

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 Spartanburg County. The recipients of this award are those who develop innovative solutions to tackle critical community issues and seize opportunities to make a difference by offering compassionate leadership, commitment, and an ultimate goal of creating a better and brighter tomorrow.

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2027 Mary L. Thomas Award for Civic Leadership and Community Change**. This award annually honors individuals who, with perseverance and commitment, have worked to improve the quality of life in our community. The Foundation is seeking nominees who have successfully engaged all segments of the community to develop innovative solutions in tackling issues facing the people of Spartanburg County.

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

DECEMBER 17, 2026

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. Through the support of the Foundation's Trustees and numerous individuals, the fund has grown to over $100,000 and supports the annual recognition of a community leader, who, like Mary, is an innovative leader of change, addressing critical issues throughout Spartanburg County.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2007 Mary Ann Deku
2008 Teresa Loving
2009 Benjamin Wright
2010 Kelley Ezell
2011 Jim Rutledge
2012 Wanda Cheeks
2013 Dr. Craig Burnette
2015 Victor Durrah, Jr.
2016 Marlanda Dekine & Scott Neely
2017 Dr. Gloria Close
2018 Adom Appiah
2019 Loreta Dylgjeri
2020 Chip Walters
2022 Ruth Davis
2023 Melissa France
2024 Dr. Marquice Clark
2025 Nannie Jefferies
2026 Dr. Nikki Honeycutt

** Not awarded in 2014 or 2021*

MARY L. THOMAS
Award for Civic Leadership & Community Change
2027 mt

2027 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Spartanburg County Foundation

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

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 effectively engaging multiple segments of the community in problem solving to contribute to positive community growth and transformation

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Nominees must be residents of Spartanburg County, South Carolina.
- 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.
- The nominee has documented evidence of making a broad impact in the Spartanburg community through one or more innovative projects, thereby improving the quality of life for its residents.
- 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.
- Nominees are not typically in the limelight but perform valuable public service at the community level.

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TODAY!

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 applications will not be reviewed or accepted.

HOW TO NOMINATE

*Log onto **www.spcf.org** for full details and the link to the nomination submission portal. There you will be asked to complete a narrative addressing the following three key areas of impact for your nominee. You are also asked to submit three letters of recommendation for your nominee.*

*All nominations should highlight the following key areas of impact noted **within the last 12 months**:*

1. **Innovation:** What new ideas did the person bring to fruition to address one or more of the critical community issues facing Spartanburg County?
2. **Community Leadership and Impact:** How did the nominee provide leadership and act as an agent for community change. 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.
3. **Civic Participation and Community Engagement:** Civic engagement is defined as individuals working together to make a difference in the community. How has this person engaged a broad segment of the community to create positive change during the past 12 months? Please provide an example that demonstrate the person's ability to mobilize and engage diverse community members, including the number of people impacted, key outcomes achieved, and any challenges overcome.

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

THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS DECEMBER 17, 2026.

The award recipient will be notified early in 2027 so they may plan to attend the Foundation's Annual Meeting, Tuesday, March 16, 2027 for the award presentation.

Please submit nominations to The Spartanburg County Foundation by visiting the link below:
bit.ly/MLTdetails