

City of Berea

Berea Human Rights Commission
212 Chestnut Street
Berea, Kentucky 40403
859-986-8528

Each year the Berea Human Rights Commission (BHRC) presents the John G. Fee Social Justice Award to a Berea resident or group who has promoted human rights in the city based on nominations from the community. Since 2017, it has also presented a Youth Award, renamed the Dr. Janice Blythe Youth Award in 2020. The commission is currently soliciting nominations for the John G. Fee Social Justice Award and the Dr. Janice Blythe Youth Award until August 18, 2023. The BHRC encourages everyone in the community to nominate an individual or group whose support for human rights has made a significant contribution to maintaining, improving, or expanding the human rights of fellow Berea residents.

Dr. Janice Blythe Youth Award

Given since 2017, the Berea Human Rights Commission renamed in 2020 the youth award for Dr. Janice Blythe. Dr. Blythe was a long time commissioner of the BHRC and a social justice advocate. This award is presented to a youth aged 22 or younger who has promoted social justice and advocated against discrimination in Berea.

John G. Fee Social Justice Award

The inaugural John G. Fee Award was given in 2013 to the “Concerned Citizens of Berea” organization. The group was established to resolve tensions within the community following a racial confirmation the resulted in murder in 1968. Robert Shaffer and Loyal Jones, two surviving member of the group, accepted the award on behalf of the organization. Relatives of the founding African-American members of the organization were in attendance for the granting of the award as well.

Nominating Criteria

- A Berea resident or group in the 40403 zip code, who has promoted human rights in the city.
- An individual or group who has made a significant contribution to maintaining, improving, or expanding the human rights of fellow Berea residents.
- Nomination should include a clear statement of 250 words or less describing the specific courageous or praiseworthy conduct on behalf of human rights that supports the nominations.
- Nominations must provide the full name, address and other contact information *for the nominator as well as the individual or group* being nominated for the award.
- Nominations should be posted no later than October 19 2023, and may be sent via post-mail to: Berea Human Rights Commission, 212 Chestnut Street, Berea, Kentucky 40403 or email to HRC@bereaky.gov
- Attached are the applications or you can find them on the Berea Human Rights Commission website.

Award Process

- The award(s) will be presented during a City Council meeting in November when a list of all nominees will also be shared.
- The winners' name(s) will be added to the plaques in Randy Stone Room at City Hall that list each year's recipient(s).
- The BHRC reserved the right to elect not to present the award(s).