



Mississippi REALTORS® Community Champion Award

MAR is accepting nominations for the 2026 Mississippi REALTOR® Community Champion Award honoring a REALTOR® who volunteers his/her time and demonstrates extraordinary efforts to improve the quality of life in his/her community.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. Nominees must be a REALTOR® member in good standing of the Mississippi REALTORS®.
2. Nominees should have contributed in a non-employee capacity to a program that improves the livability of a local community. Activities may include real estate or housing issues or such issues as crime prevention, youth mentoring and homelessness prevention.
3. Nominees should have made a significant contribution of **personal** time, however contributions of needed materials and/or other resources may be considered by the judges as well.
4. Nominees will be judged not only on level of **personal** contribution, but also the impact of that **personal** contribution, broadness of impact, and the project's suitability as a role model for other REALTORS®.
5. This award is intended to recognize **individual** contributions, not association or company-wide efforts. However, if an **individual** within a company can be singled out as instrumental to the success of a group effort, he or she is eligible. If the achievements of two people (such as a married couple or co-founders of an organization) absolutely cannot be separated, they can enter as a pair and their entry will be considered as one.
6. Some portion of the nominee's community work must have taken place between January 2025 and May 2026, but judges will also consider ongoing efforts outside that time frame that demonstrate a depth of commitment.
7. Nominees must be able to document the results of their individual involvement through published reports and/or written testimonials from the organization they served or the people they helped to be included with the application form.
8. Nominations must be accompanied by a completed entry form to be considered.
9. REALTORS® may nominate themselves or may be nominated by another MAR member, a local board or the community organization they serve. Prior Community Champion Award Winners are not eligible.

PROGRAM RULES:

1. Up to two awards may be given each year, with the announcement to be made at MAR Convention.
2. A \$1,000 donation will be awarded by the selection committee to the non-profit community organization named on the entry form. If more than one non-profit is named, the selection committee will confer with the honoree prior to making a decision on the allocation of the \$1,000 award.
3. Winners must sign an affidavit of eligibility and be willing to be interviewed, photographed, filmed and/or featured on msrealtors.org.
4. Entries must be received by **Friday, August 7, 2026**.
5. The selection committee will consist of the Member Services Committee Chair, 2 at-large appointees from the MAR President, 2 Executive Committee members appointed by the MAR President.
6. Award nominees and individuals submitting a nomination form are not eligible to serve on the selection committee.
7. Judging is based on the amount of personal time the individual has dedicated and the scope of the population who may have benefited through their volunteerism. Other factors, such as the uniqueness of the project, may be considered as well.

Mississippi REALTORS®
2026 Community Champion Award
Entry Form

Completed forms are due by **Friday, August 7, 2026**. Please send to **Tonitia Griffin at MAR, PO Box 321000, Jackson, MS, 39232** or by email to tgriffin@msrealtors.org.

Tips for making an application stand out:

- Be as specific as possible. For example, give a close estimate of the number of hours volunteered, the number of people the nominee helped, the number of dollars raised, etc. Words like “countless”, “incalculable” or even “thousands” are of very little use to the judges.
- Don’t rely on adjectives. Superlatives like “kindest”, “most dedicated” – though certainly true – don’t help the judges evaluate a nominee’s achievements. Instead, describe something the nominee did that illustrates how kind or dedicated he or she is.
- Don’t be modest. If you nominating yourself and are uncomfortable talking about your achievements, have someone else complete the application for you and/or provide detailed testimonials.
- Focus on the nominee’s accomplishments, not the organization’s in general. The judges need to evaluate the impact that the nominee has personally made. Don’t make the mistake of only emphasizing how much good the organization has done; instead, focus on what the nominee has done for the organization.
- Include a photo of the nominee and at least one photo to illustrate the work that has been done.

REALTOR® Nominee Name: _____ Phone: _____
Company: _____ Email: _____
Street, City, State, Zip: _____
Local REALTOR® Board: _____ Phone: _____
Nominee’s Charitable Organization: _____

Nomination submitted by: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ (Names of individuals/organizations submitting nominations are kept confidential.)

Community Program(s) Served (If there is more than one organization, please add a page.)

Organization Name: _____
Street, City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Web site: _____

Nature of the community work the nominee performed (*brief description of the organization’s mission and the candidate’s contribution*).

How long has the nominee been volunteering with this organization? _____

Who may we contact at the organization to verify the nominee's involvement, if necessary?

Name: _____ Title: _____

Street, City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Personal Contribution *(Nominee should have made a significant contribution of Personal time, however, contributions of needed materials and/or other resources will be considered by the judges.)*

Unpaid hours the nominee **personally** contributed to this organization from January 2024 to the present:

Volunteer hours the nominee **personally** recruited from others to work for this organization from January 2024 to the present: _____

Materials and/or other resources the nominee **personally** contributed to this organization from January 2025 to the present: _____

Number of people served by the nominee (approximately): _____

Is the nominee compensated for any portion of the service work described in this application? If yes, please explain. _____

Does the nominee perform the community service as part of his or her duties as an employee or corporate officer of a real estate company? If yes, please explain. _____

Explanation of Contribution (Required): Must be completed and signed by the individual being nominated. Please have the individual be very specific with regard to his/her direct involvement with the organization.

On a separate page, please describe how your **individual** efforts have made the community a better place to live.

Please attach written testimonials and/or published reports.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all of the information provided is true and accurate.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail completed form and attachments to:

Mississippi REALTORS® Community Champion Award

Attn: Tonitia Griffin

PO Box 321000

Flowood, MS 39232

Or email to tgriffin@msrealtors.org.

DEADLINE: Friday, August 7, 2026

Questions? Please call Beth Hansen at MAR at 601/932-5241