



The **Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Leadership & Community Change** recognizes the contributions of individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving the quality of life in Spartanburg County. The recipients of this award are those who develop innovative solutions to tackle critical community issues and seize opportunities to make a difference by offering compassionate leadership, commitment, and an ultimate goal of creating a better and brighter tomorrow.

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2020 Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Leadership and Community Change**. This award annually honors individuals who, with perseverance and commitment, have worked to improve the quality of life in our community. The Foundation is seeking nominees who have successfully engaged all segments of the community to develop innovative solutions in tackling issues facing the people of Spartanburg County.

The recipient will receive an award at the Foundation's Annual Meeting and will be honored with a \$5,000 grant to be given to a charity selected by the recipient and the Foundation.

**NOMINATIONS DUE
DECEMBER 20, 2019
BY 5:00 PM**

HISTORY OF THE AWARD

In 2006, Mary L. Thomas, chief operating officer of The Spartanburg County Foundation, was honored by the Council on Foundations with the Robert W. Scrivner Award for Creative Grantmaking. This prestigious award is a memorial to the creative legacy left to the field of philanthropy by Robert W. Scrivner, long-time director of the Rockefeller Family Fund. Mary was selected because she best exemplified the imagination, creativity and optimism that were the hallmarks of Scrivner's distinguished career. She had the courage to lead The Spartanburg County Foundation into a period of innovation and grassroots leadership that even today continues to change the fabric of the greater Spartanburg County community and beyond.

With this award came a \$10,000 prize. In the spirit of the award, Mary decided to use the \$10,000 as seed money to establish the Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Leadership and Community Change Fund. The Foundation's Trustees came alongside Mary and established an award to start a similar recognition program in Spartanburg. Through the support of numerous individuals and the Spartanburg community, Mary's initial gift has continued to multiply, surpassing the Fund's original goal of \$100,000. The Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Leadership and Community Change honors individuals who, like Mary, are community leaders, innovators and contributors to community change by addressing critical issues throughout Spartanburg County.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019 Loreta Dylgjeri	2012 Wanda Cheeks
2018 Adom Appiah	2011 Jim Rutledge
2017 Dr. Gloria Close	2010 Kelley Ezell
2016 Marlanda Dekine & Scott Neely	2009 Benjamin Wright
2015 Victor Durrah, Jr.	2008 Teresa Loving
2013 Dr. Craig Burnette	2007 Mary Ann Deku

** Not awarded in 2014*



THE SPARTANBURG COUNTY FOUNDATION
Your Community Foundation

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www.spcf.org

2020 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

MARY L. THOMAS
Award for Civic Leadership & Community Change



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION



INNOVATION

Identifying innovative solutions and implementing new ideas that successfully address critical issues facing the Spartanburg community



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT

Adding value, providing leadership, and contributing to positive change in the Spartanburg community



CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Investing time and effectively engaging multiple segments of the community in problem solving to contribute to positive community growth and transformation

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



- Nominees must be residents of Spartanburg County, South Carolina.



- Nominees must be in good standing ethically, possess a strong sense of integrity and good character.



- The efforts of nominees must be documented during the past 12 months, illustrating the impact made on the Spartanburg community – whether through direct service, philanthropy or drawing attention to a community need.



- In the last year, the nominee has documented evidence of making a broad impact (the nominee should serve a large number of individuals across multiple demographics, i.e., children and youth, senior citizens, etc.) in the Spartanburg community through one or more innovative projects, thereby improving the quality of life for its residents.



- If the nominee is connected to a Spartanburg County nonprofit organization through paid employment, the individual must demonstrate community impact beyond the scope of his or her job.



- Nominees are not typically in the limelight but perform valuable public service at the community level.

Only individuals are eligible for nomination. Please do not submit multiple nominations. All of the above eligibility requirements must be met at the time of nomination. Incomplete nomination applications will not be reviewed or accepted.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Log on to www.spcf.org to complete a nomination form online.

You will be asked to complete a narrative that answers the following questions:

1. Innovation:

During the last 12 months, what new ideas did the person bring to fruition to address one or more of the critical community issues facing Spartanburg County? Please provide at least two examples, and describe the goals, process, budget (if relevant), other people involved, and the time and effort the individual gave toward addressing the issue(s).

2. Community Leadership and Impact:

How did the nominee provide leadership and act as an agent for community change in the last 12 months? Please describe the geographic scope of the project, the impact that has already been achieved, and the long-term projected impact of the nominee's work. Will the impact be ongoing, and has the nominee considered next steps? Please provide two specific examples of the project's quantifiable and substantial impact.

3. Civic Participation and Community Engagement:

How has this person demonstrated leadership in working with Spartanburg residents, particularly the grassroots community, to bring about positive community change in the last 12 months? Civic engagement is defined as individuals working together to make a difference in the community. Provide two examples of how this nominee was able to engage a broad segment of the community, including the number of people impacted and specific accomplishments, to solve a specific issue. In describing the nominee's work, please note the challenges he/she faced and how he/she addressed those challenges to move the project forward.

*At the time of submission, please attach three letters of reference which speak of the nominee's work in the community.

The deadline for nominations is December 20, 2019, by 5:00 pm.

The award recipient will be notified by January 23, 2020, so they may plan to attend the Foundation's Annual Meeting in the spring.

Please submit nominations to The Spartanburg County Foundation on our website:
www.spcf.org