



NAFCM opens nominations for the Outstanding Volunteer Award of Winter 2017.

Louisville, KY (January 17, 2017) — On Monday January 17, 2017, the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM) will open nominations for the quarterly [NAFCM Outstanding Volunteer Award of Winter 2017](#). Each quarter, NAFCM assembles a committee of community mediation leaders from across the country to review nominations and select the Outstanding Volunteer Award winner.

Today, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we urge you to recognize the amazing services provided by volunteer mediators, whom every day contribute to the building of transformative peace in their communities; your communities.

Volunteer mediators give some of their most precious resources, time and empathy, so that we can all move closer to the promise of democracy, justice, and brotherhood and not to drink from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

Volunteers are vital for the Center to meet most if not all of the Nine Hallmarks. Such as:

- Volunteers exemplify that the practice of mediation is open to all. (Hallmark 2);
- Volunteers may be a center's greatest referral source while also serving as one who by their service with the center can reduce barriers to service including linguistic, cultural, programmatic and economic. (Hallmark 3); and,
- Engaging in public awareness and educational activities about the values and practices of mediation (Hallmark 9).

Showing appreciation for the years of service and acknowledging the bright futures of your volunteer mediators will help ensure a diverse, vibrant, and engaged volunteer base that will support your work even outside the mediation room.

Nominations for this quarter will **begin on Tuesday January 17, 2017 (National Day of Racial Healing)** and will **close on February 1, 2017**. Take this time to honor a special volunteer from your center and remind them of how important they are to their mediation community.

Nominations can be made by member centers through the following link:

<http://www.nafcm.org/?page=VolunteerAward>.

We look forward to your nominations!

Sincerely,

NAFCM