Award Descriptions

Distinguished Philanthropist(s) Award: Presented to an individual, family or family foundation that has generously donated from personal resources a minimum of ten years, that has made a significant impact in funding to a particular issue or a variety of philanthropic causes.

Emerging Philanthropist Award: Presented to an individual, family or family foundation that has generously donated from their personal resources to philanthropic causes for ten years or less, that have shown a deep commitment to a particular social issue or a variety of philanthropic causes.

Executive Leader Award: Presented to a business leader whose outstanding leadership has garnered business and civic support for philanthropy. The leader does not have to be the CEO of a corporation.

Professional Grantor Award: Presented to a corporate or foundation giving officer recognized for his/her professionalism, sensitivity and generous support to the nonprofit community. This is generally a paid staff position in a grant making organization.

Outstanding Community Leader Award: Presented to an individual who has shown extraordinary leadership and advocacy for a cause that has resulted in significant and positive change for a particular neighborhood, issue or segment of our community.

Outstanding Volunteer Award: Presented to an individual who demonstrates exemplary volunteerism through the dedication of significant personal time, talents, and resources fostering a particular organization or group of organizations.

Benjamin Franklin Award: Presented to a fundraising professional who has attained significant achievements in a long career and is looked to by the profession as a role model. This is generally a person with ten or more years' experience in fundraising that has contributed to the field as a professional, trainer/mentor, and/or volunteer. Nominees do not have to be members of AFP Chicago. Individuals who have previously won the President's Award may be considered for the Benjamin Franklin Award.

Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award: Presented to a youth leader or leaders, or a youth-generated project and its team, having demonstrated a significant impact on the Chicago community. The recipient(s) will have demonstrated the philanthropic tradition and values associated with serving the community.