



New Volunteer Appreciation Award at CIP: “The CIP Spirit Award”! Former Board Member and CIP volunteer, Shirley Preston, and her family, wish to honor the memory of Shirley’s mother, Miriam Mourning Blanks, with a new award for CIP volunteers.

Background

Miriam Mourning Blanks was a strong and independent woman who, with the help of her mother, raised her daughter on her own from the age of 18 months. Miriam had a strong work ethic and was always gainfully employed, assisting designers in department stores, and later serving as a supervisor at a State School for children with special needs. She always encouraged her daughter to get involved in extracurricular activities and Miriam always volunteered wherever her daughter was involved. When her daughter was 9 years old, Miriam remarried. She and her husband were very active in the community and volunteered in many

capacities over the years. Everyone in their community knew Miriam; she and her husband were well respected, and that served to elevate her daughter as she was growing up.

Miriam Blanks was pleasant, outgoing, and a good organizer. She taught her daughter, both by her words and her example, that it is important to give back, and that, through volunteerism, “*you get more out of it than you put in*”. Miriam instilled in her daughter a strong sense of *commitment*, teaching her the importance of *dedication* and follow-through. She had a strong sense of personal *integrity* and was deeply committed to every cause she worked with. It is in honor of Miriam Blanks’ sense of community, commitment, and dedication to volunteerism that her daughter, with her family, has developed the Annual Center in the Park (CIP) Spirit Award, honoring a CIP volunteer who embodies Miriam Blanks’ spirit and signature dedication, integrity, and commitment to Center in the Park, an agency whose mission, vision and values would resonate strongly with Miriam’s ideals.

Criteria

The CIP Spirit Award will be awarded yearly to a CIP Volunteer who:

- Has volunteered at least 36 hours in the last year
- Demonstrates support and a personal commitment to the work of the agency, as evidenced by joining as a Partner.
- Puts into practice CIP’s mission, vision and values
- Performs his/her tasks with integrity
- Shows pride in his/her work
- Shows compassion, patience and understanding in working with all people

Selection Process

- Nominations will be solicited from CIP members and staff via the CIP Newsletter, flyers, announcements at various events, etc.
- After the winner is chosen, a presentation will be made at CIP’s annual Volunteer Recognition Event.
- A monetary gift of \$200 will be awarded by the Preston Family in Miriam Blanks’ memory.

**2018 Center in the Park Volunteer Spirit Award
NOMINATION FORM**

Center in the Park is accepting nominations for the annual **Volunteer Spirit Award** until April 13th, 2018. The award will be presented on Friday, April 27th at the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

Essential Criteria for nomination: An individual who has:

- Volunteered at least 36 hours in the last year;
- Demonstrates support and a personal commitment as evidenced by joining the Center as a Partner;
- Puts into practice CIP's mission, vision and values; performs tasks with integrity;
- Shows compassion, patience and understanding in working with all people.

Please feel free to nominate an individual, even if you do not know the number of hours the nominee has volunteered! CIP staff can verify.

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your phone number (Home) _____ (Work/Cell) _____

(Fax) _____ (E-mail) _____

Please - Attach additional pages to give a detailed explanation:

Name of nominee: _____

Please describe the volunteer work that inspired you to nominate this individual for the award.

How has the nominee's work impacted other volunteers or inspired others to volunteer?

Center in the Park
PROMOTING POSITIVE AGING SINCE 1968

What has the nominee done to demonstrate a personal commitment to the work of Center in the Park?

Please return this form by **4/13/2018** Drop-Off at the Program Office Window; Or by e-mail: info@centerinthepark.org; Or by mail: **Attn:** Volunteer Spirit Award Committee
Center in the Park - 5818 Germantown Avenue – Philadelphia – PA - 19144