

## 2026 Awards for Philanthropy



### National Philanthropy Day®

#### **Award Nomination Guidelines**

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP NEPA) Annual National Philanthropy Day awards program recognizes outstanding achievements by individual, foundation and corporate philanthropists, volunteers and professional fundraisers.

In professional fundraising, such individuals and organizations form a vital partnership with charities and the nonprofit sector to ensure that the needs of all citizens are met. It is right and proper, therefore, that AFP NEPA honors those who hold high ethical standards and best exemplify commitment and dedication toward helping society. These awards are given in recognition to those individuals and organizations whose lifetime or long-term achievements have made a significant impact upon society.

1. Nominations for any award may be submitted by an individual AFP member, an AFP chapter or an outside individual or organization.
2. All award nominations must be **submitted via the form below** and must be received by **Tuesday, June 30, 2026**

**Supporting documents** are accepted, but should only enhance the narrative and not be used instead of the narrative to answer the criteria. Please limit supporting documents to a maximum of eight pages.

## **Submit Nominations**

# 2026 National Philanthropy Day Awards

## Selection Process:

Winners will be selected by a subcommittee of AFP NEPA Chapter board members, AFP members and past honorees.

Because of the number of applications submitted, it is not possible to provide written evaluations of entries. If, in the judgment of the committee, no applications in a particular category meet the criteria, no award will be given in that category. All categories will be awarded having met AFP NEPA's selection criteria and historical high standards of achievement.

Any application may be considered for the chapter's **Lifetime Achievement Award** or for an alternate category if the Awards Committee feels it is relevant.

Foundations can be nominated again for the Outstanding Foundation Award after 15 years have passed since they last received the last award.

For all other NPD awards, individuals and organizations that have previously been honored with an NPD award cannot be re-nominated in the same category for which they were already honored. They can be nominated in a different category if appropriate and meet the necessary criterion.

## Please note:

Awards will not be given out posthumously.

Award submissions will only be kept for one additional year for consideration if not chosen. Beyond one year, a new application will need to be submitted.

## Presentation of Awards:

Nominees should be willing to accept the award, if granted, at the NPD Awards Luncheon on **Friday, November 20, 2026**. Award recipients will be notified of their selection by mid-August 2026.

## Questions:

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## AFP NEPA National Philanthropy Day Nomination Criteria:

### 1. Outstanding Business Award

This award honors a business, regardless of company size, that demonstrates outstanding commitment through financial support and through encouragement and motivation of others to take leadership roles in philanthropy and community involvement.

### 2. Outstanding Foundation Award

This award honors a foundation that demonstrates outstanding commitment through financial support and through encouragement and motivation of others to take leadership roles in philanthropy and community, national and/or international involvement. Corporate foundations are, for the purpose of this award, considered under the Outstanding Business Award guidelines.

### 3. Outstanding Fundraising Professional (Must Be an AFP Member)

This award honors an outstanding fundraising professional who practices his/her profession in an exemplary manner while working directly for a nonprofit/charitable organization. They must spend a majority of their time on fundraising. When no nominations are received by the public, the board of AFP reserves the right to award directly.

### 4. Outstanding Lifetime Achievement

This award recognizes an individual whose lifelong dedication has made a meaningful and lasting impact on the community. The recipient exemplifies sustained commitment through decades of service, leadership, and generosity, demonstrated by the development or support of charitable programs, consistent volunteerism, leadership in philanthropy, and/or long-standing financial support. Their efforts have strengthened organizations, improved lives, and helped shape the community for the better over time.

### 5. Outstanding Philanthropist Award

This award honors an individual or family with a proven record of exceptional generosity who, through direct financial support, demonstrates outstanding civic and charitable responsibility and whose generosity encourages others to take philanthropic leadership roles on a community, national and/or international level.

### 6. Outstanding Volunteer Award

This award honors an individual or family who demonstrates outstanding commitment, leadership, and service as a volunteer. The recipient has made a meaningful impact by motivating and coordinating others, contributing time and talent in support of a charitable organization or community initiative.

### 7. Outstanding Emerging Philanthropist Award

This award recognizes service by an individual or group of young people 30 years of age or younger demonstrating outstanding commitment to the community helping nonprofits raise money through direct financial support, development of charitable programs, volunteering, leadership in philanthropy, or working as a fundraising professional. Nominations for this category must be made by a non-relative of the nominee.

### 8. Outstanding Service Organization Award

Presented to a volunteer social club/community service group (with no paid staff) that has demonstrated outstanding commitment through financial support and the encouragement and motivation of others to take leadership roles in philanthropy and community involvement. This category **does not include** nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity organizations providing direct services.