

“Leave It Better Than You Found It”

2022 Nominations



In a speech to the National Recreation and Parks Association in the fall of 1993, the late Claude W. Ahrens told the assembled “...our obligation in life is to leave the world a better place than we found it”. Shortly thereafter a group of Ahrens’ associates implemented a program that would honor individuals and organizations for following that bit of wisdom.

In 1994, the first year of the program, 41 Grinnell area residents were nominated by their peers to be recognized for doing something to leave the world a better place. In the succeeding years over 300 people and several community organizations and groups have been honored for their efforts.

2022 nominations for the “Leave it Better” Awards are only open to organizations within the Grinnell, IA area and its surrounding communities. Organizations that qualify for the award include all nonprofits, social, civic, fraternal or community groups who are making a difference. Previous winners of the “Leave It Better” Award include Grinnell-Newburg Community School District, LINK, Poweshiek County Fair Foundation,

Grinnell Connected PTO, Social Justice Action Group, Grinnell Education Partnership, Grinnell Area Arts Council, S.H.E. COUNTS, Poweshiek County Dental Coalition, Poweshiek County Mental Health Center, PALS, Imagine Grinnell, Grinnell Optimist Club, Stewart Library Children’s Department, Grinnell Lions Club.

When nominating an organization, you should be able to demonstrate ways in which the organization is “leaving it better than you found it” through its community projects, community programs, collaborative efforts with other local groups, and/or through its local fundraising efforts over the past year. All nominations will remain anonymous.

Nominations for the “Leave it Better” Awards are taken annually over the summer and then announced around August 18th, to commemorate the dedication of the Ahrens/Paschall Memorial Park and the late Claude W. Ahrens’ birthday. Recipients are then honored by the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation each year. The winner of the “Leave It Better Than You Found It” award will receive a \$5,000 grant and traveling trophy as part of the Foundation’s annual recognition of area groups making a difference.

Please complete the nomination form and return it back to us by: **August 1, 2022**

Please submit to:

Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation
“Leave It Better” Award
P.O. Box 284 1510 Penrose Street · Grinnell, IA 50112
Or via email: info@ahrensfamilyfoundation.org

