

## Diversity Memphis Presents Third Annual Humanitarian Awards

DIVERSITY  
Memphis  
Humanitarian Awards

2008  
Third Annual  
Humanitarian Awards Honorees

Thursday May 29, 2008, Peabody Hotel

**Joseph F. Birch, Jr.** co-anchors Action News 5 at 5, 6 and 10 o'clock weeknights on WMC-TV. Joe Birch will mark his 30th anniversary at WMC in May 2008. The Emmy Award winning news anchor personally produces Action News 5's Taking Back Our Neighborhoods reports that air each Wednesday night at 10 o'clock. The solution oriented stories shine a light on what the people of Memphis and the Mid-South are doing about crime. Joe has traveled across America and around the world.



**Gavle S. Rose.** is the Principal owner and CEO of Electronic Vaulting Services (EVS) Corporation. In 2005, she was named one of Tennessee's 100 Most Powerful People by Business Tennessee magazine. She also received the Economic Excellence and Equity Award from Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen's wife, Andrea Conte. Rose is most well-known for landing the NBA basketball team, the Memphis Grizzlies. As a result of her efforts, the Public Relations Society of America named her the 2001 Communicator of the Year. She is Co-founder of the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, and was internationally recognized in 2007 as one of two women awarded the Changing Face of Philanthropy Award

**Mary Lynn Perl**, was honored at the International Lion of Judah Conference in Washington D.C. on September 10. Mary Lynn has been a devoted volunteer for Memphis Jewish Federation since 1969. She leads the pack in women's Jewish philanthropy in Memphis, Tennessee. "My life is committed to women's philanthropy," said Mary Lynn, who believes that tzedakah is first learned at home. In 1999, at the annual Lion of Judah Program, She was honored by Memphis Jewish Federation with a Woman of Valor Award. As she passed the Lion of Judah torch to the next generation, she stepped into an even more demanding role - to encourage Lions of Judah to endow their annual gifts. Memphis boasts having 85 Lions, 20 of whom are LOJE's



**Gid Smith**, became president of the Community Foundation in 1989 and raised the organizations assets from \$20 Million to more than \$250 Million during his tenure. On Gid's watch the Community Foundation became the largest grant making foundation in the city and ranks among the top 50 community foundations in the nation. Earlier, during his 17 year tenure as executive director of the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association, Gid helped transform a dormant organization into a comprehensive services agency that is now one of the most successful non-profits in Memphis. At both the Community Foundation and MIFA he played a key role in creating and building support for a number of innovative programs that seek to solve old problems in new ways.

**Mark Stansbury**, was first appointed to the position of Assistant to the President of The University of Memphis in October 1989. His most recent and fourth appointment was made in July 2000 by the eleventh and first woman president of the University, Dr. Shirley C. Raines. A native Memphian, Mr. Stansbury has earned the distinction of community leader, having contributed to such local organizations as: E 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District; Selective Service Board No. 38; Memphis Race Relations and Diversity Institute; and the University of Memphis Foundation Board of Directors; Goals for Memphis; Leadership Memphis Alumni, Vice President and President; NAACP Freedom Fund Gala Coordinator; Public Relations Society of America, President; and the Steering Committee for the United Negro College Fund. He was a founder of Diversity Memphis, an organization which fights to eliminate bigotry.



### Founders

Laura Adams  
Jim Allen  
Msgr. John R. Batson  
Leo & Joy Bearman  
Jack A. Belz  
Jennifer Burgess  
Church Health Center  
Church of the Holy Spirit  
Community Foundation  
of Greater Memphis  
Walter Crews  
Dorothy Crook  
Charles M. Crump  
Rabbi Harry Danziger  
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Dr. George & Suzanne Elder  
Elvis Presley Enterprises  
Lee & Amy Filderman  
Sonya & Jimmy Fleck  
Avron Fogelman  
Hal Fogelman  
James & Lucia Gilliland  
Rabbi Micah Greenstein  
Jamie Griffin  
Sue Ellen Haaga  
Carolyn Head  
Terry Hendrix  
Hypnotize Minds  
Laura Fox Ingram  
James Jalenak  
Jack Joffre  
Dr. Fred Johnson  
Nina Katz  
Dr. Jaswant Khanna  
Dr. Brian Kiel  
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Marcos Velez-Duran  
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Bert Wolff  
Warren Wurzburg

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**Working to make  
Memphis better  
for everyone**

[www.diversitymemphis.org](http://www.diversitymemphis.org)

Diversity Memphis joined 25 employees of SYSCO Foods May 19 to conduct its Common Threads program. Common Threads' aim is to diminish stereotypes in the workplace. Common Threads teaches people of varying faiths and cultures to re-focus on similarities rather than differences. As organizations increasingly operate in a multinational, multicultural context, understanding how diversity in the work place effects issues such as satisfaction, creativity and turnover becomes of increasing importance..



Jim Foreman, Executive Director for Diversity Memphis and Jamie Griffin, a founder and board member conducted Common Threads program for SYSCO employees.



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## Founder Highlight



*Dr. Jaswant Khanna is a board member and a founder of Diversity Memphis. Dr. Khanna helped develop and implement the Disparities and Healthcare program. He continues to be an active member of Diversity Memphis.*

This month Diversity Memphis would like to boast about its first founding member, Dr. Jaswant Khanna. Dr. Khanna is a professor of Psychiatry at University of Tennessee Medical where he helps develop students and aspiring doctors. Dr. Khanna immigrated to Memphis from his homeland in India in the late 1940's. He has spent his years here helping to make Memphis more accepting of diverse faiths and cultures.

Following the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, Dr. Khanna along with Charles M. Crump and others facilitated a meeting in the Land of Lakes in middle Tennessee. Like-minded people gathered and sought answers for peaceful racial integration. And discussed how to overcome the injustices of a prejudice society.

Always joining with others for vital causes, in 2004 Dr. Khanna along with Dr. Mohammed Moinuddin developed Disparities in Healthcare which examined racial disparities in the healthcare system. They also authored a paper that was presented at a medical conference in Hawaii examining their experiences with Disparities.

Dr. Khanna is a well known speaker and contributor for Diversity Memphis. He is currently recovering from surgery at Germantown Baptist Rehab.Center. We wish him well.