



The **Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Leadership & Community Change** recognizes the contributions of individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving the quality of life in the community. The Spartanburg County Foundation seeks nominees who develop innovative solutions to tackle critical community issues. The recipients seize opportunities to make a difference by offering compassionate leadership, commitment and personal skills, with the ultimate goal of creating a better and brighter tomorrow.

In 2018, The Spartanburg County Foundation celebrates 75 years of impacting lives. Such a milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on decades of successful community partnerships, a rich tradition of innovation, and ongoing philanthropic efforts that impact lives. In keeping with this spirit, the 2018 Mary L. Thomas Award will focus on celebrating the next generation of philanthropists, young people who are committed to improving the community around them. These individuals, ages 12-30 years old, give their time and resources to nonprofit organizations, develop charitable programs, and lead efforts to positively change the lives of others.

The recipient will receive an award at the Foundation's Annual Meeting and will be honored with a \$5,000 grant to be given to a charity selected by the recipient and the Foundation.

**NOMINATIONS DUE  
JANUARY 19, 2018,  
BY 5:00 PM**

## HISTORY OF THE AWARD

In 2006, Mary L. Thomas, chief operating officer of The Spartanburg County Foundation, was honored by the Council on Foundations with the Robert W. Scrivner Award for Creative Grantmaking. This prestigious award is a memorial to the creative legacy left to the field of philanthropy by Robert W. Scrivner, long-time director of the Rockefeller Family Fund. Mary was selected because she best exemplified the imagination, creativity and optimism that were the hallmarks of Scrivner's distinguished career. She had the courage to lead The Spartanburg County Foundation into a period of innovation and grassroots leadership that even today continues to change the fabric of the greater Spartanburg County community and beyond.

With this award came a \$10,000 prize. In the spirit of the award, Mary decided to use the \$10,000 as seed money to establish the Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Leadership and Community Change Fund and start a similar recognition program in Spartanburg. Through the support of numerous individuals and the Spartanburg community, Mary's initial gift has continued to multiply, surpassing the Fund's original goal of \$100,000. The Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Leadership and Community Change honors individuals who, like Mary, are community leaders, innovators and contributors to community change by addressing critical issues throughout Spartanburg County.

### PAST WINNERS

<b>2017</b> Dr. Gloria Close	<b>2011</b> Jim Rutledge
<b>2016</b> Marlanda Dekine & Scott Neely	<b>2010</b> Kelley Ezell
<b>2015</b> Victor Durrah, Jr.	<b>2009</b> Benjamin Wright
<b>2013</b> Dr. Craig Burnette	<b>2008</b> Teresa Loving
<b>2012</b> Wanda Cheeks	<b>2007</b> Mary Ann Deku

*\* Not awarded in 2014*



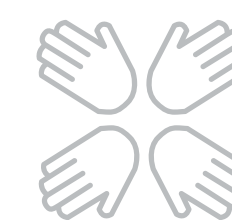
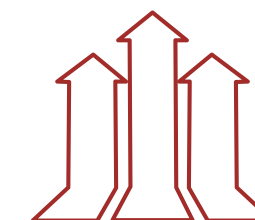
THE SPARTANBURG COUNTY FOUNDATION  
*Your Community Foundation*

424 East Kennedy Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302 Phone: 864-582-0138 Fax: 864-573-5378

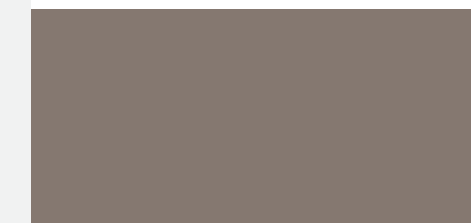
[www.spcf.org](http://www.spcf.org)



**MARY L. THOMAS**  
award for civic leadership & community change



## 2018 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION



### INNOVATION

Identifying innovative solutions and implementing new ideas that successfully address critical issues facing the Spartanburg community



### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT

Adding value, providing leadership, and contributing to positive change in the Spartanburg community



### CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Investing time and engaging others to contribute to positive community growth and transformation

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



Born between  
01/19/88 & 01/19/06



- Nominees must be residents of Spartanburg County, South Carolina.
- Nominees must be ages 12-30 years old. NOTE: Nominees should fall within this range on the date nominations are due (January 19, 2018, by 5:00 pm).
- Nominees must be in good standing ethically, possess a strong sense of integrity and good character.
- The efforts of nominees must be documented during the past 12 months, illustrating the impact made on the Spartanburg community – whether through direct service, philanthropy or drawing attention to a community need.
- The nominee's project may have been developed in one or more of the following three areas: 1) Inside or outside of the classroom; 2) In partnership with a nonprofit organization or religious institution; 3) Through an initiative or organization started on his/her own or with friends. If the nominee's project does not align with at least one of the three areas, please explain why the nominee should be considered for the award.
- If the nominee is connected to a Spartanburg County nonprofit organization through paid employment, the individual must demonstrate community impact beyond the scope of his or her job.

*Only individuals are eligible for nomination. Please do not submit multiple nominations. All of the above eligibility requirements must be met at the time of nomination. Incomplete nomination letters will not be reviewed or accepted.*

## HOW TO NOMINATE

Log on to [www.spcf.org](http://www.spcf.org) to complete a nomination form online. You will be asked to complete a narrative that answers the following questions:

### 1. Innovation:

Please provide at least two examples of how the nominee innovatively addressed critical issues facing Spartanburg County during the last 12 months. Describe the goals, process, budget (if relevant), other people involved (adult leaders, mentors, advisors, etc.), and the time and effort the individual gave toward addressing the issue(s).

### 2. Community Leadership and Impact:

How did the nominee provide leadership in addressing positive community change in the last 12 months? Please describe the geographic scope of the project, the impact that has already been achieved, and the long-term projected impact of the nominee's work. Will the impact be ongoing, and has the nominee considered next steps? This needs to be a quantifiable and substantial impact. Please answer these questions within the context of two specific examples.

### 3. Civic Participation and Community Engagement:

Civic engagement is defined as individuals working together to make a difference in the community. Provide two examples of how this nominee was able to engage the community to solve a specific issue. In describing the nominee's work, please note the challenges he/she faced and how he/she addressed those challenges to move the project forward. Additionally, share how the nominee has participated in other community engagement opportunities over the past 12 months.

\* At the time of submission, please also attach three letters of reference which speak of the nominee's work in the community.

**The deadline for nominations is January 19, 2018, by 5:00 pm.** The award recipient will be notified by February 12, 2018, so they may plan to attend the Foundation's Annual Meeting in the spring.

**Please submit nominations to The Spartanburg County Foundation by logging on to our website:**

**[www.spcf.org](http://www.spcf.org)**