

The

Tennessee Human Rights Commission;
Metro Human Relations Commission;
United Nations Association; and
Tennessee United for Human Rights
Partner Organizations

With

Present...

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2016



Celebrating the 68th Anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
December 6, 2016
John Seigenthaler Center

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



On October 24, 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations came into being with the purpose of saving future generations from the devastation of international conflict.

United Nations representatives formally adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. The Declaration was drafted by representatives of all regions of the world and encompassed all legal traditions. It is the most universal human rights document in existence, delineating the thirty fundamental rights that form the basis for a democratic society.

Following this historic act, the Assembly called upon all Member Countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and “to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories.”

Today, the Declaration is a living document that has been accepted as a contract between a government and its people throughout the world.

In Tennessee, the Human Rights Day celebration has become a time to reflect and look to the future. During the event, we honor those who have given a lifetime of service to making human rights a reality, those who have demonstrated outstanding service to forward human rights and those who are picking up the torch and carrying it forward.

In accordance with our theme, *Hidden in Our Midst: Child Trafficking in Tennessee*, the **blue heart symbol** on the front cover of this booklet represents the United Nations Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking.

PROGRAM AGENDA

Master of Ceremonies—Beverly Watts
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Gubernatorial Proclamation—Annazette Houston
Chair, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Mayoral Proclamation—Frank Trew
Chair, Metro Human Relations Commission

Human Rights Rising Advocate Award Presentation
Anna Carella

Human Rights Rising Advocate Award Presentation
Justin Jones

Human Rights Rising Advocate Award Presentation
Mohamed Shukri-Hassan

Hidden In Our Midst: Child Trafficking in Tennessee

Moderator—Melody Fowler-Green
Executive Director, Metro Human Relations Commission

- Margie Quin, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, TBI
- Jerry Redman, Co-Founder, Second Life of Chattanooga
- Shelia Simpkins McClain, Director of Survivor Services for End Slavery Tennessee
- Susan Watson, Managing Attorney, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

Video—Nashville youth describe human rights

Outstanding Service Award Presentation
Juan Canedo

Outstanding Service Award Presentation
Derri Smith

Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
Dr. Charles Kimbrough

Closing Remarks—Beverly Watts
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Unity Prayer—Rev. Brian Fesler
Pastor, Church of Scientology

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Nashville native **Beverly Watts** was appointed the Executive Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in July 2007. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Special Advisor to the Chair at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responsible for state and local relations. She has more than 25 years of civil rights enforcement and education experience in the public and private sector. Beverly is the recipient of numerous awards including the July 2005 Induction to the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. She is the recipient of the 2005 Louisville Metro MLK Freedom Award; 2003 Women Leading Kentucky Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award and the 2003 EEOC/FEPA Award for Innovative Outreach to name a few. She is a graduate of Tennessee State University, Southern Illinois University, and has attended Duke University Leadership Program for State Executives and the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government.

PUBLIC CONVERSATION

*Hidden in our Midst: Child **Trafficking** in Tennessee*



Moderator: Melody Fowler-Green is the Executive Director of the Metro Human Relations Commission and former attorney with the ACLU and Southern Migrant Legal Services.

Margie Quin is the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations. She has 24 years of law enforcement experience, including statewide policy development, and Legislative testimony

regarding human trafficking.

Jerry Redman is the Co-Founder & CEO of Second Life of Chattanooga, which creates awareness to drive action to end human sex trafficking.

Shelia Simpkins McClain is the Director of Survivor Services for End Slavery Tennessee. Following a personal history of sexual abuse, she has learned to turn her past experiences into the driving force behind her desire to help those who are victims of trafficking.

Susan Watson is the managing attorney for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid's Individual Rights practice group which includes TRLA's Immigration and Human Trafficking teams.

RISING ADVOCATE AWARDS



Anna Carella has worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Rwanda, where she worked to enhance the harmonization of programs across USAID's Food for Peace (FFP) and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) sectors. She has volunteered with the U.S. Peace Corps in Senegal where she facilitated the training of trainers in public health and assisted community volunteers with the implementation of health interventions. She is a board member for Advocates for Women's and Kids' Equality (AWAKE), and has been a volunteer for the Sexual Assault Center since 2013.



Justin Jones is a Fisk University senior, and a major champion of civil and human rights. Whether it was creating a #fast4fairness campaign to help Insure Tennessee, marching from North Carolina to DC to bring attention to the dangers of rural hospital closures, or helping to organize for the "March Against Fear," in response to the violence in Charleston, South Carolina, Justin has been front and center in a race toward social justice. Last year, Justin received a Young Leader Award at the Long Haul Awards hosted by the Tennessee Alliance for Progress, and just this past September, Justin was responsible for bringing together several different faith leaders on International Day of Peace at Fisk University where they dedicated a Peace Pole on campus.



Mohamed Shukri-Hassan is the former Welcoming Tennessee Coordinator for TIRRC. He currently serves on the Mayor's New American Advisory Council and sits on the board of directors for the Nashville International Center for Empowerment. He is originally a refugee from Somalia and speaks four different languages - English, Somali, Swahili and Oromo. Mohamed is an organizer and leader for the Somali community in Tennessee, he has his own business where he works as a political consultant to connect candidates and elected officials with the refugee community, and devotes all of his free time to the civic engagement and the well being of his community.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

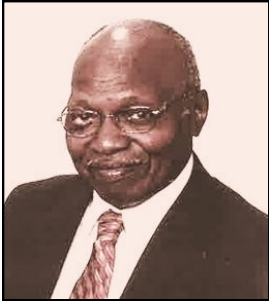


For over ten years, **Juan Canedo** has advocated for the Hispanic community and the community at large, with particular emphasis on empowering Hispanic immigrants through English-language and computer skills acquisition and access to health care. In 2006, Juan co-founded Progreso Community Center (PCC), an advocacy organization serving the needs of Hispanic community members. In 2007, he subsequently co-founded the first Hispanic community center in Nashville with the same name. He served as a volunteer and later as the Executive Director of PCC until March 2016 when he joined Meharry Medical College (MMC) as a postdoctoral research fellow for the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core. In his efforts to address health disparities issues that affect the Hispanic community in Nashville, Juan co-founded the Nashville Latino Health Coalition (NLHC) in partnership with Hispanic community members, academic institutions and representatives of nonprofit, local and state



Derri Smith is the Founder and Executive Director of End Slavery TN. In 2012, she moved End Slavery Tennessee, an organization she founded in 2008, out from under a parent organization to become an independent 501c3. Previously she served as Director of End Slavery Ministries with International Teams, with global responsibility for building teams and placing workers in the worldwide fight against slavery. Her career leading up to these roles includes teaching in public schools, heading inner-city work based out of Carter-Lawrence School in Nashville, and working overseas, serving refugees and those recovering from the repressive government in Eastern Europe. For decades she's addressed the issue of child abuse in the church, informally counseling women recovering from such abuse. Derri is the 2011 regional recipient of the Soroptimist Ruby Award for Women Helping Women and 2012 winner of the Trafficking in America Service award. She received the 2014 Salute to Excellence Baptist Healing Trust Access to Care award and the 2015 Diverse Generations award for the work of End Slavery Tennessee. She sits on both the governor appointed state Human Trafficking Advisory Council and the Federal Human Trafficking Task Force.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr. Charles Kimbrough's path to becoming a human rights advocate was developed early in life. Realizing that "colored" people were treated differently, the devastating aspects of discrimination were not really felt until he realized that attending high school some 10 miles away had to be postponed due to a lack of transportation for "colored" children (although the school bus transported white children from the same area to Pulaski, TN).

Similar experiences existed while serving in the Army (June 1947 – July 1953), although the armed services had been ordered to desegregate in 1948. Contemplating life after graduation from then Tennessee A & I State University, he decided on veterinary medicine as a career and had the great fortune to attend Tuskegee Institute's veterinary school. At the time, "Negroes" were not admitted to veterinary schools at predominately white institutions in the South due to segregation. While at Tuskegee, the realization of discrimination continued – various tactics were used to prevent Negro citizens from voting; Alabama State University students were expelled for attempting to integrate a federal building cafeteria; the NAACP was disenfranchised statewide by the Alabama State Legislature; the TN State Board of Veterinary Medicine customarily denied Negro veterinarians a license to practice veterinary medicine (he defied the notion and received a license to practice in TN).

Experiencing such road blocks led Dr. Kimbrough to declare that he would join the first NAACP branch wherever he located with the determination to remove road blocks within his reach. Once he arrived in Sparta, IL as a federal employee and found no organized branch, he began the process of organizing a branch over the objection of local citizens of color who felt their segregated way of life would be exacerbated. Dr. Kimbrough served as the Nashville Branch President from 1973 – 1980. Some of his work has included: ordering the body of a young Black man exhumed to prove that he was fleeing when shot by the police not confronting as reported, as a result he called for the resignation of the police chief; organizing a protest against South Africa's participation in the Davis Cup tennis matches at Vanderbilt in 1978; advocating for the release of inmates when evidence pointed toward unjust sentencing; campaigning for over 25 years for the release of Bill Allen who was tried by an all white jury and had justifiable evidence suppressed by the court; and organizing voter registration campaigns resulting in large numbers of new voters. He lives according to Micah 6:8 (KJV), "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Event Chair

Rev. Brian Fesler, *Church of Scientology*

Planning Committee Members

Spencer Bailey, *UNICEF*

Julie Brinker, *Church of Scientology*

Melody Fowler-Green, *Metro Human Relations Commission*

Melissa Gordon, *Metro Nashville Public Schools*

Lynn Grassmeyer, *Amnesty International*

Barbara Gunn Lartey, *Metro Human Relations Commission*

Frank Guzman, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Aisha Lbhalla, *Muslim Women's Council*

Bobbie Porter, *Tennessee Board of Regents*

Beverly Watts, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Performances

Thanks to Bob Teague for playing guitar during the reception, and thank you to Delvakio Brown and Tomale Williams of the TSU Forensics Team for providing insightful and inspirational words during our program.

Event Host

A very special thank you to the First Amendment Center & Gay Campbell for hosting the event.

Youth Video

Thank you to all of the Nashville children who participated in the human rights video, with special thanks to the Sikh Temple and Nashville International Academy.

Program Booklet

Thank you to the Church of Scientology for program design and printing.

Refreshments

Thank you to the Metro Human Relations Commission for providing wonderful refreshments.

More Information

Visit www.nashvillehumanrights.org, join our mailing list, and see **photos** from this year's event, full-length versions of the **Awardee Interview Videos**, the full version of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, and much more!