

***In honor of National Women's History Month, and to give recognition to the many and varied gifts of the Women of Siouxland, the Women of Excellence Awards are being offered. The recipients are women who have demonstrated strength of character and personal growth, made significant contributions in the past and have convincing plans for the future. They exemplify excellence in their commitments to the community by their volunteer efforts or through their vocations. Their generosity of spirit inspires others, particularly women***

**Award Categories**

**WOMEN STRIVING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE**

This award honors a woman who leads others to greater understanding and respect for themselves and the world in which they live. Through the knowledge she has gained and the desire to advocate for others, she might nurture the growth and positively impact the next generation; she may promote peace and equality between nations, races, communities, people - or in individuals. **Please describe** the way her volunteer or extraordinary professional efforts impact andimprove the quality of her self-described community. Examples may be found in human services, law, education, home environs, media, ministry, health care, or the environment.

**WOMEN TAKING RISKS**

This award honors courage and strength of character. This woman accepts challenges and breaks through societal barriers in order to achieve truly important and difficult work. She persists in her efforts;she has clearly defined goals and her decision-making reflects mature judgment. **Please describe** the circumstances and the manner in which your nominee overcame and ultimately excelled under extreme challenges, or in a nontraditional occupation such asthe military, athletics, the arts or business.

**If you have any questions about this form, contact the office of Women Aware or any of the awards Planning Committee members**.

**WOMEN HELPING WOMEN**

Although the woman honored in this award could be nominated in another, she is singled out here for her work to foster the personal and social growth of women. The fruit of her work is to make society more hospitable to that growth. Her relationships with women, as well as her goals to create a better future for women, are marked by insight, generosity and a peaceful, constructive spirit. **Please provide** examples of your nominee's endeavors.

**WOMEN DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY**

This award honors a woman who impacts her community by envisioning needs, generating ideas and developing solutions that benefit her community. She obtains and utilizes resources that result in a new organization, facility, event or other development. The scale and impact of her efforts is readily recognized by a significant portion of the community.  **Please describe** how your nominee’s vision became reality and how its reality impacted her community.

**YOUNG WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE**

This award honors excellence in a woman between the ages of 22 and 40 because she is determined to reach an ambitious or unconventional goal, although the goal may change as she matures. She is focused and confident. **Please describe** your nominee's goals and provide examples of her integrity and accomplishments, as evidenced when her aspirations have been challenged by today's society.

**WOMEN OF PROMISE**

This award honors a young woman up to age 21 who demonstrates leadership among her peers by engaging in issues beyond her daily environment and motivating others to participate in activities that address a problem, raise awareness or complete a project that benefits the community. She shows potential to be an instrumental leader in society for years to come. **Please be specific** about her role, the activities and outcomes accomplished.

**Special Awards – not given annually**

If you wish to recognize an outstanding individual who has contributed greatly to the quality of life for women and their families in the community, please consider nominating her for **MARILYN MURPHY LIFETIME** **ACHIEVEMENT** or him for **MEN OF EXCELLENCE**. Contact Women Aware for instructions. The Judges will determine and recommend award when appropriate, not necessarily every year.