

Taff Award

On January 16, 2012, Steven VanGrack was presented with the 2012 F. Michael Taff Award at the City of Rockville's 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration. This award is bestowed upon individuals whose exemplary efforts have helped reduce barriers that restrain the full participation of those with disabilities.

Steven VanGrack was instrumental in establishing the F. Michael Taff Award. When he was Mayor of Rockville, Steven had the pleasure of appointing Michael Taff as Chairman of the Human Rights Commission. Michael was the first disabled person to serve as Chair. Steven worked with Michael to improve the Human Rights Programs in the City of Rockville by adding staff and providing sensitivity training.

Throughout his career, Steven VanGrack has been extremely involved in government and community affairs. Steven VanGrack has been instrumental in opening up new opportunities for MCPS student athletes with learning abilities. Due to his efforts, MCPS changed their policy regarding reasonable accommodations for student athletes. Steven facilitated changes in advertising employment opportunities for people with mental impairments.

Steven VanGrack also represented a blind mother of two who was forced to walk her children to school in the street because the neighborhood did not have sidewalks. After bringing this issue to the school board's attention, sidewalks were built.

Steven VanGrack has served as Chairperson of the County March of Dimes WalkAmerica Montgomery County for several years. Their goal is to raise funds for babies born with disabilities. Steven has also served on the Board of Hospice Caring and continues in his fund raising efforts for that organization. Currently, Steven VanGrack serves in several capacities for the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, a non-profit organization that helps blind and visually impaired individuals to lead independent and productive lives.