsh
Teal Williams

Rising Stars 2013
Laura Eickman, Psy.D.
Katie Hall
Hayley E. Hanson
Deliece & Brian Hofen
Jennifer Ingraham
Tim McCoy
Courtney Thomas
Hunter Wolbach

Rising Stars 2014
Jenny Erdman
Brandon Fancher
Courtney Goddard
Rebecca Hierholzer
Betsy Lynch
Lauren McCarthy
Dawn Taylor
Luke Wade

Rising Stars 2015
Matthew Clark
Tom Dowling
Sheri Gormley
Tom Houlehan
Dean Newton
Kelly & Steve Stewman
Courtney Wachal

Special Lifetime Achievement
2004  David P. Ross
2019   David Renz, Ph.D.

Nonprofit Impact Award
2012  The Nigro Brothers Auctioneers

Small Business Philanthropist of the Year
2000  River City Studio
2001  Carter Broadcasting Company
2002  Boulevard Brewing Company
2003  Parris Communications

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