

Light of Dawnn Awards

Dawnn Ashley Jaffier was killed on Saturday, August 23, 2014, an innocent victim of gun violence in the City of Boston. Though only 26 years old, Dawnn had begun a promising a career in Boston's non-profit community, holding direct service positions at the West End House, Playworks, City Year and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston. She understood firsthand the important role non-profit organizations play within a community and created a life devoted to giving back for all she had been given. Serving as a youth worker, Americorps member and Playworks coach, her boundless energy and genuine enthusiasm were infectious and inspiring. Dawnn was the one you wanted on the front line – mentoring a child in need of a friend, reassuring colleagues that change was possible and celebrating the achievements of others no matter how big or small. Her passion and strength will live on forever in the lives she touched.

To honor Dawnn, and all victims of senseless acts of violence, we have created the *Light of Dawnn Awards* – to recognize individuals working in the non-profit sector who demonstrate the spirit that is Dawnn's legacy – a compassion and unwavering commitment to serve those in need. This annual tribute will serve as a small way to celebrate the ongoing efforts of the thousands of people dedicated to building stronger communities for the promise of a better tomorrow.

Annually, we will call for nominations for these awards. We will call on the community to nominate those servant leaders on the front lines who demonstrate what it means to connect, build relationships, support, empower, and expand opportunity for others. Those unique individuals who are in the mold of Dawnn, strengthening communities through their presence, dedication, and belief that our community is only as strong as its most vulnerable and that we are all responsible for one another.

A selection committee made up of Dawnn's colleagues, peers, and family will make the annual selection. Fundraising will not be public but instead will be backed by a handful of individuals and institutions already in conversation based on their desire to act in the wake of this tragedy and because they felt called and inspired by Dawnn's life and legacy. Based on the total amount raised 2-5 *Light of Dawnn Award* recipients will be chosen each year. We aim to perpetuate these awards so that it is a lasting legacy and to get public attention for them only in as far as it shines the light on Dawnn's legacy and those working to make Boston a better city. The award will contain financial support (likely between \$2K-\$5K) to support an experience, developmental opportunity, education costs, etc. to further inspire and support these unsung heroes who we hope will be a little less unsung as well as all "front line" workers in service to others.