

CommUNITY Diversity Group of La Grange Awardees 1999-Present

- 2025 Jim Hinckley, CDG Webmaster (Diversity)
Regina McClinton (accepted by daughter Nicole
Dickerson) (Community Service)
- 2024 Cathy Pierson (Diversity)
Russell Davenport (Community Service)
- 2023 Michael Thomas (Diversity)
Dr. Bessie Boyd (Community Service)
- 2022 Sr. Marlene Schemmel, Sisters of St. Joseph, La
Grange Park (posthumous) (Diversity)
Minister Al Banks, Davis Memorial AME Church
(Community Service)
- 2021 Pastor Sean Williams, Lyonsville Community Church
(Diversity)
Lynn Lacey and April Lacey-Hill (the inaugural Minnie
Carr Community Service Award)
- 2020 Linda Eastman, Founding Board Member of CDG
- 2019 Mary Klonowski, League of Women Voters of La
Grange Area
Recognition of Outstanding Achievement: Becky
Lorentzen & Harold Gibson
- 2018 Bill Caruso, Attorney Emeritus, John Marshall Law
School
- 2017 Lorna Neuneker and Velaine Carnall
Special Recognition: LaVelle Topps
- 2016 Peg Adamczyk, Retiring Congress Park Teacher
- 2015 Jean Sanders, Retiring Congress Park Teacher

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- 2014 Sr. Julie Cannon, Sr. Joellen Sbrissa, and Doris Lewis -- Peace and Justice Committee, Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph, La Grange Park
- 2013 Shawana McGee, Caring Place Foundation
- 2012 Alan Morales, Executive Director, The LeaderShop
- 2011 Cheri Gibbs, Retiring District 102 Teacher
- 2010 Cathy Pierson, CEP YL Inc.
- 2009 Joyce and Gaylon Lightner, NAACP
- 2008 Pastor Debra Williams, Davis Memorial AME
- 2007 Marian Honel-Wilson, CDG Board Member
- 2006 Nora Malloy, NAACP
- 2005 Ken Eastman, LG Trustee, Founder and Former CDG President
- 2004 Rev. Raymond Giddens, Pastor, Second Baptist Church of La Grange
- 2003 Dale Schaefer, Principal, Congress Park School
Special Tribute to the Memory of Bill Carnall
- 2002 John L. Young, Principal, Lyons Township High School
- 2001 Jim Battle, District 102 Superintendent
- 2000 Rev. David Bebb Jones, Western Springs Presbyterian Church
- 1999 Julia Doris and Helene Lockhart - CDG and Rally Founders

About CDG's Diversity Achievement Award

This award has been bestowed by CDG at the annual Race Unity Rally since 1999 to recognize community members who have contributed to the community's diversity, equity or inclusion (DEI). Awardees have been recognized for:

- speaking up for DEI in a public service or governmental role, such as village employee or trustee, teacher, park district, or school board member;
- providing strong support for CDG, including founders, officers who served for many years, co-chairs of the Race Unity Rally, grant writers, and more;
- supporters and leaders for DEI in local organizations, including the NAACP or a church;
- a significant achievement, starting or continuing a local conference dedicated to antiracism/inclusive community, or other; or
- a historical achievement that may have been overlooked at the time, such as working for fair housing in La Grange.

This list is not exhaustive but indicates the types of achievements that the award has recognized over the years.

About the Minnie Carr Community Service Award

This award was inaugurated in 2021 to recognize community members or organizations that embody Mrs. Carr's legacy of tireless dedication and devotion to the community, as described in the paragraph below about Mrs. Carr:

Minnie Carr was an African American resident of La Grange from the 1930s to the 50s. She was a passionate community organizer and devoted teacher and is a prime example of how just one person can make a lasting impression on a community. Mrs. Carr taught piano, crafts and Bible Class to children and in 1942 became Director of the Eastside Community Center. She wrote a weekly society column called "News From The Eastside" in The LaGrange Citizen, where she reported in detail on area events. In 1940, Mrs. Carr created the first annual neighborhood children's parade in La Grange where children decorated their doll buggies, wagons and bikes and marched through the village, to the delight of the community. Mrs. Carr's desire for the betterment of the community is what made her so special, respected and valued by all who knew her.