

Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award Recipients

- 1974** **Elbert Clark** – Instigated hiring of minorities at Thermo King, in Bloomington, where he served as Industrial Relations Assistant.
- Robert Timpte** – As Curriculum Coordinator for Bloomington high schools, introduced American Studies Program and Inter-Cultural History.
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- 1975** **Frances Berns** – *Sun-Current* reporter/editor who was an activist for the rights of the disabled.
- 1975** **David Cleary** – Awarded for his work with persons who are mentally and physically disabled.
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- 1977** **Sally Bosanko** – Former Human Rights Commissioner.
- 1977** **Gail Cywinski** – From Normandale Community College, organized Human Rights Day Observance.
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- 1978** **William V. Belanger, Jr.** – State Senator who assisted the Commission in advocating for low and moderate income housing.
- 1978** **Arlo Hasse** – City staff member involved and committed to American Indian rights and culture.
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- 1979** **Evelyn Carter** – Former Human Rights Commissioner and teacher in Bloomington schools.
- 1979** **Donald Bartlette** – City staff member coordinated the Office of Special Services. Served as a strong advocate for persons who are disabled.
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- 1980** **Patricia Helmberger** – Former Human Rights Commissioner.
- Ellsworth Stenswick** – Director of Special Education in Bloomington who worked with special needs children.
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- 1981** **Rev. Harry Stroessner** – Former Human Rights Commissioner.
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- 1983** **Danny Berenberg** – Owner of Lincoln Del who was recognized for his Kaiser Roll initiative and employment of persons with disabilities.
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- 1988** **Bill Kalina** – Owner of Dave's Shoe Repair and an actively involved citizen who worked towards employing persons with disabilities.
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- 1989** **Decathlon Athletic Club** – Awarded for their employment training program for persons with disabilities.
- 1989** **Mavis Klefsaas** – ESL teacher in Bloomington, who was actively involved in integrating new families into our community.
- 1989** **Hedy Bolden** – Teacher in Bloomington who established a multi-cultural education program for the School District.
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- 1995** **Yvonne Price** – Former Human Rights Commissioner who was active in helping people with disabilities find housing and employment.
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- 1996** **Eloise Kelle** – Indian Mounds Elementary School teacher promoted self-esteem and respect of cultural differences in the classroom and community. Committed to establishing global human rights practices.
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- 1997** **Bloomington Airport Marriott** – Accommodated, mentored and provided job training, through a Vocational Internship Program, for students with special needs from Jefferson High School.
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- 1998** **Paven Malhotra** – Youth member of the Human Rights Commission who, after observing discrimination in Jefferson High School, used education through hate crimes workshops to improve student awareness.
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- 1999** **Flora Tsukayama** – Committed to community leadership, promoting diversity, volunteering and mentoring. Board member and translator in the Sister City Organization, which provides cultural exchange programs with the city of Izumi, Japan.
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- 2000** **Progressive Technologies** – Offered employment to people who are developmentally disabled, focusing on their abilities and gifts.
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- 2001** **Dr. Ghafar Lakanwal** – Founded Minnesota Cultural Diversity Center, that promotes multicultural understanding and inclusiveness in the workplace and community. Used education to improve understanding and relationships between all people.
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- 2002** **Seagate Technology's Diversity Action Council** – Coordinated diversity training seminars, workshops and special events within company to encourage understanding of cultures around them. Built an environment in which diversity is valued.
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- 2003** **The Toro Company** – Promoted community projects and activities benefiting at-risk youth, elderly and civic organizations. Started volunteer program allowing employees 20 hours off each year to volunteer at non-profit organizations on company time.
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- 2004** **Dinna Wade-Ardley** – Diversity Coordinator for Bloomington Schools, 1995 - 2003. Started DDAC (District Diversity Advisory Council), 1995. Director of Department of Educational Equity since 2003. Emphasized family involvement and collaboration with community agencies. Lead Bloomington Schools towards embracing and appreciating our differences.
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- 2004** **Thomas Jefferson High School Diversity Committee** – Made up of students, faculty and community organizations committed to an inclusive environment in which all students feel respected and valued. Facilitated multicultural activities to help the student body and faculty become more aware of the value of diversity.
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- 2006** **Larry Yazzie** – An international lecturer, educator, performer and world champion fancy dancer, Larry is dedicated to understanding and promoting bridge building through traditional and cultural diversity worldwide. He has interacted with thousands of people in Bloomington at local community events.
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- 2009** **Oak Grove Presbyterian Church** – an outstanding community organization with a long history of working with community partners to improve the lives of the diverse residents of Bloomington.