

Bloomington Adult MLK AWARD NOMINATION - 2020

Reference #	3779576
Status	Complete
Login Username	matejka
Login Email	matejka53@aol.com
First Name	Mike
Last Name	Matejka
Address 1	402 E Lincoln St
City	NORMAL
State	IL
Zip Code	61761
Phone	3092081120
Email Address	<a href="mailto:matejka53@aol.com">matejka53@aol.com</a>
Is the nominee aware that you are nominating them for this award?	No
First Name	Karen
Last Name	Schmidt
Address 1	409 East Grove St
City	Bloomington
State	IL
Zip Code	61701
Phone	3098242257
Email Address	<a href="mailto:karen61701@gmail.com">karen61701@gmail.com</a>

**1. What are your reasons for nominating this individual?**

Karen Schmidt has been a truly outstanding servant-leader for the McLean County and Bloomington-Normal community. Her many years as a Bloomington City Council member, her book bike effort to spread literacy skills and her efforts with the Wet Bloomington Revitalization Project are only a few of the ways that this woman has contributed to her community. Karen always accepts any challenge or community project with a "what can I do to help?" attitude. She is always the first one to volunteer with very practical ways to ensure that there are real results that benefit the community.

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**2. How has the nominee demonstrated commitment to improving cooperation and fostering mutual respect among people of different racial, ethnic, religion and other backgrounds**

Karen has done so much for so many people. She has served on the Not In Our Town steering committee and has been a consistent volunteer with Not In Our Town efforts. The West Bloomington Revitalization Project is a grass-roots effort to answer so many problems. It's hard to succeed if people don't have transportation, adequate housing or a safe neighborhood. WBRP, through its bike give-away program, helps ensure basic transportation, which can open employment and academic opportunities. The Tool Library allows local residents to upkeep their property without a huge expense, encouraging safe housing. WBRP volunteers help people with basic home repairs. Plus the cultural events, the beautification efforts and dietary improvement efforts all make for a well rounded effort to uplift the community in practical ways.

The Book Bike is another effort Karen leads that is so simple, yet so enriching. Peddling around the neighborhoods on a summer night, appearing at community events, this librarian uses the book bike to encourage basic reading and literacy skills. With a variety of donated books, she is able to put reading material in people's hands who might not always use the library or could afford books. It's a simple but incredibly effective effort. Who knows how life might turn out better for a young person as they gained literacy skills and advanced educationally? Book bike might have been that life-expanding secret.

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**3. How has nominee's efforts addressed discrimination, prejudice and the effects of past discrimination?**

Karen has been a real advocate for human rights. As a mother, she is the proud parent of two adopted mixed-race sons; she served on the Not In Our Town steering committee and has been a multi-year, multi-faceted supporter of human rights efforts. As a Bloomington city council member, she voted to expand the city's human relations ordinance to include LGBTQ rights. She always stands up for human rights, particularly women's rights. As Illinois Wesleyan University head librarian, she helped bring varied speakers to campus, ensured library space was available for community meetings, and used the library display areas for thought-provoking art and other displays about the human condition.

**4. What recognition has the nominee received for his/her service to others?**

YWCA Women of Distinction 2002 and others - I'm sure!

I agree that the information provided on this nomination form is true and accurate. I also agree that if any information provided is not true the nomination will be void.

Yes

**Last Update**

2019-12-03 13:58:07

**Start Time**

2019-12-03 13:26:00

**Finish Time**

2019-12-03 13:58:07

**IP**

107.77.209.188

**Browser**

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**OS**

Windows

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