



INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP AWARDS DINNER



Nancy Kern Eaton

President & CEO (Retired), United Way of Central New York

Nancy Kern Eaton is a mission-driven nonprofit consultant with more than 40 years of leadership experience helping organizations strengthen resource development, build organizational capacity, and deepen their impact throughout Central New York. Throughout her career, she has built stronger nonprofits, fostered meaningful partnerships, and created lasting opportunities for individuals and communities.

Nancy has held leadership positions with numerous respected organizations, including ARISE Child and Family Service, The Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area, Home HeadQuarters, the Syracuse Weed and Seed Community Partnership, and Housing Visions Unlimited. In each role, she has combined strategic vision with collaborative leadership, helping organizations expand their reach, strengthen their sustainability, and better serve their communities.

Her work has included developing successful fundraising strategies, securing public and private funding, creating major gifts programs, facilitating strategic planning, and leading organizational development initiatives. She has also helped launch innovative programs addressing housing, youth employment, violence prevention, education, public safety, and neighborhood revitalization by bringing together government agencies, nonprofits, businesses, neighborhood leaders, and residents to solve complex community challenges.

Nancy's leadership is rooted in empowering others. As she reflects, "I think how we build future leaders is to encourage people to dream, to take opportunities that are scary. Failing to do something doesn't mean it's a failure. It means that you've learned and you're going to make choices based on what you've learned." That philosophy has inspired colleagues, strengthened organizations, and helped cultivate the next generation of nonprofit leaders.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Nancy has generously served numerous nonprofit boards and advisory groups, including CenterState CEO, the Early Childhood Alliance, the Housing & Homeless Coalition, the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Central New York, the Syracuse Northeast Community Center, the Spanish Action League, and Francis House.

Her lifelong commitment to service has earned numerous honors, including the President's Award for Distinguished Service from Upstate Medical University, the New York State Senate Woman of Distinction Award, the Wisdom Keeper Award from FOCUS Greater Syracuse, the John H. Mulroy Founder's Award from Onondaga Community College, the Community Builder Award from Refugee & Immigrant Self-Empowerment (RISE), the Friend of Labor Award from the Greater Syracuse Labor Council, and the Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Central New York.

Nancy Kern Eaton's unwavering commitment to collaboration, service, and community impact reflects the mission of InterFaith Works and the spirit of the InterFaith Leadership Awards Dinner.

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