

Sharon Adams
2247 North 17th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53205
(414)264-2243
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Biographical Profile

Sharon Adams believes in the intrinsic value of good neighbors. After a long career in non-profit administration, including directing the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York and Northside Center for Child Development, she returned to her family's homestead in Milwaukee. Since 1997, she worked as a community organizer in Milwaukee's African American neighborhoods. With her husband, Larry Adams, neighbors and friends, she founded the Walnut Way Conservation Corp to restore a central city community of approximately thirty blocks.

During the course of her community revitalization efforts, she was appointed Director of the Institute for Service Learning (ISL) in January 2004. During the 2006-07 academic year, over 1,400 students participated in academic service learning with over 100 community partners.

She facilitated community development initiatives for Annie E. Casey Foundation, Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin, and Metro Denver Black Church Initiative. Her work calls for restoration of sustainable systems for healthy living.

Sharon's love and trust of nature led to the creation of public commercial gardens on vacant lots, growth in private gardens and new found interest in utilizing rainwater for natural irrigation. She believes Walnut Way is becoming a "garden community."

Sharon Adams holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and a Masters Degree in Social Work from Wayne University in Michigan. She is a Revson Fellow at Columbia College, New York.

Recent Community Involvement and Recognition

Board of Directors: Growing Power, City of Milwaukee Community Planning Council #10, Marketplace Business Improvement District#32

Keynoter for the 2007 Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference in Milwaukee

In 2007, Larry and Sharon received the Chancellor's Wisconsin Idea Award from University of Wisconsin Colleges and University of Wisconsin-Extension in recognition of significant improvements in the quality of life of residents in their community.

November 2008, Sharon was awarded the Traditional Home's Classic Woman Award
December 2008, Sharon was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Alverno College

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Since 1997, Sharon and Larry Adams have worked with neighbors and civic leaders to develop and sustain economically diverse and healthy communities in Milwaukee. They work to engage residents and stakeholders in civic, environmental and economic projects.

Development Consultant

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1994-Present

Adams supports initiatives to transform disinvested communities or enable the progress of disadvantaged populations. Consultations include assessment, strategic planning, meeting facilitation, and volunteer development to enable vision clarity and team building.

Clients include Annie E. Casey Foundation, Metro Denver Black Church Initiative, Lisbon Avenue Neighborhood Development Corporation, and Alliance for the Revitalization of Camden City.

Executive Experience

1990-1994

Executive Director
Northside Center for Child Development
New York, New York

1987-1990

Executive Director
Girl Scouts of Greater New York
New York, New York

1982-1987

Executive Director
Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley
Rochester, New York

1977-1982

Executive Director
Camp Fire Detroit Area Council
Detroit, Michigan

Academic Experience

2004-Present

Director
Institute for Service Learning
UW-Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1993-2004

Lecturer
Board and Volunteer Development
Institute for Church Administration and Management
Atlanta, Georgia

1990-1993

Lecturer
Columbia University, School of Social Work
New York

Recent Community Involvement

Walnut Way Conservation Corporation, Mayor's Green Team Task Force, City of
Milwaukee Community Planning Council #10, UW-Milwaukee Helen Bader Institute for
Nonprofit Management

Education

Sharon Adams earned a Bachelor of Arts from UW-Milwaukee, a Master of Social Work
from Wayne State University. She studied as a Revson Fellow at Columbia University,
New York.