



2019 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: Gary Yourtz
First Last

Organization: _____

Address: _____
Street Address Apt./Unit #
_____ **CO** **80209** **Denver**
State ZIP Code City

Primary Phone: _____ Alternate 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
- ☐ Outstanding Youth (18 and under) (Age at nomination date _____)
- ☐ Outstanding Youth Group (18 and under)

Nominator Information

Submitted/Nominated By:

Name: **Sarah** **Ford**
First *Last*

Organization: **Project Angel Heart**

Address: **4950 Washington Street**
Street Address *Apt/Unit #*

Denver **CO** **80216**
City *State* *ZIP Code*

Primary Phone: **phheart.org**

Email: **info@projectang**

Relationship to Nominee: **Gary is on our board of directors**

We have nominated organizations for the "National Philanthropy Day" awards
in How did you hear about us? **previous years.**

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

If your nominee is selected, can we share a copy of the nomination with them? ☐X 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 **Monday, July 15, 2019 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 1** 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

What are the nominee's specific achievements?

Nearly 30 years ago, Gary Yourtz attended a dinner introducing The Bridge Project, a community outreach initiative in its beginning stages with the intent of reducing educational barriers for children in Denver public housing communities.

Gary was brought by his daughter, who was helping with the event, and intended only to donate the table she'd asked for. But then he heard Maribelle Hernandez speak about growing up in a Denver Housing Authority community and receiving the chance she never thought she'd have to go to college.

The former president and co-owner of DuWald Steel Company, Gary realized that people like Maribelle and her parents were the foundation of his company's success and his wealth. He made a commitment to get involved.

Gary became a founding member of The Bridge Project, building the staple partnership between the University of Denver (DU) and Denver Housing Authority and helping to start the Bridge Project's first site in Lincoln Park. Today, The Bridge Project serves more than 500 Denver youth each year through its comprehensive afterschool programs. After serving as chair of the board of directors for six years, Gary is still involved as a member of the emeritus board of directors.

Gary's work with The Bridge Project is just one out of dozens of ways he has left an imprint across Denver by driving fundraising efforts for community impact projects through his incredible dedication and desire to give back.

What impact has the nominee had on the community through financial contributions and/or volunteerism? What impact has the nominee had on efforts to promote diversity?

Gary has served on the board of directors for organizations serving various communities throughout Denver. In addition to chairing the board of The Bridge Project, Gary has chaired the boards of the Jewish Community Center and Shalom Park, a care facility for seniors. He has also served on the board of directors for DU's Graduate School of Social Work, currently sits on the board of directors for us at Project Angel Heart, and is part of the Rose Hospital Advisory Board.

Although the list of organizations Gary has served is long, each one is chosen not to build a philanthropic resume but out of a sincere passion. Numerous organizations that have worked with Gary are quick to note his desire to be actively involved, regularly jumping into projects without needing to be asked.

When Temple Sinai began a major project to expand its synagogue, called the "Building Our Future Project," Gary enthusiastically joined in to help lead fundraising to pay off the building's mortgage. With his support, Temple Sinai is now mortgage-free and able to host religious, cultural, and life cycle programs without a hanging burden.

Gary also helped pave the way to completion for crucial projects at Shalom Park, where he helped lead a campaign to raise \$8 million to build a new wellness center with an aquatic center, senior-oriented exercise equipment, salon services, and a community of 24 single-family homes. The group of supporters Gary helped lead even secured enough donations that Shalom Park was able to pay off the debt of the entire building.

Rhonda Morrison, Shalom Park donor relations and marketing manager, says she is consistently impressed by Gary's willingness to jump into many different aspects of fundraising.

"He is happy to step up and get people involved, make phone calls, and get commitments whether it's for a capital campaign or day-to-day business," she says. "It has been wonderful."

In fact, Gary was honored at Shalom Park's annual fundraising event, held to raise funds to offset the costs of care for residents who have exhausted all their funds. Gary solicited donations as the year's award nominee and raised a record \$700,000.

For us at Project Angel Heart, where we deliver medically tailored meals to people facing critical illnesses in Denver and Colorado Springs, Gary's support has meant sponsorship for our annual fundraising events Dining Out for Life and A Taste For Life; direct outreach to secure thousands of dollars in funding from major donors; and introductions to several rewarding and successful partnerships with businesses and other event sponsors. Gary and his family have also volunteered helping to make and deliver meals.

"Gary fundamentally understands philanthropy and that if you are to inspire others to join you in support, you must first lead by example," says vice president of development and co-interim CEO Jennifer Lackey. "Gary has deeply invested in social justice and giving back to the community and his contributions have been both of time and treasure. Gary takes his

role and his leadership within organizations very seriously and approaches his volunteerism with significance and a desire for impact.”

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

One of Gary’s most powerful qualities is his ability to inspire others to join in his efforts, cultivating the same kind of passion he feels for a cause in others. Many have noted that when Gary gets involved in a project, he will bring everyone right along with him.

His personal friend Marshall Abrams is an example. Gary introduced Marshall to Shalom Park and involved him in the fundraising for the Community Wellness Center. Today, Marshall is still involved as a monthly donor and became the chairman of the board of directors at Shalom after Gary’s tenure ended.

“He became chairman and roped me into becoming chairman afterward,” says Marshall. “He is just the sweetest, kindest, most generous person in the world and when he gets excited that exuberance goes out and pulls you in.”

Gary says he sees the relationships he has developed as “tit for tat,” and is consistently exploring ways to further connect organizations doing important and transformative work in the community.

“I will hear something initiated by Gary or (wife) Terri and they will reach out to us to see how we can help,” says Rabbi Richard Rheins at Temple Sinai. “They are quick to marshal others to support a worthy cause, whether it is an individual or group that is struggling and needs that community reaction to lift them to a better place.”

“Gary will call me to share he’s ‘back at work for Project Angel Heart this week after vacation’ and, while said in jest, he truly does roll up his sleeves and get to work calling his contacts and friends to share his passion for Project Angel Heart,” says Lackey. “He puts together a list and works through that list to see if others may also find a philanthropic home at an organization for which he cares so deeply. Gary has inspired his fellow board members to engage more deeply in philanthropy and his leadership has had an impact on growing support for Project Angel Heart. Gary has a tremendous sense of humor, a direct approach, and passion that is infectious.”

For his many accomplishments, his dedication, and a passion that continues to inspire everyone around him, we are honored to nominate Gary Yourtz for “Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser.”



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Office of the Dean

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

Dear Nominating Committee –

I am pleased to write this letter offering my strong endorsement for Gary Yourtz to be recognized as National Philanthropy Day's Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser. I have been fortunate to have Gary as a friend and advisor during my time as Dean at the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work.

Gary's involvement at DU started long before my tenure, as he was one of the founding innovators of our signature community engagement program, The Bridge Project. Nearly 30 years ago, Gary led the partnership between DU and Denver Housing Authority to establish this incredible program which has served thousands of youth living in and around public housing in Denver. As you know, starting any program like this requires intensive fundraising. Gary is committed, relentless, persistent and unafraid to ask. There is not an obstacle he is afraid to confront, and when he is committed to a cause, he will stop at nothing to see it's supported and thriving.

Gary's commitment to our community extends far beyond Bridge and his work at DU. He has worked to transform communities and lives through his philanthropy and leadership and his impact is widely felt. His work at many organizations including Jewish Family Services, the JCC and Project Angel Heart demonstrate the depth of his commitment to Denver.

I, like many, consider Gary a critical advisor and confidant. He shoots straight, is committed to the causes he cares about and is generous beyond measure. I hope you will accept my sincerest endorsement of Gary Yourtz as Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Moore McBride".

Amanda Moore McBride, PhD
Morris Endowed Dean, Graduate School of Social Work
University of Denver

July 2, 2019

To the Nomination Committee,

This letter is in support of Gary Yourtz. Gary is such a great candidate for "Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser," I am thrilled to share my experiences with Gary.

First of all, Gary has invested with Argonaut Liquor for over 20 years and is our favorite investor. In that time, we have had great deals and less great and Gary has been an avid, informed, and consistent partner. His character and integrity are unique and its a special privilege to work with him.

I have witnessed Gary in many of his philanthropic pursuits. He is amazing in so many areas. His leadership has enabled many organizations to prosper and grow. I personally have witnessed his leadership at the JCC, Denver University, and Shalom Park. He has not only become an engaged board member, but chaired the Board of each of these organizations, and some of them multiple times. In that time, he has been involved in annual fundraising, endowment challenges, and capital campaigns. He never shies away from a difficult task and in fact, is called upon when an organization needs true leadership to move forward.

He leads by example, giving time and energy. He leads by giving money. And maybe the most unique aspect, he leads by bringing others to these organizations. I know Gary has gotten me to become active in each of these organizations and I am just one of many he has recruited, encouraged, and mentored.

Gary is a true friend, a great leader, and a fabulous community asset. I highly recommend him for this honor. With gratitude and thanks for him.....

Sincerely,

Scott Robinson