

2010 Michigan City Human Rights Annual Award Dinner

“What Are Human Rights?”

Friday, September 10, 2010
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**THE MICHIGAN CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
AND THE NEWS-DISPATCH
WELCOME YOU TO THE
2010 ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR DINNER**

“What Are Human Rights?”

Social Hour (6:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

**Mistress of Ceremonies –
Mary Ellen Quinn, Chairperson**

Invocation -

Dinner (6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

Program (7:30 p.m.)

**Introductions -
Mary Ellen Quinn, Chairperson**

**Greetings-
Honorable Mayor Charles Oberlie**

**Presentation of the M.C.H.R. Scholarship Award 2010 Winner, Erika J. Nowatkze–
Lawrence Arness, Esq.**

**Presentation of the Humanitarian of the Year Award for 2009, Lester Radke –
Honorable Mayor Charles Oberlie**

Benediction –

Mayor's Welcome Letter



MICHIGAN CITY

The place is here, the time is now!

Good evening and welcome to the 2010 Human Rights Humanitarian of the Year Dinner. Each year, we gather for a community celebration affirming our commitment to provide and promote equal opportunity for all citizens of Michigan City.

As part of this annual celebration, we recognize and commend the hard work and great service provided by the Michigan City Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Department staff. The Commissioners and staff work tirelessly to enforce our Human Rights ordinance, educate the public, and advocate for tolerant and anti-discriminatory attitudes.

A key focus of our gathering this evening is the public recognition of two individuals: a community leader who has championed equal opportunities for all for many decades of his life; and a young adult who has demonstrated the type of maturity and capabilities that make her a leader amongst her peers.

Rarely are we blessed with a leader such as Lester Radke, our 2010 Humanitarian of the Year. Lester has lived his life as a person others seek out for advice and as an individual who has devoted his life to helping others. His goal may have been simple: seek to make the world a better place for the abused and for people with disabilities; but, Lester's impact on our world has been anything but simple. Lester's leadership has undergirded the efforts of Michiana Resources, March of Dimes, Exchange Club, Dunebrook, American Red Cross, United Way, Open Door Health Center, American Cancer Society and the Humane Society. For this lifetime of service, we remain ever grateful.

The 2010 Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship Award winner, Erika Nowatzke, has proven to be an exemplary leader throughout her high school career. Across a multitude of areas, from music (Pep Band, Jazz Band and Pit Orchestra) to German class, National Honor Society, church activities and many community service leadership positions, Erika has been recognized by many of her teachers and mentors as one of our strongest student leaders in Michigan City.

As we enjoy this evening of great fellowship tonight, express your thanks to the Human Rights Commissioners, Director Ta-Tanisha Clark, Assistant Director Sammie Phillips, and especially to Lester Radke and Erika Nowatzke. Because of the far reaching contributions of these unique and talented individuals, we have much to be thankful for.

Sincerely,

Chuck Oberlie, Mayor
City of Michigan City

CHUCK OBERLIE – MAYOR

City of Michigan City ~ City Hall ~ 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, IN 46360 ~ 219.873.1400 ~ fax 219.873.1515
Web ~ emichigancity.com e-mail ~ mayorchucko@emichigancity.com

Chairperson's Welcome Letter

Honored Guests,

On behalf of the Human Rights Commission and The News-Dispatch, I welcome you to our annual dinner honoring the Michigan City Humanitarian of the Year. We honor an individual who has demonstrated kindness and concern for others within our community, while promoting respect for human dignity through his actions over many years.

Our Humanitarian of the Year for 2009 is Mr. Lester Radke. We present this award to him to thank him for his countless hours volunteering at Dunebrook, Michiana Resources, Open Door Health Center and the American Red Cross just to name a few.

Also we celebrate the promise of the future by awarding the Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship to Erika Jo Nowatzke. Erika graduated from Michigan City High School in June. She is attending Purdue University North Central.

So this evening we celebrate Lester Radke and Erika Nowatzke, and thank them for sharing our mission. Together with the entire Human Rights Commission we ask God to bless them and their families.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Quinn

Chair
Michigan City Human Rights Commission



Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship 2010

Erika Jo Nowatzke

The winner of the Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship-2010 is Ms. Erika Nowatzke. Erika graduated from Michigan City High School in June. She is currently attending Purdue University North Central where she is working towards her degree in Secondary English Education.

Throughout her high school career, Erika was very active in extracurricular activities. She participated in Pep Band, Jazz Band, Math League and the track and volleyball teams. She belonged to the German Club for four years which resulted in the opportunity to spend a month in German through the German American Partnership Program. In her senior year, Erika was inducted into the Honor Society and the Foreign Language Honor Society.

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person. Our nation was founded with our people screaming for them at the top of our lungs. John Locke inspired Thomas Jefferson to write of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The Anti-Federalists vowed not to ratify the Constitution unless a Bill of Rights was added. We even had a civil war over whether or not anything except white males had human rights. This idea of human rights has brought us from being under the bondage of England to being a strong united country today, and, in the process, gone through many revolutions of human rights such as Miranda rights, minority rights, and voting rights for women.

Human rights run so deep in our traditions, laws, and ways of thinking that we often forget about them and take them for granted. When we take a minute to sit down and look at the Bill of Rights we see how easy our nation’s citizens have it in comparison to others who have no concept of human rights. Without the human rights listed in the Bill of Rights, I could have woken up this morning tripping over soldiers being quartered in my house, got overheard while I cursed the military for letting them stay there, and then be dragged off into the woods with no gun to defend myself, searched without a warrant, and found guilty of treason without a trial by jury. But thanks to the Bill of Rights, I can go to my church of choice with my freedom to assemble and thank God for my rights with my freedom of religion.

Michigan City Human Rights Commissioners:

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JoAnn Engquist ~ Commissioner

Nancy Gonzalez ~ Commissioner

James Guerrucci ~ Commissioner

Martin Hernandez ~ Commissioner

Judi Huber ~ Commissioner

Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz ~ Commissioneer

Hezzie Mitchell ~ Treasurer

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Mary Ellen Quinn ~ Chairperson

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Tyra Robinson-Walker ~ Commissioner

Michigan City Human Rights Commission Staff:

Ta-Tanesha D. Clark ~ Executive Director/EEO Officer

Sammie J. Phillips ~ Assistant Director/EEO Investigator

Lawrence W. Arness ~ Staff Attorney

Ron Meer ~ City Council Liaison

Charles Oberlie ~ Mayor City of Michigan City



Humanitarian of the Year 2009



LESTER W. RADKE

In 2004, Mayor Charles Oberlie proclaimed Friday, September 10 to be Lester W. Radke day. So it is significant that today, Friday, September 10, 2010, Mr. Radke receive the Humanitarian of the Year Award.

To use language from the City proclamation:

“Mr. Radke is a leader, a person to whom others look for advice, and a man who has devoted his life to helping others and to making the world a better place for the abused and the physically and mentally handicapped...”

Lester Radke has received the Liberty Bell Award, the Governor’s Voluntary Action Program Award, JC Penney’s Golden Rule Award, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award and the Paul J. Alinsky Excellence Award. Mr. Radke also has an award named for him; the Lester W. Radke Award. The LWR Award is given for outstanding service to the prevention of children abuse in LaPorte County.

Mr. Radke has served as a founding and long time board member of Michiana Resources. Michiana Resources, formerly the Laporte County Sheltered Workshop, is LaPorte County’s rehabilitation program for the disabled. Mr. Radke’s devotion to providing constructive, productive opportunities to individuals with disabilities goes back to the late sixties.

He is a founding and long time board member of the LaPorte County Child Abuse Prevention Council. The council operates the Dunebrook Child Abuse Prevention Center on Johnson Road. Mr. Radke led the Dunebrook board of directors in the process of raising funds to purchase the property Dunebrook currently sits on and later oversaw the remodeling process. Additionally, he picked up and delivered meals to the volunteers working on the building, helped establish a bookkeeping process and helped develop its policies.

In his spare time, Mr. Radke has served on the boards for and volunteered for agencies such as the county’s March of Dimes, United Way, Open Door Health Center, the American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society.

Tonight, the Michigan City Human Rights Commission and The News-Dispatch honor Mr. Lester W. Radke, 2009’s Humanitarian of the Year.



Humanitarian of the Year Past Recipients

<i>Charles Westcott</i>	<i>1981</i>
<i>Maria Elsa Esper</i>	<i>1982</i>
<i>Thomas Hooper</i>	<i>1983</i>
<i>Henry Lange</i>	<i>1984</i>
<i>Dr. Amos Arney</i>	<i>1985</i>
<i>Father Blaney</i>	<i>1986</i>
<i>Mayme Sanders</i>	<i>1987</i>
<i>Russell Allen</i>	<i>1988</i>
<i>Emery Whitlow</i>	<i>1989</i>
<i>Mamie Davis</i>	<i>1990</i>
<i>Emmet Wise</i>	<i>1991</i>
<i>John White</i>	<i>1992</i>
<i>George & Madeline Smrt</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>Juanita Arney</i>	<i>1994</i>
<i>Helen Schuessler</i>	<i>1995*</i>
<i>William Gowin</i>	<i>1996</i>
<i>Pastor Luther Meyer</i>	<i>1997</i>
<i>DeNita Ton</i>	<i>1998</i>
<i>Sylvia Bankoff</i>	<i>1999</i>
<i>Fr. Charles Doyle & Emma Slocum</i>	<i>2000</i>
<i>Ed & Anne Farrell</i>	<i>2001</i>
<i>Norma Gunn</i>	<i>2002</i>
<i>John Fegaras & Fegaras Family</i>	<i>2003</i>
<i>Dorothy Miller & Nancy Bracken</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>Edwin Merrion</i>	<i>2005</i>
<i>Allan Witlow</i>	<i>2006</i>
<i>Dennis Hirsch</i>	<i>2007</i>
<i>Stan Holdcraft</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>Lester Radke</i>	<i>2009</i>

** Special Youth Humanitarian of the Year
Awarded in 1995 to Derald Borton*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

PREAMBLE:

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.



- Article 1:** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
- Article 2:** Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.
- Article 7:** All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.
- Article 18:** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.
- Article 21:** (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
- (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.
- Article 23:** (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
- (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.
- Article 30:** Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains thirty articles. It was adopted on December 10, 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France. It has been translated into at least 375 languages and dialects.

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HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR 2009

AND

Ms. Erika J. Nowatzke

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER 2010

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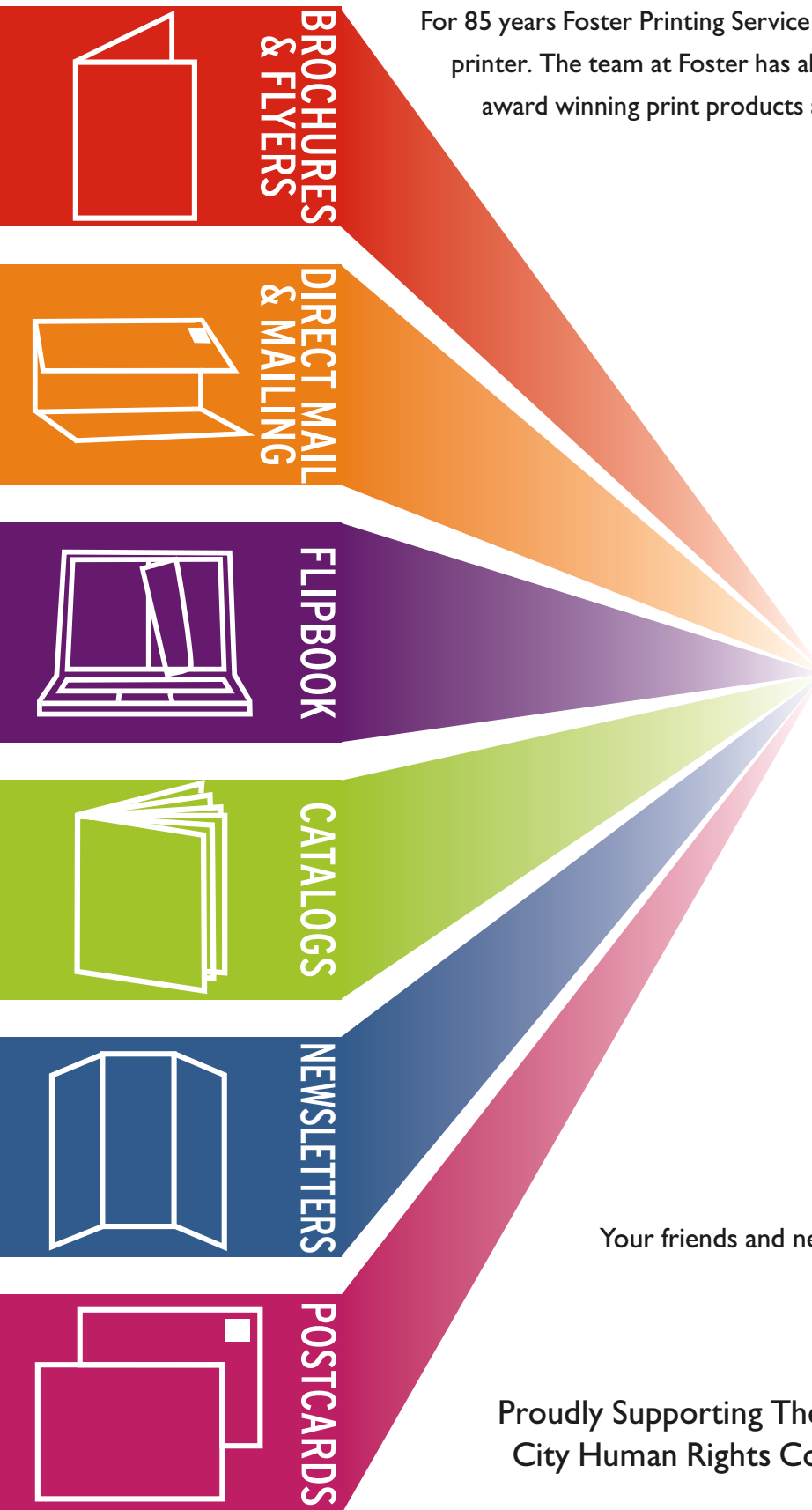
Lester Radke

2009's Humanitarian Of The

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