

Community Shares of Wisconsin: September 28: Community Change- Maker Awards

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Madison, WI – On September 28, Community Shares of Wisconsin will honor local leaders and organizations who are advancing social and environmental justice in our community. The annual Community Change-Maker Awards event will take place at Union South and online. The public is invited to attend the event.

Tickets purchased in support of this event help Community Shares award six nonprofits \$1,000 each. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$50.

To purchase tickets, visit communityshares.com.

Change-Maker Award Winners

Marin (Mark) Denning, nominated by **Wisconsin Conservation Voices** – Winner of the Liesl Blockstein Community Leadership Award

Marin Webster Denning, born on the Menominee reservation, is a member of the Sturgeon Clan and is enrolled in the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin. Marin served for 16 years as the Executive Director of Southeastern Oneida Tribal Services, a full-spectrum social service provider for Oneida tribal members. He is a nationally recognized leading educator, lecturer, and curriculum specialist in American Indian History and culture. Marin is currently a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is a traditional dancer, pow wow emcee, community volunteer, and Water Protector.

Anamaria Peralta, nominated by **Nuestro Mundo** – Winner of the Sally Sunde

Family Advocate Award

Anamaria Peralta serves as the Bilingual Resource Specialist at Nuestro Mundo Community School and has held this role in the Madison Metropolitan School District for 12 years. Anamaria works to facilitate greater family and parent involvement in the school through programming like classes, training sessions, celebrations, and the school's food pantry. This work, and her commitment to being a cultural liaison for the families of Nuestro Mundo, are crucial to student success.

Denise Jess, nominated by **Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired** – Winner of the Linda Sundberg Civil Rights Defender Award

In her role as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired, Denise Jess applies her leadership expertise and lived experience to promote the independence, dignity, and empowerment of Wisconsinites living with vision loss. Denise's impact ranges widely from transportation equity to voting rights and healthcare access. Her work is guided by the belief that in a truly inclusive society, people with disabilities — including vision loss — must be full participants in conversations affecting their lives.

CSW Collaboration Award Winners

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, and **Wisconsin Conservation Voices**, for fighting for fair maps in the state of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition began in 2016 when a number of nonpartisan good government organizations came together to find new ways to engage and affect public policy.

In recent years, under the leadership of Carlene Bechen, the coalition has built and maintained a grassroots activist network dedicated to creating fair maps, which has engaged in many mobilization efforts around the state.

The long-term goal of the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition is to create a legislative fix to a very partisan problem: severely gerrymandered legislative districts. The coalition works to connect the dots of what is or is not happening with gerrymandered districts and to develop a nonpartisan process for drawing legislative districts to effectively put an end to gerrymandering.

CSW Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

Julie Andersen for her 40 years of work in social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.

Julie's career in nonprofit work and philanthropy has encompassed community organizing, international development, domestic violence prevention, and the intersection of inner healing with systemic change. She worked with youth in North Carolina and Washington, DC, women in Kenya, and marginalized neighborhoods in Des Moines.

She served as Executive Director, Interim ED, and in other important roles in many organizations within the Community Shares of Wisconsin network including Working Capital for Community Needs (WCCN), Wisconsin Apprentice Organizers Project, UNIDOS Against Domestic Violence, and End Abuse. She currently works as a professional life coach and co-leader at CORE.

Photos and extended bios of award winners are available upon request.

The Community Change-Maker Awards event is generously sponsored by these organizations.

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Since 1971, Community Shares of Wisconsin and its members have worked together

to advance social justice and protect the environment in Wisconsin. Together they envision a future where people come together to ensure every member of our community is safe, healthy, and able to thrive.