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**Loy Williams to Receive TriCity Family Services' 2019 William D. Barth Award**  
*Geneva resident recognized for humanity and advocacy for community*

**Geneva, Ill** (October 17, 2019) – **TriCity Family Services** will present the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual William D. Barth Award on Wednesday, October 23 to Loy Williams of Geneva. The award will be presented at the agency's Barth Award Dinner between 5-8pm, at Riverside Receptions and Conference Center in Geneva.

Sponsored by TriCity Family Services, the William D. Barth Award honors the memory of William D. Barth, a founder of the agency and a dedicated community leader. The honor is given to someone whose belief in the community and concern for those living here is shown by an ongoing involvement in community life.

Nominated for his display of humanity and advocacy for the communities he selflessly serves, Williams has been a trusting and generous force for Changing Children's Worlds Foundation of Geneva since December 2013, as a volunteer and trained facilitator. Through the organization, he has been one of the first participants of the International Child Development Program (ICDP) "The Best Start for Families" to become a certified facilitator of the program. In 2017, Williams was awarded the Changing Children Worlds Foundation Champion of Empathy Award for his dedication to this organization.

A certified counselor and social worker for more than three decades, Williams' career achievements include being the first paid executive director of TriCity Family Services from 1976 to 1981. He was an employee assistance counselor for Lucent Technologies in Naperville and a school social worker for six school districts in the Fox Valley area. Presently, Williams participates in a counseling practice in St. Charles. His wisdom and sensitivity ensure that those who seek his guidance will have their feelings validated and respected while they are also given tools to resolve problems and learn to heal.

In addition to being a clinical social worker, Williams has been a parish associate pastor for the Fox Valley Presbyterian Church since 1982. He is also an active member of the Geneva Rotary Club since 1981, having once served as president of the club.

Williams' educational achievements include earning two master's degrees: a master's degree in theology from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and a





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master's degree in social work from the University of Iowa, as well as advocating for civil rights. While a graduate student, he and his late wife, Linda, registered people to vote and volunteered with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. In 1965, Williams received a telegram from King asking him to gather everyone he knows and head to Montgomery, Alabama, where Williams joined a civil rights march. In a 2013 newspaper interview, Williams said the civil rights movement still exists today but in a form different from the 1960s marches. He continues to reach out to a local Islamic congregation in Batavia and also to the Latino community in Geneva. "I think the more we know about each other, the better we understand each other ... and, really, the richer society is, in general," Williams said. "I think the struggle for civil rights is a struggle that will never be finished because of the way human nature is. We need to make sure we treat everyone with the same respect."

A devoted family man, Williams is a loving father and grandfather, who believes in living life to the fullest. He has a pilot's license and, for six years, lived aboard a sailboat, traveling from Chicago to the Florida Keys, the Bahamas and the U.S. East Coast.

The William D. Barth was established in 1985 and recognizes one individual each year who has made a significant and positive impact, through community service, on the Central Kane County area.

Past recipients of the William D. Barth Award include the following: Melinda Kintz, 2018; Dudley and Judy Burgess, 2017; The Honorable Clint Hull, 2016; Carolyn Fabian, 2015; Joanne Spitz, 2014; Fred Norris, 2013; Carolyn Sprawka, 2012; Sarah Kimber, 2011; James Kintz, 2010; Mary Lu O'Halloran, 2009; Pam Mann, 2008; Doris Hunt, 2007; Cris Anderson, 2006; Steve Lillie, 2005; Peg Halladay, 2004; Vernon Oie, 2003; Melinda Hinnars, 2002; Darlene Marcusson, 2001; Betsy Penny, 2000; Marjorie Hissong, 1999; Robert Hawse, 1998; Carol Rosene, 1997; Ralph & Lucile Little, 1996; Vernon Guynn, 1995; Howard Wallin, 1994; James Abbot, 1993; Joanne Hansen, 1992; Max Hunt, 1991; Russell Forkins, 1990; Nellie Wood, 1989; Nancy Temple, 1988; Glen Haines, 1987; Jim McCausland, 1986 and Frank Burgess, 1985.

To learn more about TriCity Family Services, visit [www.tricityfamilyservices.org](http://www.tricityfamilyservices.org) or call 630.232.1070.

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### **About TriCity Family Services:**

Since 1967, TriCity Family Services has been Kane County's leading provider of counseling services and other mental health programs to clients of all ages and all income levels. As a community-based, nonprofit agency, TriCity Family Services serves clients of every economic level within the community, accepting most major insurance plans, offering sliding-scale fee adjustments and not denying services based on an inability to pay. TriCity Family Services is committed to helping clients strengthen themselves, their families and their communities.

The agency's experienced team of professional therapists provides the residents of Central Kane County and other neighboring Chicagoland communities with counseling, family-based treatment for eating disorders, emotional wellness workshops and support groups and employee assistance programs.





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