

The Spirit of Anne Frank Awards 1996 winners

1996 Outstanding Youth Award

ALMIN HODZIC, a nineteen-year-old, Muslim, Bosnian refugee had dedicated much of his time teaching others about the dangers of ethnic hatred and cruelty. A graduate of Greenwich High School and Dartmouth College, Almin spoke out about his own experiences surviving brutal expulsion from his life-long home, facing a firing squad and other death threats and incarceration in a concentration camp for the Diversity Awareness Club, which was formed after the racist "yearbook" at Greenwich High School. He helped organize the Diversity Awareness Week and has coordinated numerous humanitarian aid drives to benefit all those in need in Bosnia, whether Muslims, Croats or Serbs.

THE CITIBANK CORPORATION

1996 Outstanding Youth Award

CLINTON ALLEN, a graduate of A. Philip Randolph High School in New York City, has attended the Kingian Institute for Nonviolence, and is a trained Peer Mediator in his school's Conflict Resolution Program. He has been an active participant in "Blacks and Jews in Conversation," and has dedicated his extra-curricular time to voter registration drives, "WE CARE" (Harlem's clean up program), St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where he is a Sunday-school assistant and Boy Scouts Camp, where he was a counselor for disabled and special needs children.

1996 Outstanding Youth Award

TENE HOWARD's commitment and passion for creating positive change has effected hundreds of other teenagers. Tene continuously encourages students to go beyond their expectations and to achieve their dreams. As a leader in the Annual Multicultural Leadership Conference in New York City for the past four years, and the National Student Leadership Conference on Diversity in 1995 and 1996, Tene encourages other teens to be active in the struggle against bias and discrimination. Many teenagers have been inspired by these youth conferences to start new anti-discrimination activities within their own schools.

THE CHASE MANHATTAN

1996 Outstanding Youth Award

JUSTIN WAISER, a grandson of Holocaust survivors and the son of a Cuban Jew has come face to face with swastikas on the handball court in Roslyn, New York. As a founding member of the Anti-Bias Task Force for the Northwest quadrant of Nassau County, Long Island, Justin, a senior at Roslyn High School is also a member of the Principal Advisory Council on Multi-Cultural concerns, which educates students on cultural diversity and tolerance. He co-wrote and acted in a dramatic presentation on the dangers of ethnic stereotyping and misunderstanding, for elementary and middle school students.

THE CHASE MANHATTAN

1996 Outstanding Youth Award

CATHIA MOISE, a skilled Peer Mediator since her freshman year at A. Philip Randolph High School in New York City, has diffused many explosive situations. She reaches out each day to the entire student body as a peacemaker. She is a member of the Conflict Resolution Program, the Harlem Initiative, "Blacks and Jews in Conversation," Young Women's Alliance of Columbia University's Double Discovery Program, and a third and fourth grade teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, where she heads the Church's Black and Hispanic Leader's Committee.

THE CHASE MANHATTAN

1996 Outstanding Youth Award

ANGEL SANTIAGO , a former Youth Associate Coordinator for Hetrick-Martin's Youth Initiatives Program is a passionate advocate for the special concerns of lesbian and gay youth. In 1995, Angel assisted with the creation of "Pride in Da Bronx," here she was an outreach educator, facilitating peer workshops and outreach. She is also a peer educator for Gay Men's Health Crisis, where she works with at-risk youth, providing support services for people with terminal illness with Friends in Deed, Youth Organizing Youth and "PRO-RADS," Project Reach Anti-Discrimination Space.

THE FRANK AND EMILY ULLMAN

1996 Outstanding Educator Award

CONSTANCE CUTTLE, an educator who has worked to develop a leadership curriculum that has created opportunities for students to rise against racism. It is estimated that she has affected the lives of thousands of New York City students. During the aftermath of the Crown Heights riots, Connie established a peer diversity training which grew into Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), which now exists in over twenty Brooklyn High Schools. Each SAVE chapter is dedicated to improving respect for diversity, nonviolent conflict resolution, reducing violence, prejudice and discrimination in society. Connie currently works for the Brooklyn High School's Superintendent's office.

THE FRANK AND EMILY ULLMAN

1996 Outstanding Educator Award

VERNA HAMPTON , theatrical director and the moving force behind the Henry Street Settlement's Cultural Harmony Project uses her skills in music, drama, creative writing and comedy to help Cultural Harmony youth become peer leaders who act in their families and communities as models for tolerance. One of the people responsible for the formation of the Crown Heights Youth Collective, a multi-service agency in central Brooklyn, Verna has helped teen mothers build their self-esteem. As moderator for the past four "Bridging the Hoods" events, sponsored by the Settlement Coalition for Equality and Diversity, Verna has inspired an appreciation for diversity in the 1,400 New York City youth attending, who represented a range of ethnicities, ages, religions and races.

1996 Special Educator Award

LIZ SWADOS has worked with young people for more than twenty years. She uses her talents as a composer, writer, director and lyricist to teach young people about community, tolerance and responsibility. Her recent piece, "The Hating Pot," is a powerful musical dealing with racism and anti-Semitism and performed by a multi-ethnic cast drawn largely from New York City public schools. Liz has done extensive work in Africa, Europe, South America and the Mideast, as well as keep a steady workshop and performance program with junior and senior high school students in all the boroughs of New York.

1996 Outstanding Citizen Award

JUAN ANDINO, a school aid at P.S. 32, has brought the concept of ethnic diversity in to his own home by raising more than 40 children from a diverse range of ethnic and challenged backgrounds. His firm, moral kindness has taken children from troubled homes and produced citizens who are skilled and integral members of society. Juan is described as "the guy who hauls out the portable basketball hoop, so the kids can play; the one to carry a heavy computer for a young teacher; and the one who, at his own expense and time, maintains a private selection of quality videos for all the children to enjoy."

1996 Outstanding Citizen Award

ARN CHORN, a survivor of the Cambodian massacre, was instrumental in the foundation of Children of War, an organization that teaches students about war and hatred. He has spent time relating his experiences in Cambodia to high school students in America, young leaders from around the world and to members of Congress. Today he works with inner city gangs. He returned to Cambodia for two years to gather more than 2,000 volunteers in an effort to clean up streets and replant forests ruined by war and abuse.

1996 Outstanding Public Official Award

JEANINE PIRRO, the district attorney of Westchester County, has rallied the Westchester community against the recent rash of hate-crimes and racism. She mobilized more than 2,000 marchers in opposition to hatred and bias. As an advocate for victims since she began her career as an A.D.A., Ms. Pirro founded the nation's first domestic violence and child abuse unit ever in a prosecutor's office. She has been a vociferous advocate for crime victims, women, children and minorities. Under her leadership, the D.A.'s office began a program and dialogue with students about crime and hatred. She formed the Community Relations Advisory Board to bring together representatives from different social, religious, business and ethnic organizations to exchange ideas.

1996 Outstanding Business/Community Leader

UNITED WAY of New York City has agencies that work every day to create unity from our diversity. They're helping New Yorkers of all backgrounds take advantage of the many opportunities available and providing leadership to help New Yorkers live together in peace. Their many services include educational programs that work with kids on the streets to minimize racial tensions, mediation of racial and ethnic tensions and leadership training and job development for minority youths.