



Civility a Cause for Celebration

- Lu Ann Franklin Correspondent
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HOBART — More than ever, the world needs civility in every area of life. Thursday's World Civility Day gala awards dinner and celebration at Avalon Manor resonated with that message and how civility can change the lives of people around the world. "We need to understand that every person is a gift," said Dr. Clyde Rivers, an ambassador at-large for the Republic of Burundi in Africa and founder of the Human Rights Global Congress.

"If you mistreat your brothers and sisters, we lose their

contribution," Rivers said. "We have a gift famine, not an economic famine. If we don't treat people right, we lose their gifts. We need to learn how to live the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you'."

The gala dinner brought to applause-filled conclusion to World Civility Day which included workshops at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond. Those workshops included sessions on Civility in the Community, ethics training for public employees, Civility in the Classroom and cyberbullying.

"This has been a wonderful day," said Chuck Hughes, executive director of the Gary Chamber of Commerce. "People from 14 states and eight nations attended the World Civility Day workshops." The Community Civility Counts campaign was launched in the spring of 2015 as a joint partnership between the Gary Chamber of Commerce and The Times Media Co. Hughes credits Gordon E. Bradshaw, the



Guest speaker Dr. Clyde Rivers, from left, Indiana Attorney General Curtis-Hill and Chuck Hughes, executive director of the Gary Chamber of Commerce.

chamber's public policy chairman, for bringing the idea forward at a March 2015 committee meeting and for designing a poster.

That poster caught the attention of Rivers of the Golden Rule International and president and founder of iChange Nations. Hughes said the Community Civility Counts was born "after observing so many acts of incivility and cruel behavior ... On behalf of the Gary Chamber, our board of directors and members, I want to extend a special gesture of gratitude to our civility partners from around the country and all of you who have traveled near and far to promote kindness and consideration toward your fellow man."

He also saluted a troupe of young people from the South Shore Dance Alliances who entertained in African costumes to the beat of African drums, a performance that drew sustained applause. "We are celebrating the nations today," Bradshaw said in his invocation, citing the need for kindness and civility "in a world of indifference."

During his keynote address, Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill said civility is a necessity if "America is going to lead the world." Hill said he grew up during Ronald Reagan's presidency. "Ronald Reagan actually had a cordial relationship with (Speaker of the House) Tip O'Neill. They were able to work together on programs that helped the nation," Hill said. "I remember one of Reagan's comments – 'I'd rather have half a loaf than none at all'."

Civility, he said, needs to begin locally, within families and communities. "We need to love thy neighbor, turn the other cheek," Hill said. "But remember we only have two cheeks." Community Civility Counts has grown from a local initiative to treat others with respect into an international movement that continues to earn kudos.

"We could not have predicted, even last April when Community Civility Counts' first World Civility Day sold out at the Majestic Star Casino in Gary, that we would have a full day of outstanding workshops and an even bigger and better gala dinner in year two," said Bob Heisse, editor of The Times Media Co. In recent months, The Times Media Co. has also won the Associated Press Media Editors' Innovator of the Year Award and a Lee Enterprises' President's Award for the Community Civility Counts initiative.

In an Editor & Publisher article about The Times, the writers specifically cited 2016 as beginning "with a high point for the initiative when the Indiana Senate unanimously approved a resolution commending the group 'for delivering an awareness campaign to remind everyone about the need for civility and treating each other right'." That resolution was authored by Sen. Lonnie Randolph, D-East Chicago, and supported by all 50 Senate members from both political parties.

The following week, the Indiana House of Representatives approved the same resolution authored by Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary.

COMMUNITY CIVILITY COUNTS AWARDS

Presented by Bob Heisse, editor, The Times Media Company

- **Lew Bayer**, National Civility Center, Civility Experts
- **Munster Schools**, Demonstrating Outstanding Citizenship 200 Anti-Bullying contest winner
- **Lighthouse College Preparatory Academy and Steel City Academy**, Civility in the Classroom
- **Cheryl Scott-Fields, Beverly Harbour and Priscilla Brown**, Community Civility Counts

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Presented by Ambassador Dr. Clyde Rivers

- **Margaret Ellis**, Classik Consulting, Gambia
- **Jeff Veley**, Anti-bullying, United States
- **David Martin**, David Martin Ministries, United States
- **Charles Karuku**, Academy of Honor, Kenya
- **Allan Parent**, Next Gen Global TV, Canada
- **Colleen DeMaere**, Next Gen Global TV, Canada
- **Terry Warren**, Next Gen Global TV, United States
- **Donella Pitzl**, Vice Chancellor United Graduate College and Seminary Intl., International Professor, United States
- **Sharon Nesbitt**, Dominion World Outreach Ministries, United States
- **Gladys Loggin**, Founder USA Africa Chamber of Commerce, United States/Nigeria
- **John Armand**, Counsel General of Republic of Haiti
- **Richmond Annan**, Global Consultant and Author, United States/Ghana

CIVILITY HONOR AWARDS

Presented by Chuck Hughes, Dr. Gordon Bradshaw, Bob Heisse, Ambassador Dr. Clyde Rivers

- **Tom Dabertin**
- **The Times Media Company**
- **Ambassador Dr. Clyde Rivers**
- **Sen. Lonnie Randolph**
- **Dr. Gordon Bradshaw**
- **Chuck Hughes**

Pictures from the evening and presentation of International Civility Awards by Dr. Clyde Rivers



Complete set of pictures for the evening at www.LivingSupernaturally.com under the Ministry tab.

Pictures courtesy of Dennis Bigley Monarch Photography West Bend, WI