

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL



COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

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Introduction

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL





Find yourself in good company®

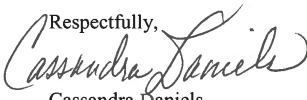
Congratulations to our City of Greenville's Human Relations Council's Fiftieth Anniversary!

What an amazing journey! It's been said that every journey has secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware. How true this is in the many unexpected surprises we have experienced in our commitment to our vision and mission. Fueled by the dedicated and faithful services of such a diverse network of volunteers, we've been able to enrich the quality of relationships both through our successful and unsuccessful efforts in the challenges along the way.

The working relationships we have is the foundation that has made it possible for us to reach great strides in solidifying our goal of inclusiveness – and it's been our times of discouragement which has strengthened our determination to keep on keeping on!

We will never give up!

This Council has truly been a gift for finding ourselves in good company in Greenville and Pitt County. Much has happened through the changing seasons since 1972, but one thing is certain: we will never quit in our journey of building a more equitable community with faith, hope and trust that the ideal of 'liberty and justice for all' may become a reality for every person.

Respectfully,

Cassandra Daniels
Staff Liaison

Congratulatory Letters

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Greenville, NC

February 14, 2023

Greetings,

Congratulations to Greenville's Human Relations Council on its 50th Anniversary! The Human Relations Council plays an important part in our community as one of the City Council's advisory boards. For 50 years, you all have highlighted the importance of diversity with the purpose of fostering understanding and finding common ground. Thank you all for the work that you do in our City and I wish you all continued success.

Sincerely,

P.J. Connelly
Mayor



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

February 1, 2023

Greetings,

On behalf of the City of Greenville, I would like to congratulate the City of Greenville Human Relations Council on its 50th anniversary and express my appreciation for the Council's ongoing efforts to make the community inclusive.

The work of volunteers from the Human Relations Council over the past 50 years has helped make Greenville more welcoming for diverse groups of people. Through annual events such as its inclusive community breakfast, community dialogues, and the awards ceremony, the Council promotes understanding, respect, good will, and equality of opportunity for all residents.

Thank you for all that the Human Relations Council does to make the City of Greenville a better place, and congratulations on your 50th anniversary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann E. Wall', written in a cursive style.

Ann E. Wall
City Manager



**CONGRESSMAN DON DAVIS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIRST DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

February 15, 2023

Dear Greenville Human Relations Council,

Please allow me to extend my congratulations for the 50th Anniversary to the members. This Human Relations Council has given residents an opportunity to make an impact for many years. Thank you for your dedication to implementing goodwill programs and your continued service to the Greenville community.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First Congressional District, we honor and salute you all for providing equal opportunity for all citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Davis".

Don Davis
United States Representative



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 W. Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1030

Dear Members of the Greenville Human Relations Council,

I would like to offer my warmest congratulations on the occasion of your 50th anniversary. The theme of your celebration, "Celebrating 50 Years of Community and Inclusion," is a testament to the important work that the council has done in promoting and preserving the values of our community.

Over the years, the Greenville Human Relations Council has been an integral part of our local community, working tirelessly to address issues related to human relations, and promoting understanding, respect, and equality for all citizens. Your commitment to this guiding duty has made a profound and lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals who call Greenville home. Time and again, this Council has served as a shining example of what can be achieved when people come together to work towards a common goal.

I would like to once again extend my sincere congratulations on this milestone occasion. The Greenville Human Relations Council has always stood out as a beacon of hope for positive and meaningful change, and I am confident that it will continue to do so for many years to come. I wish you all the best as you celebrate this important event and look forward to your continued contributions to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kandie D. Smith".

Senator Kandie D. Smith
NC Senate District 5



**North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives**

REPRESENTATIVE GLORISTINE BROWN
COUNTY - PITT
OFFICE: 1023 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 W. JONES STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601
PHONE: (919) 715-3023
EMAIL: GLORISTINE.BROWN@NCLEG.GOV

NC State Health Plan
Attention: Board of Trustees
3200 Atlantic Ave
Raleigh, NC 27604

January 19th, 2023

Dear Greenville Human Relations Council Members,

It is with great honor that I write to congratulate you for 50 years of making the City of Greenville a more welcoming and inclusive space. Your dedication to making our community a better place to live does not go unrecognized, and for that, we owe you a great debt of gratitude. I share your passion to center the human experience in every aspect of how the City of Greenville serves its citizens, and I hope the Council will use this time to reflect on all it has achieved and to re-dedicate its mission of progress for the 50 years to come.

If there is any way that I can help the Council advance its mission, be it in a personal capacity or as District 8 Representative, I am here with unwavering support. Again, thank you for all the Council does and congratulations on this very important milestone.

With unwavering service and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloristine Brown".

Representative Gloristine Brown
House District 8, Pitt County



Find yourself in good company®

Dear Human Relations Council and the Greenville Community,

It is our pleasure to congratulate the Greenville Human Relations Council, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

For five decades, the Greenville Human Relations Council has been a consistent model for advocating and providing services and programs aimed at improving relationships among the residents of the city, while seeking to ensure equal opportunities in the areas of employment, housing, education, and, justice.

As a Council, we have touched countless lives through years of establishing initiatives, programs, and activities, such as, Community Dialogues, Racial Circles, the Inclusive Community Breakfast, Game P.L.A.Y., Fair Housing Month, the Annual Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon, and the Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards (Annual Service Awards Ceremony), which recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses who went above and beyond to serve their community.

Additionally, the Council looked at opportunities and issues from the international, national, and state perspectives. We were instrumental in the creation of a Sister City Relationship with Yeonsu, South Korea; hosted forums on Racial Equity; and, formed Education, Business, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Task Forces. On September 27, 2022, we hosted the first in-person statewide local Human Relations Commission Meeting since 2020. This successful meeting allowed for those in attendance to share ideas and engage in much needed dialogue on a variety of human relations issues.

Once again, congratulations on 50 years of history-making. The future is bright for our community and we look forward to continue working along with you in support of our community - and future generations.

Sincerely,

Samar R. Badwan

Chair, Greenville Human Relations Council

Franchine Philpot Peña

Vice-Chair, Greenville Human Relations Council



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mailing Address:
1318 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1318

Street Address:
1711 New Hope Church Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27609

February 3, 2023

Greenville Human Relations Council
Attn.: Ms. Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison
City of Greenville Human Relations Council/Community Relations Division

Re: Congratulations on "Celebrating 50 Years of Community and Inclusion!"

Dear Ms. Daniels, Chair Badwan & Vice Chair Peña:

Congratulations! On behalf of the N.C. Human Relations Commission ("Commission"), I congratulate each of you and the members of the Greenville Human Relations Council as you celebrate fifty (50) years of promoting respect, understanding, goodwill, and equality of opportunity for all citizens of Greenville.

It is worth recognizing – especially during this National Human Relations Month – the work advanced by the Council to support improved human relations. Namely, I commend the efforts of the Council and Human/Community Relations Staff in organizing and hosting the first in-person Statewide Local HRC meeting in over two years last September in Greenville. The occasion provided an exceptional forum to discuss common issues and ways to address human relations across our state. The event's success was evidenced by the well over 100 diverse members of the community you brought to the table, including human relations professionals, activists, volunteers, law enforcement and elected officials, to engage in meaningful dialogue related to a wide range of human relations topics. Equally as impressive is the Council's recent outreach efforts to engage the community on matters of diversity through Inclusive Community Events and to foster understanding of racial equity among the Greenville community.

The Commission looks forward to continuing in its role engaging with the Council and your staff. I speak for the Commission and our staff in saying thank you for your service and for your continued focus on addressing human relations issues in Greenville.

Yours in service,

Nick Byrne
Chair, N.C. Human Relations Commission

Human Relations Commission
Telephone: (984) 236-1850
Facsimile: (984) 236-1871

Civil Rights Division
Telephone: (984) 236-1850
Facsimile: (984) 236-1871

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**PITT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
1717 W. 5TH STREET
GREENVILLE, NC 27834-1696
TELEPHONE: (252) 902-2950
FAX: (252) 830-6311

**Board of County
Commissioners**
Tom Coulson
Benji Holloman
Ann Floyd Huggins
Melvin McLawhorn
Christopher W. Nunnally
Mark C. Smith
Beth B. Ward
Lauren White
Mary Perkins-Williams

February 6, 2023

Greenville Human Relations Council
City of Greenville
200 W. 5th Street
Greenville, NC 27834

Dear Greenville Human Relations Council:

On behalf of the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, the County Manager and the Pitt County Human Relations Commission, we offer our hearty congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Greenville Human Relations Council. We are grateful for the impact the Council has made during its tenure and look forward to the impact you will have in the future.

Again, congratulations on celebrating your 50th anniversary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Perkins-Williams".

Chairwoman Mary Perkins-Williams
Pitt County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janis Gallagher".

Janis Gallagher
County Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Williams".

Jessica Williams
Human Relations Coordinator/Chair

Cc: Pitt County Board of Commissioners
Pitt County Human Relations Commission

www.pittcountync.gov



INTERFAITH CLERGY
STANDING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Congratulations to The Greenville Human Relations Council for 50 years of service and leadership in our community.

Our Interfaith Clergy network is deeply grateful for the Greenville Human Relations Council's commitment to building an inclusive community where trusting relationships promote activities, education and programs which enhance human dignity in the midst of a very diverse and growing city.

It's good to know in this Celebration that The Interfaith Clergy Standing for the Community of Pitt and Martin Counties came to birth, in part, through our founding members who met and served as volunteers on the Human Relations Council.

Bringing people together from all walks of life, as the Human Relations Council did at City Hall in 2015 to gain understanding through dialogue concerning the challenge of racism while planting seeds of change by building community – the Human Relations Council demonstrated that the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. of a *Beloved Community* is not only possible, but believable when kindred spirits work together to keep both the vision and mission alive.

Thank you for your gracious, generous, and faithful witness on behalf of God's Beloved Community.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:1).

Rev. Dr. Rodney Coles Sr

Rev. Dr. Rodney Coles Sr

www.Clergy2014.org



GAME P.L.A.Y.

3417 Rounding Bend Road, Winterville, NC 28590 | 252-717-6051 |
gameplay4unity@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Greenville Human Relations Council,

We are writing to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on your Fiftieth Anniversary! This is a significant milestone, and it is a testament to the remarkable efforts that the council has made over the past fifty years to promote and advance human rights and equality in Greenville, NC.

The Greenville Human Relations Council has been at the forefront of the fight for social justice, and your tireless work has had a profound impact on the lives of many people in our community. We appreciate the love and support you have given to GAME P.L.A.Y (Police, Life, And Youth) for the last four years! With your help we have created safe-spaces where local police and young people can come together, play non-violent video games, talk, and build mutual trust with one another.

Your unwavering commitment to promoting inclusivity, diversity, and respect for ALL has helped to make Greenville a better place for everyone. May the next fifty years be just as successful and may the Greenville Human Relations Council continue to be a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who seek to promote equality and justice!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Dion Dail and Gera Miles
Co-Creators, GAME P.L.A.Y (Police, Life, And Youth)

PITT COUNTY ALL STARS 4-H CLUB (Established 1997)



Dear Greenville Human Relations Council,

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary!

Over the past fifty years, the Council has made a significant impact on the City of Greenville residents, through your support, encouragement, and promotion of respect, dignity, and equality for all people.

One of the proudest moments for both the Honorable Pro Tem Rose Glover and me was the establishment of the Greenville Youth Council (GYC) in August 2005 – and their association with the National League of Cities and Municipalities' Council on Youth, Education, and Families. The GYC traveled both in and out-of-state representing the City Council and the GHRC. They elevated the voices of youth in discussions of the needs of children, youth and families and provided local strategies for responding to those needs. Thank you for your role in this accomplishment.

Again, congratulations! I look forward to your continued programs and initiatives that build lasting relationships with elected and career officials – and the Greenville Community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mildred Atkinson Council". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mildred Atkinson Council, MSW
Volunteer Leader, 25 Years
Pitt County All-Stars 4-H Club

History of the Greenville Human Relations Council

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL



The Beginning... On Friday, January 18, 1963, North Carolina Governor Terry Sanford created the Good Neighbor Council to help ease racial tensions in the state as a result of civil rights struggles and integration issues. Thirty-seven North Carolina cities joined Governor Sanford's efforts and birthed a local Good Neighbor Council. The City of Greenville was one of those thirty-seven communities.

On Thursday, February 10, 1972, Mayor S. Eugene West and the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 382. The Ordinance dissolved the existing Good Neighbor Council; and, the Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) was established. Since its inception, 51 years ago, the work of this citizen-driven Council has evolved significantly.

The GHRC was given a charge and continues to:

- Promote understanding, respect, and goodwill among all ethnic groups in the city;
- Promote equality of opportunity for all citizens;
- Provide channels of communication among all ethnic groups;
- Encourage the employment of qualified people of all ethnic groups;
- Encourage youth to become better trained and qualified for employment opportunities;
- Hold such meetings, as the Commission may deem necessary or proper, to assist in carrying out its functions; and,
- Make recommendations to City Council for action, it deems necessary, for the continuance of harmony among racial and ethnic groups in the city.

The Greenville Human Relations Council's Mission is to serve as an advocate for all people in pursuit of human and economic relationships; to promote activities, education, and programs which enhance human dignity, equal opportunity, mutual respect and harmony among the many different residents of Greenville. And, the Vision is for an inclusive community where trust, acceptance, fairness, and equity are community norms.

The work and focus of the Council are based on the mission and vision statements; the initiatives and their components; and, the responsibilities. To accomplish their work, the Council depends on:

1. Internal Work Groups are groups primarily comprised of Human Relations Council members and city staff, who collaborate on coordinating events, projects, and activities.
2. External Work Groups are groups comprised of both Council members and community members who share information and collaborate on projects related to shared goals and objectives.
3. The Coordinator, the Human Relations' Council staff liaison oversees and coordinates activities and all events. The staff liaison works with the Council and members of the community to accomplish the Council goals.

In the Greenville Human Relations Council's effort to recognize and award those individuals and organizations who make a difference — those who are passionate about their causes and are dedicated and committed to our community, the Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards were birthed in 1992 in honor of Dr. Andrew A. Best and Dr. Malene G. Irons. Drs. Best and Irons were co-recipients of the award that year.

In 2011, the Council created additional categories to the Best-Irons Awards Program and renamed it ‘The Human Relations Council Annual Awards Program’. The additional categories are: Community Service Awards (Youth, Adult, and Organization); Distinguished Inclusive Community Award; and, the Lifetime Achievement Award.

For half a century, the Greenville Human Relations Council has established and implemented a number of initiatives, events, and programs for engaging and bringing the City’s diverse community together to build trusting and sustainable relationships.

The Inclusive Community Initiative is comprised of programs and activities that provide opportunities for the community to not only embrace the city’s diversity; but, also provide occasions for the community to build new relationships.

In August of 2005, the Greenville Youth Council was established by City Council. The purpose of this Council is to empower Greenville/Pitt County youth to become actively involved in the community and bring awareness to issues that concern youth. Youth Council members have the skills and knowledge to make positive contributions and change. The Council consists of high school students in Greenville and Pitt County. Members of the GHRC serve as Advisors to the Greenville Youth Council. Former City Council member and Pitt County School Board member, the Honorable Mildred Council and current Mayor Pro-Tem, the Honorable Rose Glover, were very instrumental in the establishment of the Greenville Youth Council.

In 2007, the City of Greenville joined the National League of Cities “Inclusive Communities Campaign”, reaffirming the City’s commitment to sustain a community in which the dignity

of every individual and diversity is respected. Activities and events promoting the City's commitment towards building an inclusive community are: appropriate signage placed at key gateway corridors of the City; a multilingual welcoming marquee at the airport; and, the city's annual inclusive community breakfast held in September.

On Thursday, May 28, 2015, the Connecting People: Planting Seeds to Dismantle Racism Subcommittee was established. The Subcommittee's Mission is to bring people together from all walks of life; to gain understanding through dialogue concerning the challenges of racism; and, planting seeds of change by building community; and, the Vision is connecting people matters to dismantle racism. This Subcommittee collaborates with various agencies and organizations, educational institutions, law enforcement, court system, the faith-based community, and community members to discuss barriers to racial and economic equity.

The most recent dialogue hosted by the Council and the Connecting People: Planting Seeds to Dismantle Racism Subcommittee was July 2020. This dialogue sparked lively and productive insight. With the question: "What does racial equity look like to you?", four (4) Task Forces were created - each with a mission to work towards racial equity in 1) Education; 2) Business & Economic Opportunities; 3) Law Enforcement; and 4) Criminal Justice. This project is almost complete. Our aim is to present the final report and recommendations to the City Council in the forthcoming months.

The City's first GAME P.L.A.Y event was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at the South Greenville Recreation Center. GAME P.L.A.Y was developed by Co-creators Messrs. Gera Miles and Dion Dail. The purpose of GAME P.L.A.Y is to develop positive communication, relationships, and trust between youth and law enforcement. GAME P.L.A.Y provides those opportunities.

The month of April is celebrated and observed as Fair Housing Month. During the month and throughout the year, the Greenville Human Relations Council, the Greenville Area Property Managers Association, and the Greenville Housing Authority provide training for rental and property managers/landlords. In addition, the Greenville Housing Authority and the City of Greenville provide education to residents interested in becoming a first-time homeowner.

Going forward, the Council will continue to be ever present and cognizant of the issues and concerns of the day. The Human Relations Council appreciates the support of our City Council and awaits future deliberations and implementations for the benefit of all Greenville, North Carolina residents. We strive for each person in our community to "Find Themselves In Good Company".

ORDINANCE NO. 382
AN ORDINANCE FOR THE FORMATION OF A HUMAN
RELATIONS COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF GREENVILLE;
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BASIS FOR HUMAN
RELATIONS PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF GREENVILLE;
AND, THE AUTHORITY FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF A
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RELATIONS PROGRAMS AND A
SUPPORTING OFFICE THEREOF

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Greenville, North Carolina is aware of the need for the establishment of a group of concerned citizens whose primary purpose will be development of recommendations for actions to be taken in the interest of the betterment of the conditions of association, understanding, and harmony among the various segments of society represented in their City; and

WHEREAS, there is a definite need for a quasi-official representative body to consider certain social, economic and other problems which develop within every growing community to be studied and considered in detail with a view towards making substantially concrete recommendations to the governing body and whereby stated official policies may be better implemented.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE DO ORDAIN THAT:

Section 1. Creation of the Human Relations Council.

Within the authority granted by the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina, Chapter 160A, Section 492, a Human Relations Council is hereby created to organize and implement human relations programs dealing with the problems of

human relations; to promote the equality of opportunity for all citizens; to promote understanding, respect and goodwill among all its citizens; to provide channels of communication among the races; to encourage the employment of qualified citizens without regard to race; and, to encourage the youth of our City to become better trained and qualified for gainful employment.

Section 2. Organization.

In order to implement the organization of a Human Relations Council, it is directed that the existing Good Neighbor Council, as now constituted, be dissolved and that the members thereof be automatically appointed to the newly constituted Human Relations Council and that credit for service on the Good Neighbor Council be applied to the new organization. Appointments to fill vacancies will be made by the majority vote of the members of the City Council and shall be for three-year terms. This Council shall meet no less than once each month and shall provide the City Council with copies of the minutes of each meeting and copies of other pertinent actions taken by it.

Section 3. Executive Secretary.

The City Manager of the City of Greenville is hereby authorized to appoint a full-time Executive Secretary, to be known by the title of Director of Human Relations, to assist the Human Relations Council in its deliberations, studies, recommendations, and the implementation of City Council policies. He shall be available to undertake other appropriate tasks assigned him by the City Manager. Said director shall serve at the pleasure of the City Manager and will be employed under the full application of all personnel policies and regulations established for employees

of the City of Greenville. The Director of Human Relations is authorized a qualified secretary to be appointed by the City Manager under the same circumstances as mentioned above and additional staff as approved by the Human Relations Council and supported within the budget. Salaries, fringe benefits, and other expenses in connection with the operation of this Council and this office may be defrayed from public monies as authorized by the General Statutes.

Adopted this the 10th day of February, 1972.

/s/ S. EUGENE WEST, MAYOR

ATTEST

/s/ W. N. MOORE, CITY CLERK

Dr's Andrew A. Best & Malene G. Irons

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL



Physicians Receive Humanitarian Award

The Daily Reflector, Thursday, February 20, 1992

Local physicians Dr Andrew A. Best and Dr Malene G. Irons are the co-recipients of the first Greenville Humanitarian Award given by the city Human Relations Council.

“These two individuals exemplify the ‘do unto others as you would have them do unto you’ philosophy,” Mayor Nancy Jenkins said. “They serve as inspirations to our entire community.

The award recognizes an individual who has contributed to the betterment of human relations, community relations and citizen equity in Greenville and Pitt County.

In recognition of their lifetime achievements, the award will henceforth be call the Best-Irons Humanitarian Award.

Dr. Best has served on the Board of Governors for Higher Education in North Carolina, the East Carolina University Board of Trustees, the N.C. Human Relations Council, the Greenville Human Relations Council and has worked with Pitt County Schools.

He also contributed to the dedication of the African-American Cultural Center on ECU campus and has been instrumental in helping to establish public housing in Greenville, according to the HRC.

A native of Lenoir County, Dr. Best is a summa cum laude graduate of North Carolina A&T State University and a graduate of the Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Irons has served as teacher, physician, community service volunteer, and spokeswoman for organizations such as the Human Relations Council, Pitt County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, Pitt County Mental health, Pitt County Medical Society, Pitt County Association for Retarded Children, March of Dimes, and American Academy of Pediatrics.

The HRC said that Dr. Irons, Greenville's first female physician in private practice, was instrumental in opening doors of equal employment and educational opportunities for all citizens, especially in the 1960s.

She is a graduate of East Carolina University and the Medical College of Virginia. Now retired, she was on staff at Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the ECU School of Medicine.



Dr's Andrew A. Best and Malene G. Irons pose for a photo with awards recipients Dr. Patricia Dunn and a representative from Habitat for Humanity of Pitt County at the 1999 Greenville Human Relations Council Awards Ceremony.



Dr. Malene G. Irons attends the 2004 Greenville Human Relations Council Awards Ceremony.



Dr. Andrew A. Best attends the 2004 Greenville Human Relations Council Awards Ceremony.



Andrew Best receives a certificate of membership after taking the oath of office for the University of North Carolina system Board of Governors on July 07, 1972. Governor Robert Scott presents the certificate to Dr. Best at UNC Charlotte.

Dr. Andrew Best honored for five decades of service

By Jeannine Manning Hutson, staff writer

A lot has changed in health care in Greenville in the past 50 years, and much of it can be credited to the



Dr. Andrew Best
Photo courtesy C.M. Egan
Cultural Heritage Center

perseverance of several community leaders, including Dr. Andrew Best.

Best's lifetime of commitment to others was celebrated March 30-April 1 with "A Weekend with Andrew Best." Events included a community health fair in Best's honor, a banquet with former Chief Justice Henry Frye as keynote

speaker, and a music concert and religious program on Sunday afternoon.

When asked how he felt about the tribute planned in his honor, Best said a few days before the event, "I feel very humbled that the community would like to do this sort of thing. I did the service because it's what I wanted to do. I didn't do the service with the expectation of anything in return."

A native of Kinston, Best earned his undergraduate degree from N.C. A&T State University after a three-year stint in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer. He earned his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., in 1951. In 1954, he established his medical practice in Greenville, which had had two black doctors but had recently lost one. And at 83 years old, Best still sees patients for three half-days each week in his medical office.

"I have patients who are several generations down from my first patients," he said.

Best's service to others has won him respect throughout the community. "Dr. Best has a long history of support for development of health services in eastern North Carolina," said Dave McRae, chief executive officer of Pitt County Memorial Hospital and University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina. "He was an early and ardent supporter for the establishment of the School of Medicine, knowing that through the addition of physicians and nurses in eastern North Carolina, health

care would improve. Although he has represented the health needs of all people, he has been especially concerned with the health of African Americans. Ultimately he has been a gentleman's gentleman doing his work in his own dignified, quiet and persistent way following his God and supporting all people."

In addition to seeing generations of patients in his Moyewood Drive office, Best has also been active in community advancement. The weekend divided Best's years of service into five areas, the first being medicine.

The second area was education. "I had a program where I went into the public schools to teach about communicable diseases," he said. Best was also active in the push to secure the medical school at East Carolina University and served on the university board of trustees. "We had a great shortage of primary care physicians, especially in eastern North Carolina, and that was the strong motivating factor. The shortage of doctors in the East, more acute in the minority community and during the days of segregation, made the health care of minorities horrible, substandard."

The third area of recognition was human rights. "My position was that human rights should take precedence over property rights," Best said. He explained that some politicians in the days of

segregation would use property right laws as a way of allowing business owners not to have to serve black customers in their restaurants. Best served on the N.C. Joint Council on Health and Citizenship for 14 years working to improve race relations.

Best also was honored for his work in community affairs. "I saw that [improving] substandard housing was crucial to health care," he said. "I did a house call on a lady in late January 1960. I could see through the floor to the ground underneath the house. There was no coal in the heater. She was in the bed covered with blankets and

overcoats trying to stay warm. There were mice playing tag across the floor. The diagnosis was pneumonia. That experience translated into a call to the Greenville mayor to relieve those housing problems," he said. Mayor Eugene West and Best worked to obtain passage of a public housing ordinance, and Best served on the city's Housing Authority board for almost 15 years.

Finally, Best was recognized for contributions in the areas of religion and behavior. "I see myself as interdenominational. I say do the right thing for the sake of doing the right thing," he said.

Best is quick to point out that his career was based on service, not the thoughts of receiving praise for his actions. "When I have an opportunity to talk with young people, whatever profession they are in, I tell them to do service for the sake of service, not for the accolades they might receive," he said.

On reflecting over his career, Best said, "I would hope that people would remember here was a public servant who rendered service that he saw as beneficial to mankind. I was always on the forefront pushing for progress."

Fittingly for someone so involved in helping others, the

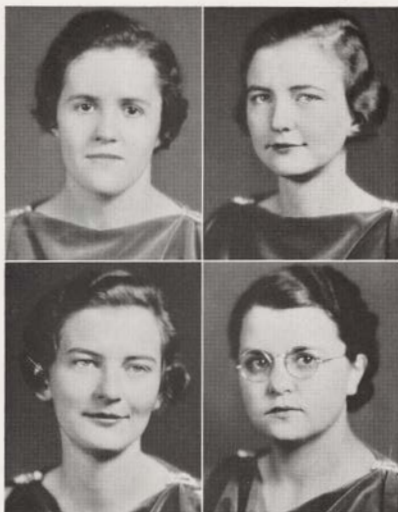


Dr. Andrew Best has provided medical care in Greenville for nearly 50 years. Photo by Cliff Hallis

Best-Irons Humanitarian Award given each year by the Greenville Human Relations Council is named for Best and Dr. Malene G. Irons. "Dr. Best is a gentleman, a committed servant of his patients and community, and a tireless advocate for social justice," said Dr. Tom Irons, ECU associate vice chancellor of health sciences, president of HealthEast, the physician-support subsidiary of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina and son of Malene Irons. "He has been a wonderful citizen and humanitarian."



Dr. Malene G. Irons, pediatrician, graduated with an AB from East Carolina Teachers College in 1935. She was appointed to the staff of East Carolina in 1960 and managed the school's infirmary. The Irons Building on campus was dedicated to her memory in 1974. She was married to Dr. Fred Irons.



Gorham
Grant

Grant
Gurganus

MINNIE MARGARET GORHAM

Rocky Mount, N. C.

English and History

Lanier Society; Y. W. C. A.;
Women's Athletic Association
'32; Treasurer Sophomore Class
'33; Secretary Student Chapel
Committee '35; House Presi-
dent, S. G. A. '35.

ISA COSTEN GRANT

New Bern, N. C.

English and Science

Class Treasurer '33; Junior
"Y" Cabinet '33; Y. W. C. A.;
Lanier Society; Science Club
'34, '35; Scribblers' Club '33;
Teco Echo Circulation Man-
ager '34; Proctor '34.

MALENE GRANT

New Bern, N. C.

English and Science

Class Secretary '33; Junior
"Y" Cabinet '33; Y. W. C. A.;
Lanier Society; Science Club
'34, '35; Secretary '35; Scrib-
blers' Club '33; *Teco Echo* Cir-
culation Manager '34; Proctor
'34.

SELMA MAE GURGANUS

Robersonville, N. C.

English and French

Emerson Society; Y. W.
C. A.; English Club; French
Club; Class *Teco Echo* Report-
er '33, '34; Staff, Associate
Editor '35; Scribblers' Club;
Y. W. C. A. Choir '34.



Forty-seven

[1935]

Portrait of Malene Grant from page 47 of the 1935 *Tecoan*, yearbook of East Carolina Teachers College. After marrying Dr. C. Fred Irons in 1939, Dr. Malene Grant Irons and her husband moved to Greenville, N.C., where she was the first female physician in eastern North Carolina. She served as a pediatrician in Greenville and was the first director of the Developmental Evaluation Clinic at East Carolina College.

Greenville Human Relations Council Awards

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL



This award program was created by the Human Relations Council to honor residents of the City for their commitment and dedication to inspire others to engage in volunteer service and to recognize individuals and organizations that provide services that strengthen the Greenville community and improve the lives of others.

Because of their selfless service to our community, these awards not only highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service, but they remind us of how one person can truly make a difference.

Since February 1992, the Council has recognized and honored the extraordinary achievements of Greenville's heroes. A description of the award categories are:

Best-Irons Humanitarian Award honors individuals, organizations/businesses with a commitment to positive human relations in Greenville. It recognizes an individual and a business (organization) that has made Greenville a better place through their commitment to promote social, racial and economic justice; defending human rights; and/or enhancing the dignity of all people. Recipients may be considered "unsung heroes" who have energized others to improve the opportunities and quality of life for residents of Greenville and have unselfishly shared their time and expertise and consistently and willingly extended a helping hand to others – often without seeking recognition.

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award honors organizations/businesses who have demonstrated a significant contribution toward creating a diverse and inclusive community through the implementation of policies, procedures, initiatives, and/or programs in one or more of the following areas:

- Recruitment and retention of an excellent and diverse staff, faculty, or student body.
- Foster equality of opportunity within our community.
- Encourage diverse perspectives.
- Create a welcoming and supportive climate through efforts such as visibility, communication and education.
- Other areas critical to establishing inclusivity.

Community Service Award (Volunteerism) honors individuals and/or organizations that provide outstanding volunteer services that strengthen our community and improve the lives of our residents. The age criteria for an individual award: (a) Youth Award recognizes the dedication of an individual 17 years of age or younger, (b) Adult Award recognizes the dedication of an individual age 18 and older, and (c) Community Service Business/Organization Award recognizes any business/organization or agency for their volunteer efforts.

Nominations may be made online by visiting the City's webpage at <http://coghrc.greenvillenc.gov> and follow instructions for the Greenville Human Relations Council Annual Awards Ceremony and Reception.

Award Winners & Recipients

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL



1992: Dr. Andrew A. Best Dr. Malene G. Irons	2002: Mr. Robert Franke Progressive Freewill Baptist Church, Inc.
1993: Bishop Randy B. Royal Burroughs-Wellcome	2003: Ms. Nell Lewis STRIVE
1994: Rev. Rand Maynard Pepsi-Cola	2004: Bishop Henry Brown Greenville Community Shelter
1995: Ms. Sylvia McCreary	
1996: Rev. Joseph Jones	2005: Mrs. Ella Harris Jarvis United Methodist Church After School Program
1997: Mr. Bennie Rountree Burger King	
1998: Dr. & Mrs. Carrol Webber T. J. Maxx	2006: Mrs. Sylvia J. Wheless University City Kiwanis Club Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
1999: Dr. Patricia Dunn Habitat for Humanity of Pitt County	2007: Attorney Earl T. Brown Grady-White Boats
2000: Rev. Sidney Locks Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church	<i>There was no awards program from 2008–2010.</i>
2001: Mr. & Mrs. Javier Castillo Rubbermaid	

In 2011, the Council created the Human Relations Council Award Program and added the Community Service Awards and the Distinguished Inclusive Community Award.

2011 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Ajay Ajmera
 Alexis Spain Briley
 Wunghee Christina Lee

Adult Award: Pattie Laughinghouse Leary

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

Burton Family Dental and Associates

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Susan Redding

Corporate Award: Pitt County Branch of NAACP

2012 Awards

Community Service Awards

- Youth Awards: Casey Sokolovic
Andrew J. Bin
- Adult Award: Ann Harrison
- Organization Award: A Time for Science

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

- Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational
Community Center

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

- Citizen Award: Marie Welch
Howard Pearce
- Corporate Award: Hope of Glory Ministries
AMEXCAN

2013 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Te’aswana Garris
 Davon Moore
 Mrunal Shah
 Ritvik Verma
 Jane Yoon

Adult Award: Marvin L. Hardy

Organization Award: The Little Willie Center

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

Peace Presbyterian Church

Life Time Achievement Award

Mrs. Lucille Gorham

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Renee Arrington
 Robert Thompson

Corporate Award: Attends Healthcare Products

2014 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Joshua Walston
 Serena Mooney
 Lauren Applewhite

Adult Award: Gigi Walter

Organization Award: Power of His Presence
 Ministries

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

No nominations

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Walter Strathy

Corporate Award: Redirection CDC

2015 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Reuben Chamannam
 Elijah Shuford
 Olivia Hoynes
 Jihoo Jodie Lee

Adult Award: Debra L. Coles

Organization Award: Phi Sigma Pi National
 Honor Fraternity

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

DanceAbility – Boni Boswell

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Olivia Grace Dunn

Corporate Award: MUVE

2016 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Mohammad Sarsour
 Robert Tyler Born
 Siyun Samuel Lee
 Siddhant Agarwal
 Shinjini Misra
 Xavier Rouse
 Andrew Draper

Adult Award: Fanny Flower

Corporate Award: Wasabi 88

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

Rich Elkins
Interfaith Alliance of Eastern Carolina

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Jermaine McNair

Corporate Award: The Joy Soup Kitchen

2017 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Makayla Harris
 Adam Eldib
 Ethan Patel
 Katelyn Higgins

Adult Award: Robert Rimmer
 Donkale Edwards

Corporate Award: Something2Somebody

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

Eastern Carolina Vocational Center, Inc.

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Rev. Rodney Coles, Sr.

Corporate Award: Islamic Center and Mosque
 New Dimensions
 Community Church

Lifetime Achievement Award

Rev. Robert Hudak

2018 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Nhaturie Atkinson
Rebecca Chemmanam
Liam Dao
Shinhoo Jenna Lee
Bishop Miles
Gauri Patel
Ekta P. Shah
Myna Tirupattur
Abigail Jooyoung Yoon

Adult Award: Bangalore Srivatsa

Corporate Award: Cops & Barbers Initiative

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

Salt & Light Youth Group

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Richard Wolfe

Corporate Award: Game P. L. A. Y.
(Police, Life and Youth)

2019 Awards

Community Service Awards

- Youth Awards:

Muhammad Ali
Neeraj Mehra
Kunj Patel
Morgan Taylor
- Adult Award:

Huetta Tauheeda Mateen
James Jones, Jr.
Lillian Outterbridge
- Business Award:

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Greenville Alumnae Chapter

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

Autism Society of North Carolina

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

- Citizen Award:

Minerva Freeman
- Corporate Award:

St. Peter Catholic School

Lifetime Achievement Award

Mrs. Mildred Council

2020 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Rami Darawsheh Anisha Sadhale
Rany Eldib Nikita Sadhale
Greyson Graham Sheila Tirupattur
Jarquis Honablew David Yoon
Braden McPhillips Jae Yoon
David Park

Adult Award: Frankie Atkinson

Business Award: Council on Aging
Wells Chapel Church of God in Christ

Distinguished Inclusive Community Award

Pitt Pirates Robotics

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Liz Liles

Corporate Award: The Scullery Coffee House and Creamery

Lifetime Achievement Award

Mrs. Joyce Jones

Lifetime Achievement Posthumous Award

Mrs. Joyce Mourning Mitchell

* No HRC Awards programs were held in 2021–2022 due to COVID-19.

2023 Awards

Community Service Awards

Youth Awards: Jamia Galloway
Asia Gorham
Alex Guilford
George Huo
Shamara Hyman
Sadie Smith
Olivia Thorn

Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards

Citizen Award: Jeannette M. Debs
Louise M. Hudak
Amando E. Peña

Corporate Award: Interfaith Clergy – Standing
for the Community

Award Winners & Recipients 1999–2023

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL









































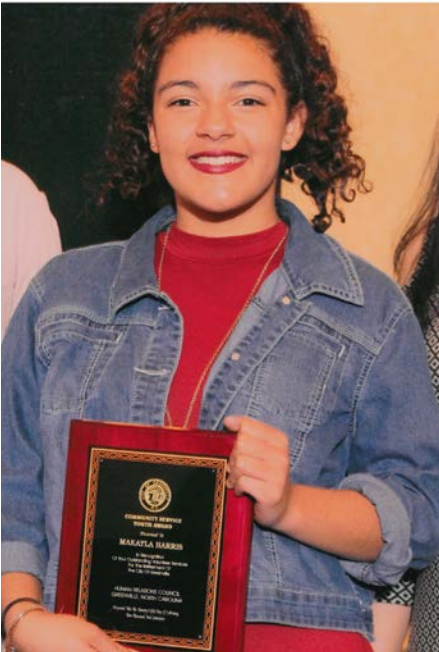
























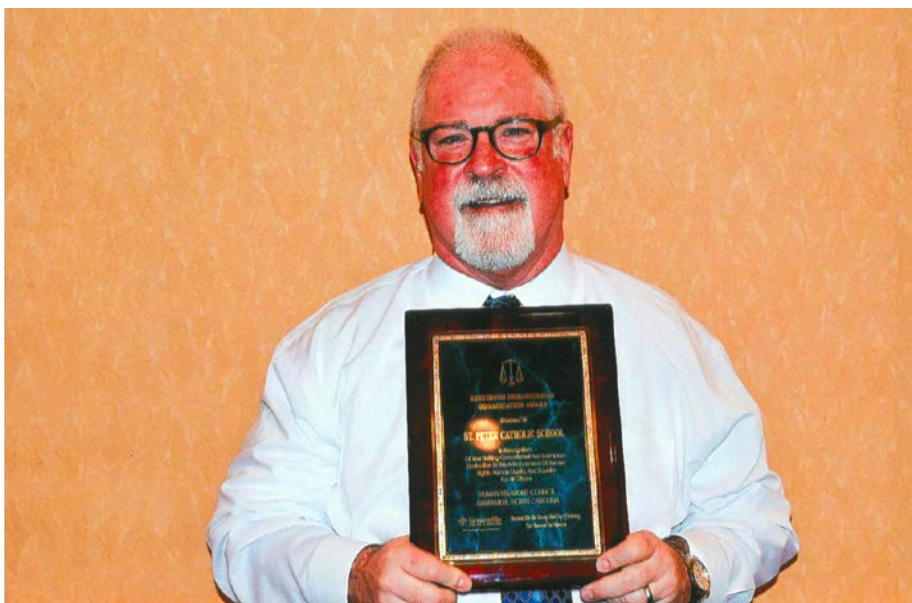
































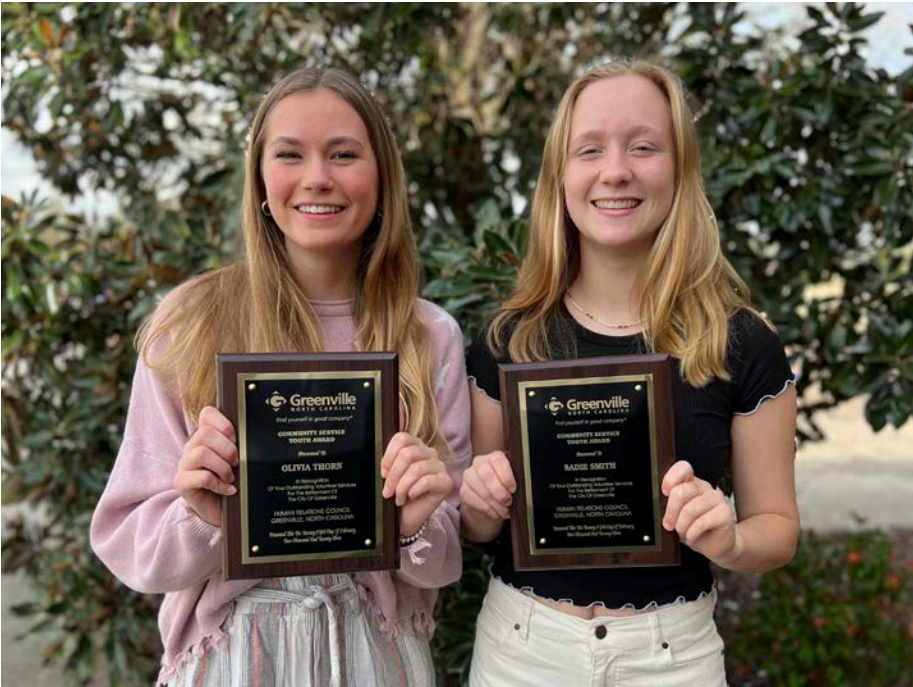






















Young Citizen Awards 2002–2010

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL



























Current Council Members

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL



Greenville Human Relations Council Members

Samar Badwan, Chairperson

Franchine P. Peña, Vice-Chairperson

Olive Barrett

Susann Camus

Rod Debs

Todd Fraley

Tyleik Harris

Logan Harrison

Liz Liles

Antonio Milton

Lomax Mizzelle

Procopio Serrano

Staff Liaison: Cassandra Daniels

City Council Representative:

Mrs. Rose Glover, Mayor Pro Tem

Greenville Youth Council Members

Olivia Thorn, Chairperson

Landon Elks	Carson Fraley
Jamia Galloway	Alex Guilford
Shamara Hyman	George Huo
Sadie Smith	Morgan Worsley

Greenville Youth Council Advisors

Samar Badwan
Franchine P. Peña
Antonio Milton

Staff Liaison: Cassandra Daniels

City Council Representative:
Mrs. Rose Glover, Mayor Pro Tem

GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

Thank You!
for
50 
Years
1972–2022



Greenville
NORTH CAROLINA

Find yourself in good company®