

# HAMPTON VA

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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## Unity Awards recognize people, groups that have had a positive influence on city's diversity

**Oct. 11, 2016** - The 2016 Unity Awards - recognizing individuals, organizations, businesses or initiatives that have had a positive impact on diversity awareness and inclusion in Hampton - were presented this year at Hampton's Performing & Creative Arts Center on Butler Farm Road.

Established in 2000, the awards are sponsored by the Citizens' Unity Commission, which promotes activities and events that bring citizens together. Award recipients included:

- **Freedom Life Church, Hampton:** Recognized for modeled behavior demonstrating a commitment to foster healthy racial and cultural relations. The nomination says: "Freedom life Church should be a model to the faith community as to how they purposefully and successfully changed and created an environment that modeled what this award seeks to recognize. Diversity in a congregation depends on diversity in leadership. Pastor Freddy happens to be Hispanic. The church also has associate pastors, both black and white, worship leaders from all backgrounds and likely the most diverse administrative team you will find."
- **Romy Singh:** Recognized for demonstrating a commitment to cultural diversity through community involvement. The nomination says: "While Romy does not live in Hampton, he leads a Virginia statewide organization (the Eastern Virginia Franchise owners Association) which services dozens of Hampton's business that serve thousands of Hampton's residents daily. He works with law enforcement in Hampton and Newport News to bring together business owners and police to work on solutions to ensure our Hampton residents feel safe and can go out and enjoy the rich cultural diversity in our city."
- **Lisa Nolani Robbins:** Recognized for demonstrating a commitment to cultural diversity through community involvement, including dance performances at Fort

Monroe's Asian Pacific Islander Month and Hampton's International Children's Festival. The nomination says: "Ms. Robbins is a Girl Scout leader of many years and encouraged cultural awareness and celebrate through dance and song. She is quick to provide services as needed and has provided ... her diverse and inspirational experience" to many. "Her love of the cultural arts is mobile, and she loves to share it with all people of all ages."

- **X-Seeds, Inc., Hampton:** Recognized for behavior that demonstrates a commitment to foster healthy racial and cultural relations, and working to dispel myths and misperceptions. The nomination says: "X-Seeds, Inc. is a non-profit organization that focuses on cultivating lives from homelessness to wholeness. Not only do they have a commitment to fostering racial and cultural relationships between the homeless and their community, they have encouraged others to avail their gifts and talents to assist them (the homeless) as well. This has helped to dispel myths and misperceptions about the homeless and has also shown the homeless that there are people who truly care."

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