



Department of Civil Rights

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Affirmative Action Division
Disability Rights and Services Program
Equal Opportunities Division
Racial Equity and Social Justice

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Reverend Wright Human Rights Award Recipient

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The 29th Annual Reverend James C. Wright Human Rights Award goes to Dr. Corinda Rainey-Moore who exemplifies the very spirit, compassion, and commitment to justice that the Reverend James C. Wright Human Rights Award was created to honor. This award will be presented to Dr. Rainey-Moore at the City Common Council meeting on September 22, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

Throughout her career and personal life, Dr. Corinda Rainey-Moore has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to civil and human rights, equity, dignity, and service to underserved communities throughout Madison and Dane County. Her work reflects not only advocacy in words, but through consistent action, leadership, relationship-building, and transformational community impact.

For more than three decades, Dr. Rainey-Moore has devoted her life to improving the lives of individuals and families who have historically been marginalized and underserved. Her leadership has spanned healthcare, mental health, racial equity, education, community engagement, violence prevention, and public service. Whether serving in nonprofit leadership, healthcare systems, grassroots initiatives, or city commissions, she has continuously centered the humanity, dignity, and voices of the people most impacted by inequities.

As Community Engagement Manager for UnityPoint Health–Meriter, Dr. Rainey-Moore has led efforts focused on health equity, community investment, and racial justice. She has consistently advocated for equitable distribution of resources and increased investment in communities of color. In public interviews and community forums, she has emphasized the importance of building authentic, sustainable relationships with communities rather than simply providing temporary solutions. Her philosophy is grounded in listening to residents, valuing lived experience, and ensuring communities have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Dr. Rainey-Moore's commitment to civil and human rights was also reflected in her longstanding leadership within the City of Madison's Equal Opportunities Commission, where she served as President. In this role, she helped advance conversations and initiatives focused on equity, discrimination, inclusion, and human dignity.

As a mental health professional for over 25 years, Dr. Rainey-Moore broke barriers as the first African American to lead multiple community support programs serving adults with severe and persistent mental illness in Dane County. Her work consistently emphasized peer support, empowerment, and compassionate care for individuals often overlooked by traditional systems. She has dedicated her career to reducing stigma, increasing access to care, and treating every individual with dignity and respect.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Dr. Rainey-Moore has lived her values through tireless volunteerism and community leadership. She has served on numerous boards and coalitions including Safe Communities, the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, the Vera Court/Bridge Lake Point

Neighborhood Center, NAMI Dane County, Madison Network of Black Professionals, Urban League of Greater Madison, United Way of Dane County Board, United Way of Dane County Health CST, Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, and many others. Her leadership has focused on creating safer, healthier, and more equitable communities while mentoring emerging leaders and advocating for those whose voices are too often unheard.

Dr. Rainey-Moore has also been a powerful advocate for racial equity and civic inclusion. During the U.S. Census efforts, she worked to educate and mobilize historically undercounted communities, particularly African Americans, helping ensure residents understood the importance of representation and participation. She has consistently used her platform to address racism as a public health crisis and to advocate for systemic change across healthcare, education, and government institutions.

What distinguishes Dr. Rainey-Moore is not only the breadth of her leadership, but the consistency with which she conducts her daily life. She is widely recognized as someone who leads with compassion, humility, authenticity, and integrity. Community members know her as a person who shows up, listens, builds bridges, and advocates fiercely for fairness and justice. Her dedication to service began in her youth and has remained a defining characteristic throughout her life.

Dr. Rainey-Moore's impact has been recognized through numerous honors including the Athena Award, YWCA Woman of Distinction, Madison365 Most Influential African Americans in Wisconsin, the Urban League Presidential Award, and multiple advocacy and leadership recognitions. Yet despite these accolades, she continues to lead with grace and a deep commitment to collective community wellbeing rather than personal recognition.

The Reverend James C. Wright Human Rights Award recognizes individuals who embody compassion, justice, dignity, and a lifelong commitment to human rights. Dr. Corinda Rainey-Moore exemplifies these values every day through her leadership, service, advocacy, and unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others. Her work has strengthened communities, amplified marginalized voices, advanced equity, and inspired countless individuals throughout Madison and Dane County.

The Reverend James C. Wright Human Rights Award honors the late Reverend James C. Wright, a civil rights pioneer in Madison. During the 1960s, he worked on the adoption of the City of Madison's Equal Opportunities Ordinance and served as Executive Director of the Equal Opportunities Commission from its inception in 1968 until his retirement in 1992. Reverend Wright was born in Camden, South Carolina.

The award is given to an individual who best exemplifies Reverend Wright's dedication and compassion for civil and human rights and who conducts their daily life consistent with these values.

Prior recipients of the award include: Jacqueline Wright, 1996; Dr. Richard H. Harris, 1997; Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, 1998; Helen Vukelich, 1999; Anthony "Nino" Amato, 2000; John Noreika, Sr., 2001; Dr. John Y. Odom, 2002; Peter Muñoz, 2003; Earnestine Moss, 2004; Jonathan "Jon" Gramling, 2005; Agnes Gutierrez Cammer, 2006; Jeffery Erlanger, 2007; Professor Richard Davis, 2008; Darlene Hancock, 2009; Alfonso Studesville, 2010; Richard V. Brown, Sr., 2011; Colleen Butler, 2012; Charlestine Daniel, 2013; Dr. Floyd Rose, 2014; Anthony Timmons, 2015; Annette Miller, 2016; Brandi Grayson, 2019; Tamora Fleming, 2020; Carmella Harris, 2021; Wayne Strong, 2022; Emanuel Scarbrough, 2023; Reverend Marcus Allen, Sr., 2024 and Edward (Ed) L. Murray, Jr.

For more information, see: www.cityofmadison.com/civil-rights/about/awards/reverend-james-c-wright-award