

The Jeannette Public Library Announces that the Officers of the "YES Committee" have won a 2016  
Jefferson Award



#### **History of the Jefferson Awards Foundation**

In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft Jr., and Sam Beard founded the Jefferson Awards program to honor the unsung heroes of our country. The program is named after founding father Thomas Jefferson, a man who reflected the spirit of excellence in America as author of the Declaration of Independence, President of the United States, and advocate for a free press and freedom of religion.

The Jefferson Awards honors individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service.

#### **Recognizing Pittsburgh's volunteers**

The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. Past Jefferson Awards recipients on the national level include Oprah Winfrey, Peyton Manning, Bill Gates, Condoleezza Rice, Faith Hill and Gen. Colin Powell.

In 1976, former Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editor John Craig established a local program honoring Western Pennsylvania's "Community Champions" -- everyday citizens who encountered problems in their neighborhood and created solutions to fix them. Today, the Post-Gazette continues to honor outstanding volunteers through the Jefferson Awards program.

#### **Partners in the cause**

Because of their commitment to volunteerism, Highmark and BNY Mellon have joined the Post-Gazette in this valuable program. This year, community representatives will choose approximately 50 Jefferson award winners from among those nominated. Each will be highlighted in a newspaper ad and honored at an elegant reception at which they will receive the bronze Jefferson Award medallion.