

Community Service Award 2012 Individual Honoree

Larry Leatherwood

Larry Leatherwood has exhibited, through governance leadership, an unwavering passion to ensure that the organizations for which he volunteers perform in an exemplary manner. Larry was involved in the start up of Sparrow Specialty Hospital (SSH), a long-term acute care hospital established by Sparrow Health System in 2004. Larry was one of the original Board members for Sparrow Specialty Hospital and served a nine-year term. During his tenure, he served in a variety of roles including Chairman of the Board. Under Larry's leadership, SSH established a Board Quality and Safety Committee, increasing Board oversight regarding patient safety and quality outcomes. He has demonstrated during his tenure on the SSH Board of Directors, that he has the best interest of the community at hand, governing with excellence.

In addition to his work with SSH, Larry Leatherwood served on the Board of Directors of the Capital Area Health Alliance (CAHA) for over 10 years. During that time he contributed to the re-visioning and restructuring of the Alliance, worked on strategic plans, and facilitated the development of program initiatives. Larry has always advocated seeing community change through large and integrated lenses. Larry Leatherwood was a significant participant in program implementation at CAHA, like the development of the region-wide Health Information Exchange, serving the community with state-of-the-art technology to improve the quality of care for everyone.

The field of healthcare is challenging and complex; to find lay members of the community who are willing to step up and take on healthcare challenges is admirable.

In addition to his work with Sparrow and the Alliance, Larry is the Founder/Chairperson of the Uplift Our Youth Foundation, which originated in 2002. Larry has spent many years volunteering in organizations/agencies in Lansing that serve youth. From those experiences, he recognized that there was a need to fund new programs or to expand and maintain existing ones that focused on at-risk youth. Uplift Our Youth Foundation is a tax-exempt organization that has awarded grants to organizations/agencies in the region that provide youth programs.

Mr. Leatherwood's past and present civic involvement also includes Vice President/Commissioner Martin Luther King Commission, City of Lansing; LCC M-Tech Committee; Co-Founder Capital City African American Cultural Association; Past Chair Metropolitan Lansing YMCA; Past Chairperson, Capital Chapter, American Society for Public Administration; Past Chairperson, Sparrow Specialty Hospital; and Public Policy Chair, United Way of Michigan. Larry is also a member of Alpha Chi Boule and the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternities.

Larry received his undergraduate and Master's of Public Administration degrees from Western Michigan University. He was designated as a Senior Executive Fellow after attending the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is married to Martha (Patricia) and has two adult children Jeffrey Leatherwood and Dr. Stacy Leatherwood Cannon.