

race
AGAINST
racism

April 20, 2019
QUAD CITIES

RACISM.

IT STOPS

WITH ME

2019 RACE AGAINST RACISM

Grand Marshalls, YOSAVA AND MOSES ROBINSON

“We are inspiring youth by providing a foundation of hope regardless of race, ethnicity, income or upbringing,”

-Yosava and Moses Robinson

When the planning began for the inaugural RACE AGAINST RACISM, it was determined by The YWCA Quad Cities Board of Directors that we would select a Grand Marshall for the event. Thinking about the purpose of the event and The YWCA Quad Cities mission, it was unanimously decided by the Board that YOSAVA AND MOSES ROBINSON would be the perfect Grand Marshalls. Natives of Rock Island and graduates of Rock Island High School, Yosava and Moses have been involved with the METRO (Motivating Enough to Run On) Youth Group for over 20 years. METRO’s current enrollment sits at 75 kids, ages 3-20. In addition to pom pom, pee wee, drumline and steppers, METRO also provides tutoring, mentoring and volunteering and to some, an “additional family.”



“We love working with kids and interacting with the youth in our Quad Cities community.”

- Yosava and Moses Robinson

Now more than ever, we need to take a stand against racism. As many find a reason to divide over differences, we at The YWCA Quad Cities constantly strive to stand together and support those who need it. We are proud to present to you ten outstanding individuals who have done just that -- each standing firmly and loudly against racism. Their deeds are definitely being recognized.

Today, April 20, 2019 is the INAUGURAL RACE AGAINST RACISM. This event supports The YWCA Quad Cities Social Justice, Youth and Advocacy Programs. Leading up to today’s race, nominations were accepted for individuals felt by their peers to be actively making a significant impact against racism in and around the Quad Cities community. From all nominations, these ten individuals were selected to be recognized for doing just that -- standing against racism -- through their words, choices and actions. Congratulations to all and THANK YOU for all you do in this community.

NOMINEE: Jasmine Bozeman *Founder/CEO, The Degree Experience*

NOMINATED BY: Liz Kanter *Friend*

Jasmine is a phenomenal woman devoted to making a profound difference in the lives of others and in the world. She is a highly sought after motivational speaker, as well as an author. Jasmine dedicates her time and energy to many community agencies and non-profits, such as: Family Resources, YouthHope, Love girls, Royal Neighbors, Get It Girl, Davenport Public Schools and the YWCA Quad Cities. Serving as a strong advocate in our community, Jasmine is a true representative for equality, social justice and peace.



NOMINEE: TC Boyd *Founder, Wear Unity Clothing*

NOMINATED BY: Theresa Boyd *Mother*

TC is an inspirational speaker, speaking regularly at colleges, schools, youth organizations and churches. He shares his story of losing his father to AIDS and his brother to gun violence, and working to overcome obstacles. He also promotes unity through his music and spoken word poetry under his stage name 'TC Boyd The Artist'. TC has been recognized by Chicago's Youth Advocate program, The QC's NAACP, New Hope Church, Quad Cities Times and St. Ambrose University. TC is the founder of Wear Unity Clothing, a brand promoting racial and ethnic unity, and New Rise Entertainment, a positive entertainment company. Website: www.tcboydtheartist.com Email: tcboydtheartist@gmail.com



NOMINEE: Simone Collins *How About HOPE,*
Advocacy Ambassador

NOMINATED BY: Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw *2018 Miss Iowa, Miss Iowa*
Scholarship Program



A 24-year old African American native of Rock Island, Simone Collins graduated from Rock Island High School in 2012 as class valedictorian. In 2016, Simone graduated from Truman State University, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Cum Laude. Currently, Simone is pursuing her Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities, with a goal of graduating Spring, 2022. Recently being accepted in the Ethnic and Multi-Cultural Studies Master's Degree Program at Minnesota State University (Mankato), Simone plans to begin this degree in Fall, 2019. With these two degrees, Simone has plans to devote her life to the mental health concerns of minority populations and the pressures they face from racism, oppression and discrimination. Simone not only participated in the Quad City's Minority Partnership while attending college, she further served on a panel discussion in the fall of 2018. While attending college, Simone served on various panels on being an African American in a predominately white school and speaking about the racism she (personally) endured, such as the N-word being written on her dorm room door as an undergrad. In November, 2017 through a class project for her counseling Master's Degree, Simone and two of her classmates organized and hosted a panel discussion inspired by the political climate entitled "Challenges Facing Muslim and Hispanic Students.". Simone also serves as the Advocacy Director for an up-and-coming non-profit, How About HOPE, which focuses on mental health and suicide awareness. She currently works part-time at the Robert Young Center Community Support Program as a Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist and PRN at Vera French as Direct Support Staff. Simone volunteers with Food for Thought and serves as a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Before starting graduate school, Simone served through the City of Davenport AmeriCorps Program at Big Brothers Big Sisters.

I was raised to believe that
— EXCELLENCE —
is the best deterrent to racism or sexism.
And that's how I operate my life.

— Oprah Winfrey





NOMINEE: *Kim Findlay CEO/President, Putnam Museum*

NOMINATED BY: *Kimberly Crane Tyson, Community Partner*

As CEO/President of Putnam Museum, Kim was instrumental in bringing the “RACE-Are We So Different?” exhibit to the Quad Cities. This exhibit examines race as the science of human variation of genetics, the history of the idea of race; particularly the science of trying to explain differences among people, and the experience of race and racism in the United States. The exhibit forces one to think differently or at least question previous ideas of race after they experience it. Kim didn’t want to only bring the exhibit to our community, she was adamant that there be a higher purpose. She brought together a committee of community leaders with an interest in diversity and promoting positive change in and to the Quad City area. Her intention was to ensure the exhibit is “fully utilized as a springboard to conversation and deeper understanding during its 4-month run in our community.” She wanted input on how we could best implement “corollary programs, projects, events, etc. that have the greatest probability of bringing not only greater, but lasting awareness about race.” Kim is very passionate about this exhibit and its ability to stir discourse on racism.



NOMINEE: James “Keith” Frainey *Independent*

Clinical Psychologist

NOMINATED BY: Anne McNeils

Keith Frainey, a licensed clinical psychologist, has worked in the Quad Cities for 22 of his 25-year career. As the sole clinical psychologist for Illinois Department of Corrections-East Moline Correctional Center, Keith provided mental health services, advocacy, support and case management services to incarcerated males ranging in age from 18-70+, many whom struggled with adjustment to incarceration as well as mental health manifestations from the trauma in their lives.

Keith’s work and career has been devoted to taking care of the most vulnerable and disenfranchised in our society. In his role at EMCCC, Keith witnessed first-hand the systemic oppression of the correctional system and the broken justice system’s heavy hand when incarcerating disproportionate numbers of black and Hispanic males for similar criminal behavior by their white male counterparts. Often times, Keith fought against the injustices and toxicity of the prison system culture to protect his male clients from further trauma. There were moments when Keith went above and beyond his role to ensure his male clients were connected to resources in the community (upon their discharge) so as to secure a ‘safety net’ during their re-entry into society.

Taking a trauma-informed approach to treatment, Keith conceptualized and intervened from this framework with his clients, always treating them with the utmost respect and dignity. He often reflected on his own privilege while understanding how this allotted him many opportunities and advancements these men would never experience.

In the past 6 years, Keith has invested his personal time advancing matters of racial justice in the QCA as a member and Vice President of Boots on the Ground (BOG). This local grass-roots, non-for-profit organization has a mission to be the voice of the voiceless, to empower the disempowered and to serve marginalized people within the Quad Cities Communities. As VP and member, Keith has conducted neighborhood door-to-door listening campaigns to gather concerns and needs in the Northwest Davenport community of GOOSE CREEK. In doing so, he has identified several families in need of financial, employment and healthcare assistance and facilitated connections to resources in the community. In addition to ride-alongs with the Davenport Police Department, Keith has attended community events with city council members, police and alderman to discuss racial profiling and advocate for changes to policy and procedure within city departments that inherently disadvantage racial communities. As a member of the Davenport NAACP, Keith has actively worked to advance the local NAACP strategic plan and agenda. Keith feels strongly in devoting his personal time and using his white, male privilege to righting the social and racial inequities of our country and its history. Often working behind the scenes, Keith is never looking for accolades for his efforts believing in the inherent value of doing good in his short time on this earth. As such, awarding him with this honor, will be both a surprise and potentially an uncomfortable spotlight.



you must never be fearful about
what you are doing when it is right.

— Rosa Parks —

NOMINEE: Jennifer Page Pierson *School Counselor, Rock Island High School*

NOMINATED BY: Liz Kantner *Co-Worker and Friend*

Jennifer not only serves as an effective, professional and compassionate school guidance counselor at Rock Island High School, but she also provides strategic leadership as the CQ Cultural Competency Team Leader for the Rock Island-Milan School District.



In the later role, Jennifer serves as an agent of diversity, equality and inclusion for students, staff, parents and community members, as well as demonstrating a professional, specialized knowledge of diversity, cultural competence and equity, specifically as it relates to applications in schools, classrooms and the school community. Most of Jennifer's volunteerism is integrated within her church, Second Baptist-Rock Island, which includes Vacation Bible School Coordinator, Youth Ministry Committee Member, Member of Senior Usher Board and Supervisor for the Junior Usher Board, and Strategic Planning Committee. Jennifer is also a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.



All of my history as an African-American woman, as a Jewish woman, as a Muslim woman. I'm bringing everything I ever knew, and all the stories I've read - everything good, strong, kind and powerful. I bring it all with me into every situation, and I will not allow my life to be minimized by anybody's racism or sexism or ageism.

— Maya Angelou —

NOMINEE: Tammy Reed *Director, Taranga/Drum Circle*

NOMINATED BY: Dorian Byrd *Friend and Fellow Dancer*

Taranga means hospitality. As Founder, Director and Performer with the Taranga Drum Circle, Tammy Reed and her group, Taranga Drum Circle have been invited to perform for several local organizations including: St. Ambrose University, Black Hawk College, Augustana College @ Martin Luther King Celebration, and the recent RACE Exhibit at Putnam Museum.



Whenever and wherever they have been invited, Tammy emphasizes the focus is on community and interacting with others in a positive way. As a leader, Tammy has not only led the performance component of the Taranga Drum Circle, but also leads group meetings that are open to all, sharing that anyone interested in the camaraderie around drumming is always welcome. Tammy is also a leader for a local Royal Neighbors youth chapter and currently serves as Vice President for the Rock Island Branch of NAACP. In her career as a social worker, Tammy is always sensitive and well-educated in meeting the needs of all her clients. She is often seen going above and beyond her job requirements to aid, care and serve others, whether it is helping with area refugees, or providing an opportunity for anyone to work, vote, and receive rights and benefits due them.

NOMINEE: Marquita Reynolds Arconic, Human Resources Generalist

NOMINATED BY: Rob Woodall Arconic, Co-Worker

Marquita is a leader in Arconic's African American Heritage Network (AAHN) Resource Group. This group provides support and mentorship for minorities at the Davenport Works facility, as well as annual scholarships provided to Quad City students. Additionally, each year AAHN reaches out into the community providing career information and plant tours to encourage students to consider a career in manufacturing. In 2018, Marquita led the application process to the Arconic Foundation for a \$25,000 STEM grant to work with kids at the MLK Center in Rock Island. In addition, she has been a coordinator of the 10+ robotics teams currently hosted at the Arconic Learning Center. This program serves as an introduction to STEM opportunities to children from diverse backgrounds.



NOMINEE: Jorge Rodriquez Arconic, Human Resources Manager, Davenport Works

NOMINATED BY: Rob Woodall Arconic, Co-Worker

Jorge champions all six (6) of the Employee Resource Groups at Arconic Davenport Works: African American Heritage Network (AAHN), Hispanic affinity Group (HABLO), Arconic Women's Network (AWN), New Professionals Network (NPN), Employees at Arconic for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Equality (EAGLE) and Arconic Veteran's Network (AVN). A vital advocate, mentor and sponsor for their activities, Jorge continues to directly contribute to their successful evolution and impact at Arconic Davenport Works. Jorge understands the business value and support these groups bring to our business and our community. Outside of his Arconic commitments, Jorge not only serves on the board at Junior Achievement, but also teaches JA in the classroom at Edison Academy (one of the alternative high schools) where he actively helps with minority and at-risk students. In this capacity, Jorge is not only a teacher, but a role model showing students what they can achieve.



“We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to ONE HUMAN RACE.”

-Kofi Annan

NOMINEE: Eric Rowell *Augustana College, Assistant Director for Admissions and Diversity Outreach*

NOMINATED BY: Amy Rowell *World Relief, wife*

After growing up and living on the Southside of Chicago most of his life, Eric was first exposed to diversity after moving to Rock Island to begin his college studies and making good friends with people from many different races. After 3 years of not being welcomed, Eric married Amy McConnell in 1999. It wasn't until Eric and Amy were married and preparing to move abroad that he fully was welcomed into Amy's family. Together, Eric and Amy traveled to India, where Eric coached basketball to the youth all across India, learning about them and eventually loving the Indian people. Upon returning to the US, Eric worked with and coached numerous youth from diverse backgrounds in the Chicagoland area in the field of sports. Never seeing a child for the color of their skin or how much money their parents made, Eric truly recognized the young person as a human being. Eric's love for sports continues to allow him to reach thousands of youth. As Assistant Director for Admissions and Diversity Outreach at Augustana College, Eric continuously recruits minority students to attend his alma mater. In the community, Eric serves as an elder in his church, board member on the Quad City Minority Partnership (for minority students), is past-president of the Rock Island County Orcas Swim Club, served on the Bettendorf Family Museum board, and has coached numerous youth sports with YMCA and RIFAC. His number one fan, Amy lead World Relief until her passing on March 30th. World Relief is an organization that welcomes and serves refugees and immigrants in the Quad Cities. Through volunteering and serving alongside his wife, Eric strives to ensure all feel welcome regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status or gender. Eric is a man of true character as he really does love ALL people. Eric is a role-model for not only he and Amy's four children and his Augustana family, but to the entire community.



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