



2022 Award Nomination Form National Philanthropy Day in Colorado

***Please see Nomination Instructions (afpcc.org) for information on completing and submitting nominations**

Nominee Information

| Nominee | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name: | Shari <i>First</i> | Shink <i>Last</i> | |
| Organization: | Cobbled Streets...helping homeless and foster kids move forward | | |
| Address: | | | |
| | Wheat Ridge <i>City</i> | CO <i>State</i> | 80033 <i>ZIP Code</i> |
| Primary Phone: | | | |
| Email: | | | |

Category of Nomination (please check ONLY ONE)

- ☒ Lifetime Achievement
- ☐ Outstanding Large Business (Number of Colorado employees _____)
- ☐ Outstanding Small Business (Number of Colorado employees _____)
- ☐ Outstanding Foundation
- ☐ Outstanding Philanthropist
- ☐ Outstanding Professional Fundraiser
- ☐ Outstanding Professional Grantmaker
- ☐ Outstanding Service Organization
- ☐ Outstanding Volunteer
- ☐ Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
- ☐ Inspiration Award

Nominator Information

Submitted/Nominated By:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Name: | <u>Colleen</u> | <u>Abdoulah</u> |
| | <i>First</i> | <i>Last</i> |
| Organization: | <u>Past Chair & CEO of WOW! Internet Cable & Phone; now volunteer, philanthropist and mentor</u> | |
| Address: | <u>Street Address</u> | |
| | <u>Denver,</u> | <u>CO</u> |
| | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> |
| | <u>Please contact Terri Hoopes at as I am often out of the country</u> | <u>80209</u> |
| | | <i>ZIP Code</i> |
| Primary Phone: | <u></u> | Email: <u></u> |
| Relationship to Nominee: | <u>Friend, and served on Board of Rocky Mtn Children's Law Center for many years; have been a long time supporter of Shari's efforts on behalf of children</u> | |

How did you hear about us? Email Newsletter

If your nominee is not selected, would you like them to be notified that they were nominated? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If your nominee is selected, can we share a copy of the nomination with them? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Refer to the Nomination Instructions for Complete Directions

Please remember:

- Each nomination must include:
 1. Nomination Form
 2. Nomination narrative
 3. Two letters of support (additional letters will not be accepted)
- The nomination deadline is **Friday, July 15, 2022 at 5:00 PM (MST)**
- No exceptions!
- All nominations must be complete when submitted
- If you would like feedback on your nomination from a member of the Awards & Selection Committee (not the judges) before formally submitting your nomination, please submit your draft materials by **July 8** via email with a note to that effect.
- Complete nominations must be emailed to DeAnn Acosta, CFRE, deann@afpcc.org.

Thank you for supporting National Philanthropy Day in Colorado

afpcc.org



Questions? Contact DeAnn Acosta: deann@afpcc.org

National Philanthropy Day Nomination Narrative
Lifetime Achievement Award
Nomination for Shari F. Shink, Esq., Founder and CEO of Cobbled Streets.
Nominated by Colleen Abdoulah

1. What are the nominee's specific achievements?

For almost four decades, Shari has dedicated her life to transforming the fostercare system and the lives of abused and neglected children around the country. She challenged obstacles, changed laws, and became the inspirational voice for children.

Judge Richard Gabriel writes, *"Shari founded the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center (RMCLC) at a time when thousands of children were in dire need but had no voice. Shari single-handedly gave them a voice, and she has continued to do so over the thirty ensuing years. Through Shari's leadership, the RMCLC's litigation efforts have resulted in some of the most important Colorado legal precedents protecting children. She has also developed and fought for important legislation in this field; she has spearheaded numerous programs to combat child abuse and neglect; she has trained hundreds, if not thousands, of lawyers and law students to advocate on behalf of children; and she has continually shined a spotlight on critical issues, inspiring action at every level of society...it is not an overstatement to say Shari's singular contributions in the field of child advocacy reverberate throughout Colorado and nationally, and I can think of no single person who has made a more significant or enduring impact on behalf of dependent and neglected children in this state."*

Over the last 25 years, Shari has been a leader in promoting and testifying on behalf of legislation which includes a speedy trial right for abused children, to prevent languishing in foster care; recognizing that it is in the best interests of children to remain with caregivers with whom they are attached; promoting the importance of maintaining sibling relationships; stopping the arbitrary movement of children from foster home to foster home; expediting permanency planning to assure children a timely permanent home; securing legal standing for foster parents and creating the Office of the Child's Representative (OCR). Twenty-five years ago, Shari won a hard-fought case on the western slope that led to legislative efforts to provide an administrative review system to address the seemingly arbitrary placement decisions that were made in the counties. The statewide ARD (Administrative Review Division) continues to this day.

Shari's extraordinary work led to her induction into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 2013.

After leaving the Law Center as *President Emeritus*, Shari continued to dedicate herself to the needs of Colorado's most vulnerable children. In 2020, she founded Cobbled Streets with a mission to provide enriching opportunities and life changing experiences so kids in foster care develop new skills, create connections, improve relationships, and thrive and give foster parents a new resource when the system said "no". In partnership with local agencies, Cobbled Streets has had a significant impact. Children have experienced nature, sports, music and dance through Equine Therapy, summer camp, golf, violin, hip hop and swim lessons, and more. For many of the children, it has been their first introduction to such things. One foster parent wrote, *"The six weeks lessons through Cobbled Streets made a difference with our foster children. It gave a chance for them to connect, learn life skills, and allowed them to put their problems aside. They were able to celebrate accomplishments and overcome obstacles in a positive way. Most of all they were able to create healthy relationships. It gave them something to look forward and building blocks to start to trust others. It sparked endless possibilities and encouraged them to dream."*

In addition, Shari Shink and Cobbled Streets are in the midst of producing a documentary on the Foster Care System which will be used to spark systemic reform nationwide. The film is due to be released in late 2023 or early 2024.

2. What impact has the nominee had on volunteerism and/or financial contributions and/to the community?

Shari's passion, enthusiasm, and persistence impacts everyone with whom she comes in contact. Her genuineness and authenticity, her unwavering commitment to children, and her courageous leadership, have inspired so many. In her decades at the helm of the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center, she inspired philanthropists of all ages and all means. Her first donation came after a speech in Chicago when her 5 year old nephew donated the only dollar in his pocket! Her largest donation came years later as an anonymous gift of one million dollars.

When Shari created the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center, she developed the Domestic Violence Program. Recruiting, training and coordinating a small army of volunteer attorneys to represent hundreds of abused children in Colorado every year for over 30years.

At Cobbled Streets, Shari has a following of dedicated donors who respect the work she has done and the person she is. Shari has received financial support from friends, colleagues, and donors from California, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida, New York, Tennessee, and even Italy and Germany. As a new organization, Cobbled Streets relies on an enthusiastic group of volunteers and philanthropists who know, without doubt, that through their contributions they will change the lives of children in Colorado. In the two and a half years Cobbled Streets has existed, Shari has raised over a million dollars from about 200 different donors.

3. What leadership qualities does the nominee possess that promote philanthropy and/or volunteerism?

Shari's passion to help foster children is infectious. She is able to inspire enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work. Her compassion builds trust; her relentless quest for good inspires hope; and her support encourages everyone to be their best.

"...Shari Shink is an exceptional woman leader in Colorado with a beautiful spirit of activism and brilliant mind who has inspired countless women across the State and the Nation...Ms. Shink serves as a bright beacon of courageous leadership for all women in any walk of life, and for all those who have had the grace of being touched by her light in the darkness." (Colorado State Senator, Linda Newell)

4. How does the nominee adopt a spirit of inclusion?

Shari is committed to seeking the voices of those who are held in high esteem, as well as those who believe they have no voice. As a new organization, diversity continues to be a priority in seeking new board members and new staff. The work of Cobbled Streets brings together children and families whose cultural, economic, and life experiences are different. These opportunities have enriched the experiences they share with their children and serve as a foundation for a better, more inclusive world.



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July 5, 2022

Re: National Philanthropy Lifetime Achievement Award

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the National Philanthropy Lifetime Achievement Award for Shari Shink, Esq. As a former foster parent and current adoptive parent in Colorado, it wasn't long into my work as the Executive Director of Foster Source before I was first introduced to Shari Shink. She attended a panel of local elected officials we hosted. These panels are a way for foster parents to be heard by those setting policy within child welfare. There was a buzz of excitement in the room normally reserved for the elected officials. But at this panel, the buzz was due to Shari Shink attending.

After she formed Cobbled Streets, Shari reached out to me to partner and serve families together. I could not have been more thrilled. Her work at Cobbled Streets provides opportunities for normalcy for children experiencing child welfare. Our work at Foster Source serves the caregiver. Together, we are empowering families to access services and resources they need to thrive. Shari and I have always had a shared vision of support for families that left them feeling less dependent on the "system" and more empowered as a family unit.

During our work together, we often pass family requests that are outside Foster Source's scope to Shari and her team at Cobbled Streets. Shari's infectious generosity is unmatched. When you need something to happen that seems impossible, call Shari. When you feel like you're emptying the ocean with an eye dropper and you're questioning whether you're making a difference, call Shari. When we had a fresh food donation that we didn't think we could take due to a lack of large refrigeration capabilities, we called Shari, and she gained access to refrigeration within 20 minutes. When we had a family with 8 children who needed a vehicle to transport the family of 10, Shari had an affordable option within a week.

A friend like Shari Shink is rare. Generosity like Shari's is even more rare. She is deserving of any and all accolades. I will always stand behind her with a smile on my face and a willing spirit ready to absorb her sunshine and warmth.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Renee Bernhard".

Renee Bernhard
Founder/Executive Director



Ann Gail Meinster

District Court Judge
100 Jefferson Coun
Golden, Colorad
720-772-64

ann.meinster@judicial.state.co.us



July 8, 2022

Award Selection Committee
National Philanthropy Day
Association of Fundraising Professionals

Dear Committee Members,

It is my honor to write in support of Ms. Shari Shink nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, National Philanthropy Day.

I have had the privilege of working with Shari for thirty years in issues related to child advocacy in my capacity both as a Guardian *ad Litem* (GAL) in Colorado and now the Presiding Juvenile Judge in the 1st Judicial District in Colorado.

It's hard to say what I most admire and respect about Shari, but her sustained passion for improving the lives of the most vulnerable youth and children who touch our juvenile justice and child welfare systems, never ceases to amaze me. The work is difficult, challenging and emotionally draining. Successes often are few and far between in comparison to the daily heartbreak. Yet Shari never loses hope and motivation. She gives tirelessly of herself and continues to inspire the lives of so many, both personally and professionally. Sustaining her commitment to children, youth, and families over four decades is truly a remarkable achievement. She continues to find innovative and creative ways to improve lives and never accepts the status quo as acceptable. Her leadership is recognized not just in Colorado but across the country.

I've had the chance to talk with Shari about her hopes and dreams for her current vision with Cobbled Streets and am confident she will be successful in achieving her goals. She has so much insight into what the needs are of the population she serves.

I cannot imagine a more deserving individual for recognition in the field of fund-raising than Shari Shink. She has proven herself to be an exceptional fundraiser on behalf of abused and neglected children for many years. Her continued hard work and ability to inspire others sets her apart from anyone else I know. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter on her behalf.

Sincerely,

Ann Gail Meinster
District Court Judge