

2016 Shirley Chisholm Defender of the Poor Award Winners



Congresswoman Barbara Lee is a forceful and progressive voice in Congress, dedicated to social and economic justice, international peace, & civil and human rights. A social worker by profession, she has aggressively represented the needs of the underserved and vulnerable people in her district and throughout the U.S. As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, she helped form the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus to bring together key stakeholders to find concrete solutions to end poverty. The Congresswoman has been a strong proponent of safe communities, affordable housing, the homeless, low income energy assistance, job training, making health care affordable and universal, just immigration policies, the establishment of a living wage, and protection of the right of women to make decisions about their reproductive health. She is the ideal 1st recipient of the Shirley Chisholm Defender of the Poor Award.



Carol H. Williams, President/CEO/Chief Creative Director of Carol H. Williams Advertising, and a recent collaborator with Covered California and San Francisco National Coalition of 100 Black Women is pleased to receive *The Shirley Chisholm Defender of the Poor Award*. Among her many other first: Ms. Ward was the first female and first African American Creative Director and Vice President at Leo Burnett Company in Chicago. She has produced award-winning advertising and marketing campaigns for Fortune 500 companies—including GM, General Mills, HP, Procter & Gamble, The Walt Disney Company, Marriott, & Coke. She is mother to Carol Hood, a creative writing graduate fellow who is on a teaching assignment in London and son, Tipkins Hood, COO of CHWA. Because she has been at the forefront of portraying African Americans in a positive light in advertising, she is a wonderful choice for receiving the Shirley Chisholm Defender of the Poor Award.



Like Shirley Chisholm, Carolyn Elaine Sims understands the importance of an education and the value of hard work. Carolyn was diagnosed at birth with congenital glaucoma rendering her sight disabled. Throughout Carolyn's formative years, she endured numerous operations to try to slow down the lessening of her sight. Not one to let her disability keep her from reaching her life goals, Carolyn graduated with a BS in Occupational Therapy and a BA in Education from Puget Sound University. Upon graduating, Our Savior Lutheran Church selected Carolyn to become the Director of their newly established Pre-School. Over the years, she also served as Sunday School Teacher, Youth Administrator, and Counsel Member. Later, she continued to operate a Pre School from her home until retiring 3 years ago. Carolyn has been a devoted wife of 40 years, and she has been the daughter, sister, aunt, mother, and grandmother to emulate. We would like to honor her with this prestigious award for her devotion to children, patience, wise advice, and reliance on prayer.



Rev. Cheryl Ward is the founding pastor of Liberation Ministries in Oakland. She holds a M.A. from Pacific School of Religion at the GTU in Berkeley, and she is currently pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Pastoral Psychology - Leadership Studies. She has served as a Youth Pastor travelling nationally and internationally conducting youth revivals for many years, an Interim Pastor of three churches throughout the Bay Area, and the Hospice Chaplain at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. For two consecutive summers, she also coordinated the Kaiser Oakland Summer Youth Employment Program, training and staffing youth throughout the hospital. Rev. Ward is the author of five books and earned the distinguished "Kiplinger's 2006 Who's Who Among American Business Professionals Award and the 2011 Madison's Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals Throughout the World Award. 7th Heaven on the WB Television Station aired an episode based on one of her messages. She has been a featured commentator on BET discussing women in the church and domestic violence. Rev. Ward is the proud adoptive mother of three and also the proud grandmother of three. Her dedication to children makes her the right candidate for the Shirley Chisholm Defender of the Poor Award.



Sharon Talley is currently the High Street Walgreens Store Manager, a racially, culturally, & economically diverse East Oakland neighborhood. She attended the University of Nevada-Reno, majoring in Fashion Merchandise with a minor in Business. Mrs. Talley also holds a PTCB and is California-Certified as a licensed pharmacy technician, which enables her to assist patients in the pharmacy department while also overseeing the day-to-day operations of the entire store. Sharon previously managed 2 other Walgreens in Oakland & El Sobrante, CA. Mrs. Talley is dedicated to work with rigor, simplicity and agility to deliver exceptional results. She is the proud mother of 4 and the grateful grandmother of 5. We welcome her to the Maxwell/Laurel neighborhood and hope her success serving the public begins with this award.



Edith K. (Bridges) Hill shows no signs of slowing down at 96 years of age. She still owns several properties and is quite independent and self-sufficient. By the time she officially retired at age 80, she owned her own Real Estate Company. That's hard to imagine for an African American woman born in Louisiana in 1919. At the age of 6, Edith's family moved to California. She married Lemon Hill in 1940, and they enjoyed 50 years of marriage until his passing in 1990. Mr. Hill ultimately developed dementia and needed to live out his days in a facility, where Edith visited every day despite the fact that she was a working woman. Edith started her career with S B Odell Realtors (the largest local African American realtor group) in July, 1951 through 1982; then she went into business for herself. Her office was at Racine and Telegraph in North Oakland. Edith remained self-employed until she retired in 1999. Mrs. Hill was a member of the Women's Council of the Oakland Board of Realtors and served as Treasurer for many years. She also was a member of the Black Realists in Oakland dedicated to helping moderate income people of color become 1st time home owners. "Aunt Edith", the Matriarch of her family and MFCC's oldest living member, is a deserving recipient of the Shirley Chisholm Defender of the Poor Award.



Ms. Monique Brinson is the beloved Principal at Sankofa Academy, a Pre-K-8 school in Oakland, CA. Previously she was an assistant principal at Fruitvale Elementary in Oakland (2007-2009) and at John Adams Middle School in Santa Monica, California (2005-2007). In 2009 she was the summer school principal at New Highland Academy. Ms. Brinson has been the principal of Sankofa Academy for seven years (2009-Present). Early in her professional career, she spent ten years teaching in Massachusetts, nine of those as a founding teacher at one of Boston's first elementary pilot schools. She holds a master's degree in teaching from Wheelock College. She spent her undergraduate years at Boston College, where she majored in Sociology and Black Studies. Her dedication to children in urban settings makes her a perfect recipient of the Shirley Chisholm Defender of the Poor Award.

Service of Commemoration, Sunday, 3:00PM, February 21, 2016
Miracles of Faith Community Church, ELCA, 4335 Virginia Ave, Oakland, CA 94619