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Group to honor Koch, 7 Wichitans

Eagle staff

Koch Industries and seven Wichita residents will receive recognition from the National Conference for Community and Justice at its 55th annual Humanitarian Awards presentation this spring.

Each year, the NCCJ recognizes "organizations and individuals who make Wichita a more inclusive community and a place where everyone can feel respected regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or culture," according to a news release announcing the winners Monday.

Koch will receive the Community and Justice Award at the annual awards ceremony scheduled April 12. The NCCJ describes this award as recognizing "organizations whose commitment to diversity is demonstrated through philanthropy, community involvement and encouragement of others to take leadership roles in promoting inclusion."

Wichita physician George Farha, Junior League philanthropist Brenda Farha and reproductive rights activist Kris Wilshusen will receive the A. Price Woodard Jr. Award. Named after Wichita's first African-American mayor, the award "recognizes an individual whose commitment to the community is demonstrated through civic service to advance understanding and respect among people of all races, religions and cultures."

Arts supporter Ann Garvey, musician Rudy Love, Kansas Health Foundation president Marni Vliet and downtown developer Rich Vliet will receive the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award. "These individuals demonstrate an outstanding commitment to NCCJ's mission of fighting bias, bigotry and racism through philanthropy, community service and leadership," the organization said.

A reception for the honorees will be held at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 8 at Preferred Health Systems, 8535 E. 21st St.