

Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee Report, 2012

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We received 5 nominations from the greater Denver area, and all five nominated organizations would have been worthy of support. Committee members participated in ranking and discussing the organizations by email. A clear winner did emerge, Colorado Progressive Coalition (CPC). CPC was notified of their award win on July 5, 2012. All non-winners were notified the same day.

From the nomination letter:

The Colorado Progressive Coalition (CPC) fights, builds and wins progressive changes benefiting Colorado voices that refuse to be marginalized. A state-based, member-driven group since 1996, CPC is one of Colorado's most successful non-profit advocate organizations, credited with major victories in their focus areas of civil, social, racial, health, and economic justice. Organizing for low-income, minority, immigrant, LGBT and youth oriented concerns, CPC battles corporate and moneyed interests that are actively working to maintain or increase systems of oppression affecting Colorado communities. In addition, CPC works to fight and shatter laws and perspectives that reflect racist, classist, homophobic, xenophobic, or sexist ideals that have been written into our society through years of systemic cultural inequity. With 25,000 members, CPC has been successful in curtailing payday lenders profiteering, pushing through anti-discrimination laws, and seeing a minimum wage increase brought to the voters, just to name a few of its milestones.

We are inviting representatives from CPC to present at a special session at this year's conference and attend the Awards Banquet.

Other Nominated Organizations:

2. “Chinook Fund,” a grant-making fund that assists progressive groups in their efforts to create safer spaces for dialogue about race, homophobia, transphobia, class, ableism and other social justice issues (ranked #2 overall by the Thomas C. Hood Social Action committee members)
3. “Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons” (FOHVAMP), an organization that has been successful in drawing attention to the problem of unsolved homicides in Colorado (ranked #3)
4. “ELK, Environmental Learning for Kids,” an organization established in 1996 by two wildlife biologists who saw a growing need to educate Colorado's urban youth about science, the environment, leadership, and careers (ranked #4).
5. “Harm Reduction Action Center of Denver,” a 501(c)3 that has been providing services to prevent the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C for injection drug users and their partners since 2002 (ranked last).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Society for the Study of Social Problems in this capacity. I am grateful for my colleagues on the committee who worked expeditiously on the award process.

Sincerely,

Lisa Pasko
Chair, 2012 Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee