



2010 Champions of Diversity & Equity

Community Member/Agency

Congratulations,

Linda Hamlin, Sara Holbrook Community Center

Linda Hamlin has been with the Sara Holbrook Community Center for over 40 years providing a safe, stable, and fun environment for children from the Burlington School District coming for afterschool activities. During her time there, Linda has seen the socioeconomic and ethnic demographic changes of Burlington in the students coming to her afterschool and summer program. She sets high standards for all the children, which they demonstrate their gratitude by not letting her down. The kids feel good that they have someone who believes in their abilities and future success, regardless of who they are or what their circumstance they occupy. Ask any kid, teen, or adult who has been in one of Linda's programs, and with a nostalgic smile they will all have nothing but fond memories to share, wishing to be in that safe space again.

She is a role model for adults in that she not only embraces diversity, but that she sees the beauty and potential in each child. While her staff colleagues would say that she prefers to stay behind the scenes and out of the spotlight, we are lucky to have her stepping forward and being there for our kids. One of her nominators mentions with emphasis: "Whatever socioeconomic and ethnic background a child comes from, Linda provides a safe reprieve where difference is acknowledged and embraced, so kids can just be kids." —quite fitting for the spirit of a Champion of Diversity & Equity.

Presented by Denise Dunbar, at the Champions of Diversity & Equity Award Ceremony
November 17, 2010, Burlington City Hall

<http://www.bsdtg.org/diversity/champions>