

VIRGINIA PETERS NONPROFIT FRIEND OF THE YEAR AWARD
 REV. MSGR. RALPH J. KUEHNER
 NOMINATED BY VICTORY HOUSING

Msgr. Ralph J. Kuehner has worked tirelessly and selflessly during his lifetime to address critical human needs in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. He has worked with the homeless, prison inmates, frail elderly, renters and first-time home buyers, and volunteers, of every race, color, or creed. His beliefs in opportunity, fairness, equality, dignity and respect for each individual have been a hallmark of his charitable endeavors.

Msgr. Kuehner was born of humble roots in Scranton, Pennsylvania in the mid-1920s. During childhood, he was drawn to a life of service to the community by family members and the clergy in his local church. As his grandmother said, "If you only do what you have to do, you don't do very much." Msgr. Kuehner has done quite a lot. In addition to 16 years as a parish priest and a variety of service and training duties at the Archdiocese of Washington, Msgr. Kuehner found time to form and nurture several successful regional non-profit organizations, including Victory Housing, Inc. (1979), a developer and operator of af-



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fordable housing primarily for low-income frail- and independent elderly persons, and So Others Might Eat (SOME)(1970), a provider of food, emergency shelter and services for the home-

less and low-income persons in Washington, D.C. In his soft-spoken way, Msgr. Kuehner builds consensus on an interfaith basis on challenging social issues. For example, he was a founder and has been a long-time board member of the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington and the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.

Most recently, in 2008, Msgr.

Kuehner worked with the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County to have six units set aside for persons with

spinal cord injuries at their Metro-accessible, 173-unit MetroPointe Apartments in Wheaton, Maryland. In 2009, a new non-profit he helped found (Rosaria Communities), opened its first group home for individuals with developmental disabilities in Gaithersburg. Finally, in 2010, he was the keynote speaker and honoree at a 30th anniversary event for Victory Housing, where he is still a board member as well.

Msgr. Kuehner's awards include a 1998 Point of Light, a 1999 Washingtonian of the Year, and a 2009 Path of Achievement from Montgomery County. For a lifetime of public service, HAND is honored to recognize Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Kuehner with the Friend of the Year Award.



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