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Argie Manolis, Office of Community Engagement coordinator, earns Morris Human Rights Award

Summary: Manolis was chosen by the Morris Human Rights Commission based on her work and advocacy on behalf of many issues in the community.

(December 21, 2010)-Argie Manolis, of Morris, has earned the Morris Human Rights Award for 2010.

Manolis was honored during the Morris City Council meeting on Tuesday.

Each year, the Morris Human Rights Commission selects a nominee who is making an impact in the community concerning human rights.

Manolis was nominated and chosen for the award based on her work and advocacy on behalf of many issues in the community.

In his nomination of Manolis, Drew Israel stated that Manolis “exemplifies her beliefs not only through the way she lives her life but also on the committees she serves.”

Manolis is “a wonderful advocate for the (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) community through various activities,” such as Safe Zone training for people who then can provide an environment where GLBT concerns can be discussed in an open and accepting environment, Israel stated.

Manolis is coordinator for the Office of Community Engagement. Through her work, she is engaged in service learning and volunteer projects “that bring people of all different backgrounds together for a common goal,” Israel stated.

Manolis also has been instrumental in organizing and maintaining the Community Meals, which are free meals, open to the public, served monthly at the Morris Senior Center.

“Argie is very active in celebrating our entire community’s diversity,” Israel stated.

Manolis was all smiles during the presentation and said receiving the good news of the award came on a day when she needed some: she and her daughter were housebound with the flu.

“I’m really honored,” Manolis said. “There are a lot of people who do a lot of human rights work in the community. I’m excited but humbled because there are so many people doing good work.”

Photo: Argie Manolis (seated at right) is the 2010 recipient of the Morris Human Rights Award. Seated with Manolis is her daughter, Lisa. Standing, from left, are Morris Human Rights Commission members Becki Dingman, Ann Streed '95, and Brady Janzen '08.

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