



Kindest Kansas Citian Awards Dinner 2010

Overview

The 20th annual **Kindest Kansas Citian Awards Dinner**, a **Synergy Services**' event to support the agency's **STOP Violence** program, will be held on **Saturday evening, May 15th, 2010** at **The Intercontinental** in Kansas City, Missouri. **Karen Black** and **Pam Feingold**, will serve as event *Co-Chairs*. **Synergy Services** is a violence prevention and intervention agency serving over 35,000 people throughout the Kansas City region. This unique event celebrates the wonder of *kindness* in the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

The **Kindest Kansas Citian Awards Dinner** is the culmination of the **Kindest Kansas Citian Essay Contest**. Three student essayists and the person they chose as their *Kindest Kansas Citian* are honored at the event. Also presented at the event are the *Honorary Stars*. This year's honorees are **Barbara Unell** and **Danny O'Neill**. These local civic leaders are selected as *stars* by the way they exemplify *kindness* in their professional and personal lives.

The **Kindest Kansas Citian Awards Dinner** also presents the **Kindest School Award** to an institution that works to overcome bullying and incorporates kindness into every aspect of school life. This year's recipient is **The Barstow School**. In addition, the committee will present the **Kindest Business Award** to a company that incorporates kindness into the way in which it treats and supports employees, interacts with the public, and contributes to the well-being of the community. This year's honoree is **Best Buy**.

The event begins months before the awards dinner as area students submit one-page essays nominating a non-family member they know as their *Kindest Kansas Citian*. Generally, somewhere between 7,000 and 10,000 essays are received. Volunteers read all submitted essays and narrow the number to a top 100. From the top 100, the 20 most touching essays are chosen, and the three winners come from the top 20.

The night of the event includes a silent auction and reception prior to the program and dinner. Each of the top three student winners reads his or her essay from the stage. These moments often tug on the heartstrings of guests and provide cherished memories for both the student and their chosen *Kindest Kansas Citian*.

The **Kindest Kansas Citian Awards Dinner** brings together people from all walks of life throughout the Kansas City area to celebrate small and large acts of kindness and to help bring our city a little closer together.