

ABOUT US

Staff & Board

Annual Report

Openings at Greenlights

Greenlights in the News

Sponsors

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[Home](#) > The Finalists!!!

[The Nonny Page](#)



The 2006 Nonny Award Winners

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No events at this time
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Despite wet and blustery conditions, over 215 nonprofit and business sector leaders gathered to celebrate the creativity and drive of nonprofits at the Third Annual Greenlights Nonny Awards at the Design Center of Austin on October 25th. In a program emceed by former Mayor (and current Senator) Kirk Watson, five organizations and one individual were recognized with Nonny Awards, and another five named finalists. Award winners were:

The award for **Most Unique Collaboration** went to the **Crime Prevention Institute** for its decision to move into the Travis County Jail in order to be closer to the people it serves as well as to save money on overhead expenses

Ed Gardner, husband of Assistance League of Austin volunteer Lou Gardner, won the **Volunteer of the Year** award, for managing the renovation of the Operation School Bell facility from beginning to end. Over a six month period, Gardner recruited the necessary in-kind donations, provided manual labor, and managed the project and volunteers, earning him the nickname "Superman".

The award for **Best Team-Building Experience** went to **College Forward** for its Austin-wide Scavenger Hunt. Many of College Forward's staff members come to the organization through the AmeriCorps and programs, meaning that they come from all over the country. Executive Director, Lisa Fielder, devised the scavenger hunt as a way to get the staff acquainted with their new home.

Women's Advocacy Project won an award for **Best Way to Get**

the Message Across Without Saying a Word for its Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Poster Contest, for its creativity and willingness to let its constituents, the teenagers, be the voice on this issue.

The **Capital Area Food Bank** received an award for ***Most Effective Fundraising Campaign*** for its “We’re Not Done Yet” campaign that raised \$559,418 for local hunger after the organization shipped 2.7 million pounds of food to the region after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, severely depleting its reserves to meet local needs.

And finally, **Community TechKnowledge** received a Nonny Award for its 5-7-5 Heart of Texas Grant application process. Rather than require a lengthy grant application, Community TechKnowledge instead required applicants to submit a haiku reflecting their mission and work. The award itself was fittingly titled the ***Best Realized Fantasy of Daydreaming Development Worker***.

Finalists included: The Literacy Coalition of Central Texas; Austin Film Society; The Caring Place; Southwest Key Program and Grace Rodriguez, Executive Assistant at the People’s Community Clinic.

“We received over 100 nominations for the 2006 Nonny Awards, many of which were quite inspiring,” says Executive Director Deborah Edward. “It is wonderful to see this event growing into something the community will look forward to each year.”

Upon conclusion of the awards ceremony, the evening’s entertainment was capped off by local magician Kent Cummins sawing Michael Guerra, Chief Operating Officer of the Capital Area Food Bank, in half; and an outstanding performance by internationally renowned ventriloquist and comedian Ronn Lucas.

The 2006 Nonny Awards were made possible through the support of the following financial sponsors: **Wortham Insurance & Risk Management, Atlantic Trust Private Wealth Management, Wells Fargo** and **Chubb Insurance**.

Food and beverage donations were provided by: Lamberts Downtown Barbecue, El Arroyo, Jack & Adams Bicycles, RunTex, Zen Japanese Food Fast, Chuy’s Restaurant, Daily Juice and Whole Foods Market.

[Back to Top](#) ↑