Porter S. Dimery Sr., Youth Human Rights Award

About This Award

The Porter S. Dimery Sr. Youth Human Rights Award recognizes a young, inspirational leader who has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to protecting civil and human rights in the Des Moines area.

This individual:
- educates, advocates, and/or raises awareness of community social justice issues
- creates opportunities and access to services and resources for others
- leads peaceful efforts to engage in civil discourse for community-oriented solutions
- advocates for the access, development, and/or improvement of the legal and justice system, community development, education, healthcare, etc
- engages in efforts to ensure the protection of equality and opportunity for all

Age Restriction:

Candidates must be 24 years or younger by March 1 to qualify.

Award Dedication

This award is dedicated to Porter S. Dimery Sr., who served on the Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission from 1991-1998. Known as the "Gentle Giant", this lifelong activist was committed to the future of the community, especially for the children and youth, and pushed for changes that would improve the quality of life for all residents of Des Moines. In 2005, the Commission voted to honor his contributions for his ability to reach across the table and peacefully and civilly break down barriers for all.

2018 Recipient: Robert Nishimwe