

Letter to the Editor

We are never too old to make a difference

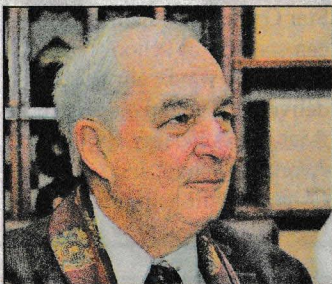
Dear Editor:

In August, I will be 86. Some would say that's old, but as the years press on, aging, health scares or unforeseen obstacles have never stopped me from wanting to continue the fight for the disadvantaged or less fortunate in our community. If anything, every day is yet another opportunity and gift that I show gratitude for by working to protect the basic human rights of all – regardless of race, gender or creed.

I have spent more than half of my life fighting for what's right, and helping those who have been mistreated or neglected. Some people might sit back and say, "My work is now done," but for me, I feel blessed to be in my 80s still making an impact. It's a privilege to make a difference, even if just in one person's life, the effort is more than worth it.

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), the arm of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati that focuses on public affairs and community relations, recently informed me that I would be honored with an inaugural award called the Dick Weiland Community Relations Award at the JCRC's annual meeting on June 8, 2015 at the Mayerson JCC. The award will recognize individuals who have worked to create a better community. These people fly under the radar and do not care to be recognized, or sometimes never receive the community recognition they deserve for their tireless work.

It's no secret that fundraising has been a lifelong commitment of mine, so months ago I set the goal to raise \$500,000 for a fund that will be allocated for a wide range of non-profit causes relating to my passion for promoting inclusion and community collaboration to address issues facing the Greater Cincinnati area. A percentage of this fund will also be allocated to support the efforts of award recipients of The Jewish Community Relations Council's (JCRC) inaugural Dick Weiland Community Relations Award.



Dick Weiland

The community has shown an outpouring of support, helping us to raise more than half our goal, with \$350,000 raised, and just eight weeks to go.

I have had some amazing life-changing milestones in my life, including the honor of marching with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his nonviolent protest for voting rights for African Americans in 1965. It's my hope that this fund will allow other individuals and organizations to continue to create change in our society long after I'm gone. The legacy of hope and unity is not a futile hope. It's real and attainable, but only if we can continue to fan the fire of change and advocacy for many years to come.

Dick Weiland, Cincinnati
About Dick Weiland

Dick Weiland works closely with about 40 non-profits. He serves or has served on the following boards: chair of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, vice chair of Board of Overseers of Hebrew Union College, chair of Halom House Advisory Board, past president of Talbert House, co-chair of Mental Health Levy, president of governmental Affairs Committee of Ohio Jewish Communities, vice president of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, Combined Generations of the Holocaust of Greater Cincinnati, Advisory Committee of Cincinnati Arts Consortium, Heimlich Institute, Ohio Citizens for the Arts, American Jewish Committee Executive Committee, Hillil House Advisory Board, Council on Child Abuse, Family Services Foundation, Housing Advisory Board, Children's Defense Fund, Bicentennial Committee, Ohio Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Council, National Council of Jewish Federations, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Film Commission and others. He was also selected by Gov. Celeste to serve on the Governor's Task Force on Family Violence.