2013 NBDA AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) is proud to announce that Nominations will now be accepted for the 2013 NBDA Awards. The nominations must be made by chapter officers, community organizations, or other individuals who display active, continued support of the NBDA objectives as described in Article 11 of the NBDA By-Laws as follows:

“Contribute to the Black Deaf community through personal involvement, leadership, volunteerism, civic awareness/responsibility, and advocacy; the promotion of Black Deaf awareness through emphasis on the positive aspects on our culture, heritage and accomplishments; the open and personal achievements in education and economic opportunities and general enhancement of living standards of Black Deaf people.”

To receive an NBDA Award, an individual and/or organization must be nominated for their achievements/contributions in areas including, but not limited to: technology, research, invention, social services, politics, economic, educational opportunities, advocacy, and more that impact the Black Deaf community. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Awards Committee Chair at ExternalRelations@nbda.org

The Awards Committee highly requires your cooperation to encourage members of the community to consider carefully their nominations. Self-nominations will not be accepted nor considered. Enclosed you will find several descriptions of the Awards and nomination applications for the following:

Linwood Smith Humanitarian Award
Andrew Foster Humanitarian Award
Bronze Hands Award
Advocate of the Year Award

The deadline to forward the nomination submissions to the Awards Committee Chair at ExternalRelations@nbda.org by May 31, 2013.

Yours in Advocacy,
Kari Cooke
Awards Committee Chairperson
The Linwood Smith Humanitarian

This Distinguished Award is made for an NBDA Member who has demonstrated their active support of NBDA and the objectives of NBDA as described in Article 11 of the NBDA By-Laws.

Background
Linwood D. Smith was many things to the Black Deaf community. He can be described as a humanitarian, a poet, an educator, a community activist, an advocate for those with mental illness, or simply as a friend of Deaf people who just happened to be Deaf, Gifted, and Black. Linwood Smith was a Black Deaf advocate long before the emergence of National Black Deaf Advocates as an organization. Before becoming one of the founders of NBDA, he was an active member of the Black Deaf Community, and made invaluable contributions of his time, energy, talents, skills, and personal funds to the concepts of advocacy at a time when NBDA was just an idea. Linwood Smith was a Black Deaf person who dared to dream, he aspired to inspire others to make a difference by initiating and participating in the positive actions needed to address those needs.

Nomination Requirements
Linwood Smith had a special relationship with NBDA, and the supported the need for valid Black Deaf role models. This award is a memorial to Linwood Smith, as well as a reminder of where we were yesterday, an awareness of where we are today, and an inspiration to dream and aspire for a better tomorrow.

The Linwood Smith Humanitarian Awards Nomination Submission Requires:

A. Name of the BDA Member being nominated

B. Elaborate the background information on the person’s accomplishments for a NBDA Chapter

C. Describe why you feel this member should receive the Linwood Smith Humanitarian Award

This nomination must be typed and confirmed by the local NBDA chapter president and at least two other chapter officers.
**The Andrew Foster Humanitarian Award**

*This Distinguished Award can be given for either an individual achievement, or for group/organization efforts for the Black Deaf Community. Recipients need not be members of NBDA, nor do they need to be Black. However, they should have humanitarian accomplishments in working for the Deaf in the USA or Worldwide.*

**Background**

Andrew J. Foster was an active, and very important, member of the Deaf community. He was the first Black person to graduate from Gallaudet University, and he devoted his life to making the world better for thousands of black deaf people. It is because of him that so many students from Africa have been educated, and many have gone on to attend Gallaudet University.

Andrew Foster was a teacher, a Christian missionary, and a tireless fighter for human rights. As a result of Foster’s work, he was the founder of schools for deaf children in Africa. Andrew Foster set up his first school in Africa for deaf children with 12 students, then the school grew quickly and after five years the school spread to 12 more African countries. He accomplished for Deaf Africans the same rights that hearing Africans have – employment, marriage, and the right to be respected. Hundreds of Deaf Africans have a better life because of the dream and determination of this dedicated Deaf American.

**Nomination Requirements**

This award is a memorial to Andrew Foster as well as a way to recognize the accomplishments of members of the Deaf Community who have made similar humanitarian advancements for Deaf people in America or Worldwide.

**The Andrew Foster Humanitarian Awards Nomination Submission Requires:**

A. Name of the individual or organization being nominated

B. Elaborate the background information on the person/organization’s accomplishments for the Deaf people in America or Globally

C. Describe why you feel this person/organization should receive the Andrew Foster Humanitarian Award

**This nomination must be typed, and must be confirmed by at least two other nominators (for a total of three people making the nomination).**
The Bronze Hands Award

This Distinguished Award is given to an individual who is a role model in the Black Deaf Community, and has made an achievement in the grassroots advocacy or their professional endeavors (awards will not be given out to individuals with a drug conviction or felony record)

Nomination Requirements

This award is given to a Black deaf individual who possess the characteristics of:

1) A Black Deaf role model, who can be looked up to by both young people and adults

2) Achievement or recognition in their area, such as:

   a. Advocacy
   b. Grassroots volunteerism
   c. Professional accomplishments
   d. Active community leadership
   e. Scholarship & excellence
   f. Dedication to serving Black community and/or Deaf community
   g. Innovative program implementations
   h. Sportsmanship
   i. Artistic contributions in any form
   j. Religious involvement
   k. Political involvement
   l. Social Services, i.e. youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities, etc.

The Bronze Hands Award Nomination Submission Requires:

A. Name of the individual being nominated

B. Elaborate the background information on the person’s accomplishments

C. Describe why you feel this person is a role model and should receive the Bronze Hands Award

This nomination must be typed, and must be confirmed by at least two other nominators (for a total of three people making the nomination).
The Advocate of Year Award
This Special Award is designed to recognize our unsung heroes and heroines, the people who are crucial in keeping NBDA thriving in the area of advocacy: its members and chapters.

Nomination Requirements
NBDA is proud to be an organization that has accomplished a lot in advocacy for Black Deaf Americans. However, none of these accomplishments would have happened without the people who are typically overlooked when praises are being sung, and normally do not get any gratitude, or encouragement for their efforts.

This has been rectified with the Advocate of the Year Award, which goes to a NBDA Chapter or Member who has been accomplished in the area of advocacy.

The Advocate of the Year Nomination Submission Requires:

A. Name of the BDA Chapter or Member being nominated

B. Elaborate the background information on the chapter’s/member’s accomplishments  

C. Describe why you feel this chapter or member should receive the NBDA Advocate of the Year Award  

This nomination must be typed and confirmed by the local NBDA chapter president and at least two other chapter officers.