



CELEBRATION

VALENTINE RICHMOND HISTORY CENTER

Save
the date

Richmond
History Makers
Celebration
October 20
5:30 p.m.
Valentine
Richmond
History Center



PROMOTING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Award presented by Capital One

"Today, she continues to ask each neighbor who walks through the door not only what they need from the center, but what skills and talents they can bring to the center with them. Greater Fulton Hill is a stronger community because of her work."

Mary Lou Decossaux, Neighborhood Resource Center

While some people saw a neighborhood in decline and held out little hope for its survival, Mary Lou Decossaux regarded Fulton Hill as a goldmine of potential. As the "spark plug" behind the creation of the area's Neighborhood Resource Center, she has provided educational, cultural and social assistance to thousands of neighborhood residents

"I had been working on public safety and community improvement projects in Greater Fulton Hill since the mid-'90s," remembered Decossaux. "When the neighborhood post office closed, I saw what it could be and invited everyone I knew to think about the possibilities... the vision spread like warm butter."

Lacking a neighborhood school, the community was in need of a place where children and adults could pursue personal and professional dreams. Since its opening in January 2005, more than 3,000 people have been enriched by the center's resources.

Today, children improve grades through the assistance of after-school tutors. Teens learn skills that will take them into the future in the center's state-of-the-art recording studio. Others grow organic vegetables, learn ballet, taekwon do and photography skills. Adults study for GEDs and pursue career goals through the center's job-search resources. But perhaps most important, neighbors are building meaningful relationships with each other and a community is growing and thriving.

"We're providing quality resources and opportunities to people who really need them," said Decossaux. "Staffing the center with loving, patient people, and cultivating an ocean of gratitude for the mighty work and mini miracles that are changing people's lives."



Creating Quality Educational Opportunities

Award presented by MeadWestvaco

"If Dr. Spurlock's ambitions had propelled her towards elective office, I suspect we would be honoring her as a senator or a former governor. Instead, she took that unique combination of energy, organizational savvy, civic spirit, and charisma, and quietly makes the future brighter for generations of Richmond schoolchildren."

LaVerne Spurlock, Virginia Heroes, Inc.

A Richmond native, Dr. Spurlock graduated from Armstrong High School and earned a degree from Virginia State University. She received graduate degrees in education from Columbia University, the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. Ultimately, she returned to her hometown to better the community. She has inspired thousands of Richmond-area children through her role as a counselor in area public schools, her service on the Board of Partnership for the Future and her involvement with Virginia Heroes, an organization founded in 1991 by Arthur Ashe that provides role models and mentors to 6th grade students in Richmond middle schools

"Arthur had talked about the need for successful former and current Richmonders to share themselves and their personal stories with Richmond teenagers in a kind of 'show and tell,'" Dr. Spurlock recalled. "His hope was that the students would be influenced enough by such face-to-face interaction to think very seriously about their own futures."

Now approaching its 20th year, the program has attracted corporations, businesses, organizations, clubs and individuals who offer their time and resources on behalf of the city's children.

"Having enjoyed 40 years as a teacher and counselor in Richmond Public Schools experiencing the excitement of students developing their skills, talents and dreams only made me know there was more to come," said Dr. Spurlock. "Virginia Heroes became the next step as I retired. Over the years, my guess is that we have reached more than 10,000 children in the middle schools of Richmond."

TODAY'S HISTORY MAKERS ARE CREATING A BETTER TOMORROW

The Valentine Richmond History Center began its annual celebration of Richmond's History Makers in 2005. The award honors the achievements of everyday citizens and organizations that are making significant contributions to Richmond and its surrounding neighbors.

This year's stellar honorees are helping to enhance our region's educational opportunities, provide innovative and visionary solutions, encourage cooperation and communication, improve social justice and develop stronger communities.

TODAY'S EVENTS SERVE AS TOMORROW'S HISTORY

The 2009 Richmond History Makers form a diverse group—united by a single purpose—to make our community strong, inclusive and innovative. With their vision, passion and commitment, they are creating an atmosphere where everyone can achieve their best.

The Valentine Richmond History Center is proud to honor three individuals and two organizations for making outstanding contributions to our community.

Presenting Sponsor:



CELEBRATE WITH US!

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO HONOR
OUR COMMUNITY'S STARS AT THE 2009

RICHMOND HISTORY MAKERS CELEBRATION

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

5:30 - 8:00 PM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND
HONOREE PRESENTATIONS

VALENTINE RICHMOND HISTORY CENTER
1015 East Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia

Free valet parking

\$40 PER PERSON

Make reservations by calling (804) 649-0711 x 325.

Deadline: October 16th

www.richmondhistorymakers.com

All proceeds benefit the Valentine Richmond History Center
Collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond's history for more than 100 years



Demonstrating Innovative Solutions

Award presented by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

"Dr. Schroeder's work is unique because he values relationships. He does the work, but he is primarily about building relationships between individuals and community groups."

James Schroeder, D.D.S., CrossOver Ministry

When local dentist James Schroeder began offering dental care to uninsured individuals 25 years ago, he never dreamed that his fledgling faith-based ministry, holding meetings in a basement, would grow into a charitable organization with over 20,000 patient visits and a two-million dollar budget.

"When you gather people with a shared passion, you can accomplish things beyond your wildest dreams," said Dr. Schroeder. "Crossover has been a very exciting journey. It started out as a ministry called Needle's Eye. From day one there was an energy from people who wanted to participate and make a difference."

In the early '80s, dental care was provided from Dr. Schroeder's office on weekends and medical care was offered out of a storefront church on Broad Street. "The populations we served ranged from the homeless to people in extreme poverty," recalled Dr. Schroeder. "We served everyone from children to the elderly."

Today, Crossover Ministry is a network of free clinics providing health care to Richmond's uninsured and low-income populations. Dr. Schroeder's vision and dedication to community service have attracted other health care providers and dentists to the program who offer services through their own practices or by volunteering.

"The unique nature of Crossover's 25-year history has been its ability to sustain a sharp focus on its mission and core values while adding new people with fresh ideas, talents and passion to make a difference in people's lives," said Dr. Schroeder. "Businesses, faith communities, individuals and institutions, all overcoming their differences, have come together around a shared value to be a blessing in people's lives."



Improving Social Justice

Award presented by Leadership Metro Richmond

"Thirteen years ago, kids were beat up and bullied in most high schools across the region for being gay. Now, with ROSMY's help, it happens less frequently. There are more kids who feel comfortable to come out, there are more teachers who feel safe to support them, and there exists a much greater amount of tolerance and acceptance through the region."

ROSMY

As the single source of support, education and advocacy for Richmond's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, ROSMY has been "making history" for more than 18 years. Founded by a group of concerned parents, teachers, social workers and community leaders, ROSMY has grown from meeting in a church basement to owning its own youth center, while providing acceptance and support to hundreds of young people along the way.

"Each year since 1991, ROSMY has continued to grow and evolve as an organization in response to the greater Richmond area's community needs and support for these often overlooked and underserved youth," said Executive Director John Dougherty. "The award gives me incredible pride and motivation to continue pushing forward with the support of the Richmond community in fulfilling our mission to ensure Virginia's sexual minority youth an equal opportunity for success."

Today ROSMY provides a 7-day 24-hour youth support hotline, support groups in Richmond and Charlottesville, a youth leadership development program and the nationally accredited Institute for Equality professional training for youth and family service providers.

"This award is proudly accepted by ROSMY as a sign of not only the growing awareness and support of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth in our community, but of the importance of Richmond being a place that promotes positive and healthy sexual and gender identity development for all youth," said Dougherty.

"I hope the entire Richmond community takes pride in this award and recognizes the success and importance of continuing to advance this important social justice issue."



Fostering Regional Cooperation

Award presented by Altria

"The diversity of the 13 member localities and the ability of the CVWMA to bring them together and provide a variety of recycling and solid waste solutions is a unique illustration of regional cooperation."

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority

It's likely that if you've ever recycled a plastic bag, cardboard container or glass bottle, the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) has helped with the process. In fact, the CVWMA manages waste management and recycling programs for 13 localities across the Richmond area, serving a population of over 1 million and covering nearly 2,500 square miles. In 1990, CVWMA brought together a diverse group of communities, allowing them to choose from a range of recycling and waste management solutions that best suited each locality's needs. In doing so, CVWMA became a role model of efficient and economical waste management. In 2008, the region recycled an estimated 52.8 percent of the waste generated, far exceeding the 25 percent mandated by the state.

"CVWMA is an excellent example of localities in the region working together to achieve common goals," said Kim Hynes, CVWMA's executive director. "Although the central Virginia region is very diverse, the CVWMA has worked hard to provide regional programs that suit individual needs. This award says a lot for the leadership of the Authority over the years."

CVWMA also develops partnerships with local businesses, organizations and media to promote recycling. Educational opportunities, information and outreach are provided through community events, presentations, school programs, resource materials and the CVWMA Web site, Facebook and YouTube.

CVWMA serves as an excellent example of a partnership that benefits not only the communities, governments and residents it serves, but also plays a leading role in the conservation of our precious natural resources.