Greg Kennedy
Community Service
Award

Southfield
the center of it all™

BACKGROUND

The Greg Kennedy Community Service Award was established in 1999 to honor members of the community who exemplify the characteristics of the late Greg Kennedy.

- Southfield Resident
- Exemplifies Community Spirit
- Involved in Community
- Unsung Hero

This award honors the commitment and service provided by Greg Kennedy to the City of Southfield and encourages other community residents to engage in public service.

Greg Kennedy was one of Southfield's first residents and demonstrated his commitment to the City throughout his entire life. Although he never ran for office, he was devoted to civic issues and regularly attended City Council meetings for many years. He established the City's Homeowners Coalition to serve as a unified voice to Council because he believed neighborhood issues should be heard.

Mr. Kennedy's concern for children was demonstrated in small acts such as giving young people opportunities to work side-by-side with him, provide a willing listener, and demand appropriate behavior. His concerns for children involved a no tolerance policy on drugs and underage drinking. His mission was to help make everyone he met make something of themselves. Publicly, he was known for his annual treat to children who otherwise would not have an opportunity to attend the Shriner's Circus. He arranged for transportation and bought tickets for hundreds of children over the years.

Making sure people weren't forgotten was another of Greg Kennedy's missions. Every Thursday, he visited senior homes in Southfield to help out, entertain, and listen. He was an outspoken advocate for seniors and was known for standing up for people's rights. The Greg Kennedy Community Service Award was established to honor the pioneering efforts of this community activist. He was an unsung hero who never sought accolades; he believed in the work he did for others and did what he believed was the right thing to do.

Since its inception, there have been only eight recipients of the award, including: Samuel P. Havis in 2000; Jacqueline Nelson in 2001; Muriel Zweigel in 2003; Jon Adams in 2016; Roger Goolsby in 2017; Patricia Haynie in 2018; Rosemerry Allen in 2019; Sabrina Heller in 2022; Delores Flagg in 2023, Darla Van Hoey in 2024, and Lewis Williams in 2025.

OBJECTIVES

The Greg Kennedy Community Service Award is intended to:

- Recognize and encourage volunteerism in the City of Southfield;
- Raise public awareness about the many areas within the City that benefit from volunteer commitment; and
- Recognize unsung heroes who represent the characteristics of Greg Kennedy and his commitment to Southfield and its residents.

CRITERIA

The following criteria should be used when nominating someone for this honor.

SERVICE: Nominees should be recognized for their service to the City of Southfield, Southfield Schools and PTAs, religious organizations, senior citizens' groups, youth organizations, and/or its residents. The nominee's volunteer activity should be exemplary in community service and involvement.

CHARACTER: Nominees should embody and demonstrate qualities of Greg Kennedy's personal character including compassion, community dedication, and service to Southfield.

IMPACT: The nominee's activities should demonstrate a long-term commitment to community programs and activities. The nominee's service has made an impact or difference to the community.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations are due by November 1 and are available online at www.cityofsouthfield.com or in print at City Hall. Nominations are reviewed by the City's Total Living Commission with recommendations made to Southfield City Council. The City Council recognizes one resident annually with the Greg Kennedy Community Service Award as merited. The award is presented at a televised City Council meeting in December if a deserving candidate is nominated.

NOMINATION QUESTIONS

Nominee Biography/Summary *(Please type or print neatly on separate sheets of paper.)*

Please provide, in 150 words or less, a brief biography of your nominee. Assume the judges know nothing about your nominee. Please be as descriptive as possible because this statement will help in the selection process. Include a brief summary of the nominee's volunteer service activities. Please provide information about how long the nominee has lived in the community, community-related activities and other interests, and relevant job or family information.

Please elaborate on your Nominee Summary by addressing the following points in no more than 500 words. (Please type or print neatly on separate sheets of paper.)

1. **VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACTIVITY**

   Please provide a detailed description of the nominee's volunteer service activity in Southfield.

2. **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

   What has the nominee's volunteer service activity accomplished? Cite specific results and achievements and explain the impact the service has had on the community.

3. **ANECDOTES**

   Discuss how this nominee exemplifies the spirit of the Greg Kennedy Award, whether it is a personal story, a unique characteristic, or facts and figures.

Greg Kennedy Community Service Award

Nominee Information: *(Please type or print neatly)*

Name of Nominee

Date

Nominee Address

Daytime Phone

Primary Community Activity

E-mail

Categories of Service: *(Please check the categories which best summarize the focus of the nominee's service to Southfield)*

- ☐ Children
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Neighborhood
- ☐ Religious Organizations
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Civic Organizations
- ☐ Health Care
- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Community Fund Raising
- ☐ Cultural Organizations
- ☐ Other

Name of Nominator

E-mail

Address

Daytime Phone

Eligibility Requirements

1) Nominee must be a Southfield resident for at least five years. 2) Nominee must display some of the late Greg Kennedy's qualities. 3) Nominee must not be an elected official, employee of the City of Southfield, or a past recipient. 4) Nominee cannot be self-nominated. 5) Nominee can serve as a member of a Southfield board or commission. 6) Anyone can submit a nomination.

E-mail nominations to: info@cityofsouthfield.com

Or mail to: Greg Kennedy Community Service Award c/o Community Relations

City of Southfield • 26000 Evergreen Road • P.O. Box 2055 • Southfield, MI 48037-2055

Questions? Call Southfield Community Relations at (248) 796-5130