

View results

Respondent

7

Anonymous

107:51

Time to complete

## Nominee Details

1. Name of Nominee \*

Ray Hemachandra

2. Name (as you wish it to appear on award) \*

Ray Hemachandra

3. Home Address \*

907 Cranbrook Dr.

4. City \*

Asheville

5. Zip Code \*

28704

6. Phone Number \*

360-393-1361

7. Email Address \*

rayhemachandra@gmail.com

## Listing of Qualifications

8. Please provide a brief description (maximum 300 words) of the qualifications of the nominee for this award. Give specific information about the nominee's activities in improving the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including examples of significant contributions and leadership.

Please include the following:

- List nominee's advocacy experience
- Areas of strength/experience/achievements in the field of intellectual or other developmental disabilities.
- List nominee's volunteer experience

\*

Ray is a trailblazing change agent. He accomplishes advocacy by reflection, inspiration, and transformation. His accomplishments and tireless commitment are too numerous to capture. Ray has served on over 15 Boards and Committees throughout NC advocating for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities including: Tzedek Social Justice Fund, VAYA Health Consumer and Family Advisory Council, Camino Research Institute, He has presented at Appalachian State, Western Carolina, and UNCA on Inclusion and Diversity. Ray's advocacy has been recognized by state leaders including Kody Kinsley, Secretary of NCDHHS who noted, "you take the cake...thank you for your thought leadership and gracious heart." Ray has participated in various panel discussions at the invitation of the Biden Administration and has been invited to the White House. Ray's advocacy is in his local community, throughout NC, and nationally recognized. Ray does not turn down an opportunity to help bring issues to the forefront - diversity, equity, and inclusion were topics he discussed before national attention was drawn to these issues.

## Supporting Information

Identify **three (3) individuals** who have knowledge of the efforts of the nominee.

NOTE: It is encouraged that individuals submit a short statement (maximum 300 words) in support of the nominee. Statements should include specific examples of work the nominee has done to influence positive change in the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

9. **Individual 1** - Please provide the following information:

- Full Name
- City
- Zip
- Phone, and
- Email Address

*Please see next question for short statement submission.*

\*

Greta Byrd, 305 Hillside St., Asheville, NC 28801  
Phone: (828) 407-3486  
Email: gretal.byrd@gmail.com

10. **Individual 1** - Please provide a short supporting statement of why this nominee should be the recipient of the NC Leadership Achievement Award.

*If sending an attachment via email, please write "Sending supporting documents via email" in the text box. Please submit your supporting documents by July 10, 2024 to [awards@nccdd.org](mailto:awards@nccdd.org), and include the name of the Award and Nominee in the Subject Line (Example: Leadership Award Documents - John Doe) \**

Ray's advocacy stems from his experience as a parent to a young adult child with Autism. Ray gives of his time and skills to organizations while at the same time being a single parent to Nicholas. In my 30 year career in Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, Ray stands out as someone who identifies a challenges, brings people together, and advocates for a solution. His selflessness sets him apart. He understands complex issues and seeks to make sure that all stakeholders are at the table. He embodies the change that he seeks to see in the world. His genuineness and compassion are guiding principles but his vast knowledge and grasp of complexities combined with his experience as a parent enables him to identify solutions instead of stalemates.

Ray has been recognized as a leader in his community, called upon for his input by the Biden Administration, is sought out as a speaker at Universities. He never says no! He says how can I help.

11. **Individual 2** - Please provide the following information:

- Full Name
- City
- Zip
- Phone, and
- Email Address

*Please see next question for short statement submission.*

\*

Duncan Reid  
Arc of NC- 30-D Garfield St. Asheville, NC 28803  
(828) 254-4771  
dreid@arcnc.org

12. **Individual 2** - Please provide a short supporting statement of why this nominee should be the recipient of the NC Leadership Achievement Award.

*If sending an attachment via email, please write "Sending supporting documents via email" in the text box. Please submit your supporting documents by July 10, 2024 to [awards@nccdd.org](mailto:awards@nccdd.org) and include the name of the Award and Nominee in the Subject Line (Example: Leadership Award Documents - John Doe)*

\*

This will be sent in separately.

13. **Individual 3** - Please provide the following information:

- Full Name
- City
- Zip
- Phone, and
- Email Address

*Please see next question for short statement submission. \**

Linda McDaniel, Executive Director  
Arc of Buncombe County  
50 S. French Broad  
Asheville, NC 28801  
(828) 253-1255  
linda@arcofbc.org

14. **Individual 3** - Please provide a short supporting statement of why this nominee should be the recipient of the NC Leadership Achievement Award.

*If sending an attachment via email, please write "Sending supporting documents via email" in the text box. Please submit your supporting documents by July 10, 2024 to [awards@nccdd.org](mailto:awards@nccdd.org), and include the name of the Award and Nominee in the Subject Line (Example: Leadership Award Documents - John Doe) \**

This information will be sent in separately.

## Personal References

Identify three (3) individuals as personal references who may be contacted to help evaluate the qualifications of the nominee.

15. **Individual 1** - Please provide the following information:

- Full Name
- Phone
- Email Address

\*

Heather Gray  
heather.gray@gmail.com

16. **Individual 2** - Please provide the following information:

- Full Name
- Phone
- Email Address

\*

Catherine Faherty  
caterina.faherty@gmail.com

17. **Individual 3** - Please provide the following information:

- Full Name
- Phone
- Email Address

\*

Joanne Moss  
joannemoss@charter.net

### Nominator Information

18. Full Name \*

Greta Byrd

19. Title/Relationship to the nominee \*

Friend, Circle Member for Ray's son, Nicholas, (Ray was a board member at Liberty Corner when I was Executive Director).

20. Email \*

gretal.byrd@gmail.com

21. Organization (if applicable):

22. Street Address \*

305 Hillside St.

23. City \*

Asheville

24. Zip Code \*

28801

25. Phone Number \*

828407-3486

26. Email Address \*

gretal.byrd@gmail.com

27.

I've read and followed the submission guidelines for my application to be considered for the 2024 Advocacy and Leadership Awards. I understand my application will not be considered if the following documents are not completed or submitted to NCCDD by July 10, 2024.

- Section 1: Completed Nominee Information
- Section 2: Completed with Listing of Qualifications
- Section 3: Completed with Short Statements of Support
- Section 4: Completed Personal References
- Submitted ON OR PRIOR TO, Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

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- Section 1: Completed Nominee Information
- Section 2: Completed 'Listing of Qualifications'
- Section 3: Completed 'Short Statements of Support' (emailed to [awards@nccdd.org](mailto:awards@nccdd.org))
- Section 4: Completed Personal References
- Submitted on or Prior to Wednesday, July 10, 2024