

2001

Lewis Duiguid, Kansas City, columnist for the Kansas City Star for thoughtful communication with the public about the human condition through his commentaries in the Kansas City Star on mental health, inner city youth, homelessness, prison conditions, and other issues that encourage public understanding of vulnerable people.

Don Cline, Jefferson City, Coordinator and founder of the Intensive Therapeutic Community (ITC), at Jefferson City Correctional Center, and his staff and inmate leaders. ITC is a voluntary, personal growth and restorative justice program that gives inmates a special place in the prison, opportunities for knowledge, reflection, self-help, and fellowship. With inmate leadership it helps prisoners find hope in the negative environment of prison, constructive confrontation with their past, forgiveness, remorse, freedom from drugs and alcohol, and a way to live successfully both in and out of prison.

Peter De Simone, Jefferson City, Inaugural Elaine Miller Aber Humanitarian Memorial Award, for 25 years of leadership for social justice in Missouri as executive director of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare. De Simone was selected as the seventh Peace Corps Volunteer in 1961, served two years in Tanzania as a civil engineer and teacher in Tanzania, East Africa, and served with the U.S. Information Agency in Uganda and Sierra Leone for another three years. He became the director of MASW in 1977.

Elaine Aber, after whom the award is named, was a member of MASW for 45 years. Born in Mount Sterling in Gasconade County she spent her adult life in Jefferson City and became a lifelong champion of human rights. She worked for the creation of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights in 1957 and the Public Accommodations law in 1963. She was the first white woman to enter Lincoln University and was a dedicated volunteer leader in many area charities. The award was created by the MASW State Board in her memory.

Herman & Dorothy Johnson, Kansas City, have advanced human rights and social justice in Missouri through their professional and volunteer leadership of many human service and social justice organizations. Both Herman and Dorothy have been leaders in NAACP both locally and nationally. They lived through and fought against segregation in Missouri and helped achieve public accommodations laws. They helped achieve changes in public social policy on welfare, aging, and other issues.

Herman is a businessman and former State Representative. He saved MASW from financial ruin and dissolution in the Seventies as state president. Herman was Executive Officer of the Tuskegee Airmen Group of the U.S. Air Force during World War II. He served on the monitoring committee to oversee Kansas City's Desegregation Plan.

Dorothy has been an MASW member since the 1940's. She helped organize MASW's resistance to meeting in segregated hotels and helped organize its first fully integrated annual conference at the Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs in 1953. She has had considerable professional experience in journalism, civil rights, aging services and many others. She has a degree in journalism and a Master's degree in Social Work.

James Reefer (posthumous), Kansas City, was chair of MASW's Criminal Justice Task Force in the Seventies and continued as a long term member and supporter. He worked

for better treatment of prisoners as both a professional in corrections and as a volunteer. He was a active volunteer and leader in many other social service and human rights organizations. He served over forty years with Jackson County as its Chief Probation Officer and Administrator of Juvenile Court and was Kansas City's director of the Department of Community Services. In World War II Jim served as a captain in the U.S. Army in Germany and led reporters for the first time through the Bacchanal Concentration Camp. Jim died on October 1, 2001.