

2022 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Email completed form to sarah.encinias@normanok.gov, or print and mail completed form to: Norman Human Rights Commission, City of Norman, PO Box 370, Norman, OK 73070. Nominations are due by October 23, 2022.

1. Person Being Nominated:

Name: Norman Care-A -Vans

Address: _____

Phone: 405-532-6436 Email: outreach@normancareavans.org

2. List volunteer, services, organizations, professional affiliations (if any) and describe how this person has demonstrated outstanding effort, achievement and/or leadership in the promotion of human rights and equality (such as successes, results, impact, personal risks taken, time expended, sacrifices made, years of service, inspiration or motivation given, cooperation fostered, organizations or programs created, example set and innovations undertaken):

(Attach additional pages if needed.)

As a life long resident of Norman, Oklahoma, I have never seen the homeless population as visible and as large as it is today. I know the homelessness is a multi-faceted issue and is not easy to fix. In Norman, like in many communities that face the same issue, there are differing opinions on how to help. These differing opinions often turn political. The sad part is as these politics are being sorted out there are homeless individuals who are going without basic human needs and are in unsafe situations. Norman-Care-A-Vans, is a community organization that has a direct hands on approach to helping Norman's homeless, by providing resources to help the homeless and other vulnerable Norman citizens stay healthy and safe.

The resources and support that Norman Care-A-Vans provide is hard to quantify, as it has a rippling effect on the citizens of Norman. Not only do they provide rides to medical appointments for citizens who would have a difficult time getting to their doctors, and deliver hot meals to the homeless, they connect many vulnerable citizens with other resource information and organizations such as Red Dirt Collective, Food and Shelter for Friends and Out of Harms Way. Norman Care-A-Vans advocate for the Homeless of Norman. Norman Care-A-Vans and their staff have worked diligently to be a voice at City Council meetings and other venues including staging a sit in at City Hall to demonstrate the need for a solution to the issue of Homelessness in Norman.

Although the above mentioned activities are wonderful, it is the actions of the Norman Care-A-Vans staff during the removal of the homeless camps and during the unprecedented cold weather we have experienced in the last year that is why I am nominating them. During the removal of the homeless camps, Norman Care-A-Vans were there, on site with the homeless population helping them pack up their things and move to a safe spot. Providing food, water and trash bags, as well as emotional support for people who were being removed from what was their space. The actions of the Norman-Care-A-Vans team, helped this go more smoothly and prevented arrests and violence. During the unprecedented cold weather, we have had, while we were warm at home, the Norman Care-A-Vans team were out in the cold providing blankets, sleeping bags, tents and tarps to the homeless. When it got to be so cold, that survival was an issue, they were driving around finding the homeless and taking them to shelters and donated hotel rooms.

The time spent and risks to personal safety from the Norman-Care-A Vans team is unmeasurable, and done all in the name of helping the most vulnerable population in Norman. I can't think of a more basic human right than shelter. This is why I would like to nominate the Norman-Care-A -Vans team for 2022 Human Rights Award. a

3. Person completing form:

Name: Laura Eyster