

Community Action Center executive director receives Sandy Springs Humanitarian Award



By [Dan Whisenhunt](#) on January 16, 2012.
Both comments and pings are currently closed.

Like



Community Action Center Executive Director Tamara Carrera, the 2012 Sandy Springs Humanitarian Award winner, smiles after receiving her award during a Jan. 16 ceremony at Sandy Springs City Hall

Tamara Carrera doesn't live in Sandy Springs, but working at the Community Action Center, she has helped countless city residents.

Carrera, 60, has spent 20 years at the center and remains dedicated to its mission. But with the economy still on the mend and the challenges it presents, the center served more than 2,200 families in 2011.

The center makes available a food pantry, adult education classes, a clothing store. Carrera is particularly proud of the thrift store.

"In order to do this job, you can't have someone who just gives you a check in November, shortly before Thanksgiving. In order to help people, you have to do more than give them a check. We're a pack of people who care."

Carrera, who lives in Marietta, on Jan. 16 became the 2012 Sandy Springs Humanitarian Award winner. The city recognizes her for her dedication and service to the community.

Clasping the trophy in her hands, Carrera said the award belongs to everyone involved with the Community Action Center.

"I'm honored to be in the company of all those whose lives are my inspiration," Carrera said.

Carrera also serves on the board of the Sandy Springs Education Force and created a Teacher's Supply Closet to provide supplies for students in need.

Carrera moved to the Atlanta area in 1992 with her husband, Carlos Diaz. Prior to her work at the Community Action Center, she worked at the Community Center of La Alianza Hispana, in Boston, which served that city's Latino community. She has a daughter, Christina Carrera, 26.

Melanie Noble-Couchman, the recipient of the 2011 award for her work with the Couchman-Noble Foundation, introduced Carrera. Noble-Couchman said the award is an opportunity to raise the profile of other nonprofit organizations in the area. She thanked the Sandy Springs City Council for waiving its residence requirement for the 2012 award.

"She is truly an asset to any group she works with," Noble-Couchman said about Carrera.

Carrera said the work has allowed her to see the CAC's clients come full circle, growing from a client in need to a donor.

“This is humanitarian work at its best,” she said.

The Humanitarian award is presented annually during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration as a tribute to community members with a volunteer committee reviewing submissions and selecting the honoree, the city

In a press release, Councilwoman Diane Fries, who oversees the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day event, s

“Dr. King once said that ‘faith is taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase.’ Tamara’s philosophy. She has visualized and created programs promoting self-reliance and self-esteem,” Fries said.

- [Post to Facebook](#)

18

18



About [Dan Whisenhunt](#)

[Mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [More Posts \(693\)](#)

Facebook Comments:

No related posts.