



The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

NEWS RELEASE

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Late Moses Walker to be Honored by Rotary Club with Red Rose Citation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 7, 2021

KALAMAZOO, Mich.— The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo has announced that the 2021 Red Rose Citation will be presented to the family of the late Moses Walker in honor of his legacy as a community leader of uncommon vision and philanthropy.

Walker's life exemplified community-focused leadership spanning from his early years, devoting his attention to the residents of the Northside of Kalamazoo as Executive Director of the Douglass Community Association from 1968-1978 and continuing to lend his insights and skills to the association for the rest of his life including mentoring the staff and clients to ensure access to resources for education and employment. He served on the board of Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health, and Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo.

Walker's professional career was spent at Borgess Hospital where he served as Executive Director and Chief Operations Officer of the Mental Health Center, Chief Executive Officer of the DeLano Clinic, Vice President of Behavioral Medicine, and Vice President of Community Relations.

Despite a busy professional life, Walker also devoted much of his personal life to the betterment of his community. He helped to create the Family Health Center to provide access to healthcare beyond the confines of established hospitals. Walker served this critical community resource for fifty years and his devotion and leadership were honored by the naming of the headquarters building the Moses L. Walker Building in 2017.

Walker served on the City of Kalamazoo commission for four years and was also on the Kalamazoo Board of Education. Long before serving as a commissioner or on the school board, Walker was a civic leader on the front lines of social justice work in Kalamazoo from the 1960s onward, working on housing issues, access to healthcare, employment for African-American teachers in the public schools, and employment opportunities elsewhere.

Walker was willing and able to work within and outside of the formal societal structures to serve his community. Additional organizations Walker contributed his time to include the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce, Northside Association for Educational Advancement Scholarship Committee, Kalamazoo Consultation Center, and the Greater Kalamazoo United Way.

The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo has been awarding the Red Rose Citation to individuals who exemplify its "Service above self" philosophy since 1945.

About the Rotary Club

For more than 110 years, the Rotary Club has bridged cultures and connected continents to champion peace, fight illiteracy and poverty, promote clean water and sanitation, and fight disease. Established on Dec. 29, 1914, the Kalamazoo Rotary Club now includes more than 100 men and women making professional contacts and lifelong friendships. Rotary is a global network of more than 1.2 million business and professional leaders in more than 35,000 Rotary clubs worldwide. Visit kalamazoorary.org or rotary.org.

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