

Good Morning Dr. Farley: My name is Nancy White. I am a long time member of ACA and live in Kansas City. I would like to nominate Keith Spare, LPC for the Joe Norton Community Award. I would like to add to the bio below and tell you that Keith is a respected professional in the Kansas City community. He is well deserving of your award. If you should select him for this award I would like to somehow be involved in the presentation of the award, if possible. Please contact me if you need any further information. Thanks, Nancy White, Local On-Site Chairperson ACA 2004 in Kansas City.
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Keith Spare has been an openly gay licensed professional counselor since 1975. He has been a member of the American Counseling Association since January 1980.

He has been active in gay rights since before Stonewall when in 1967 he helped plan the National Conference of Homophile Organizations when they met in Kansas City.

As a counseling graduate student in 1973 he started a Gay Rights group called the "Children of Sappho" which resulted in a gay peer counseling program and help line. He participated in organizing annual gay rights marches and events for nearly 15 years starting with the first one in 1973. He founded the GAY TALK help line in 1975. He taught a college level course at Kansas State University in 1975 on Homosexuality. He has since lectured and trained both locally and nationally. In 1980 he graduated from Saint Paul School of Theology Methodist as the first openly gay Methodist to enter seminary and graduate openly gay.

In the eighties he helped found the Kansas City Chapter of Parents and Friends of Gays. He served on the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights under Mayor Berkley. He served as Co-Chair of the Mayor's Commission on Lesbian and Gay Concerns and was liaison to Mayor Cleaver throughout his term. He also chaired the Kansas City Human Rights Project campaign which leveraged inclusion of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals in the city human rights ordinance. HRP usurer in an era in which area politicians gained a healthy respect for the "gay vote" and inclusion of the GLBT in the political process that continues to this day.

He has worked nationally, state-wide and locally as an HIV and AIDS educator and advocate. He has served on the Ryan White Planning Council and other HIV advisory groups since 1990. He currently is an openly gay member of the State Committee for Professional Counselors and was appointed both by Governors Carnahan and Holden. He is currently a member of the Kansas City Human Rights Commission task force on LGBT concerns.

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