



PRESS RELEASE
December 9, 2011
St. Louis, MO

Three St. Louis Citizens Honored by Mayor Slay and Rotary Club of St. Louis as Outstanding Examples of Community Service

Eric Greitens, Judge Jimmie Edwards and Rev. Dr. Martin Rafanan to be named Paul Harris Fellows from friendly "Baseball Wagers" between Mayors and Rotary Clubs of St. Louis, Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Dallas

The Rotary Clubs of St. Louis, Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Dallas put a new twist on the traditional "wagers" between baseball cities – charitable donations and community service recognition. The St. Louis Cardinals won the National League Wild Card Playoff, the National League Division Series, and the World Series. Through partnership "wagers" between the competing cities' mayors and Rotary Clubs, Mayor Slay and the Rotary Club of St. Louis won the rights to honor three St. Louis citizens who are outstanding examples of community service. Charitable donations to the Rotary Foundation made by the Rotary Clubs of Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and Dallas have been assigned to the three St. Louis citizens selected by the Rotary Club of St. Louis and Mayor Slay as new Paul Harris Fellows.

Typically, a Paul Harris Fellow is awarded to individuals in recognition of a contribution of \$1,000 or more to the Rotary Foundation. A Paul Harris Fellow receives a commemorative certificate, medallion, and lapel pin. The Rotary Foundation is internationally respected for its humanitarian work including its leading role in the global effort to eradicate polio.

"The citizens of St. Louis are as well known for their commitment to volunteerism as they are for their love of baseball," said Mayor Slay. "The Cardinals' World Series win is a great thing for our City – and it also allows me to honor three individuals who have contributed much to our community."

Mayor Francis Slay of St. Louis will present the awards on January 12, 2012 at the St. Louis Rotary Club meeting. The three new Paul Harris Fellows are:

Eric Greitens, The Mission Continues

Eric Greitens was born and raised in Missouri. As an undergraduate, he studied ethics, philosophy, and public policy at Duke University. He was later selected as a Rhodes and Truman Scholar, earning a master's degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Oxford.

Eric served as a United States Navy SEAL officer. His personal military awards include the Navy Achievement Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star.

After returning from his final deployment to Iraq, Eric donated his combat pay to found The Mission Continues, a non-profit organization that challenges post-9/11 veterans to rebuild a sense of purpose through community service. Eric has been widely honored and recognized as one of the nation's most innovative leaders, winning awards such as the President's Volunteer Service Award, the Social Venture Network Innovation Award and the Major League Baseball and PEOPLE Magazine "All-Stars Among Us" Award.

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Honorable Judge Jimmie M. Edwards, Innovative Concept Academy

Judge Jimmie Edwards was born, raised and educated in St. Louis. He attended St. Louis University earning a B.A followed by a J.D. from the St. Louis University School of Law. His legal experience includes legal advisor for the 22nd circuit court, and as corporate counsel and litigation attorney in the private sector. He now serves as Circuit Judge for the 22nd Circuit Court in St. Louis Missouri and is the Chief Juvenile Court Judge for the city of St. Louis.

Judge Edwards created the Innovative Concept Academy in 2009 in the abandoned Blewett Middle School on Cass Avenue as an alternative school for juvenile offenders. This is in partnership with the Superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools and Mers-Goodwill of St Louis. The Innovative Concept Academy has become a home away from home for hundreds of juveniles who have been expelled from traditional public schools due to serious and disruptive behavioral problems.

Reverend Dr. Martin Rafanan, Gateway 180:: Homelessness Reversed

Martin Rafanan graduated from Christ Seminary-Seminex, was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and received the Dr. of Ministry Degree from the Lutheran School of Theology. Rev. Rafanan served the Lutheran ministry in St. Louis and Berkeley, California. Since 1994, he has been called to lead social service organizations in St. Louis including Missourians for Freedom and Justice, the National Conference for Community and Justice and Gateway180 :: Homeless Reversed.

Rev. Rafanan is Executive Director of Gateway 180 :: Homelessness Reversed, the largest emergency shelter in the state of Missouri for women, children and families, serving 110 residents daily. The organization is one of the best-performing shelters in the nation, placing 900 women and children into supported and permanent housing in the past three years through collaborative efforts with 60 other homeless service organizations in greater St. Louis.

Rotary International has 1.2 million members and 34,000 clubs in over 200 countries. For over 100 years, Rotarians have provided humanitarian service encouraged high ethical standards, and built goodwill and peace.

For information:

Rotary International www.rotary.org

Rotary Club of St. Louis www.rotarystl.org

Gateway180::Homelessness Reversed www.gateway180.org

The Mission Continues www.missioncontinues.org/

Innovative Concept Academy <http://www.slps.org/19621093123648323/site/default.asp>

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