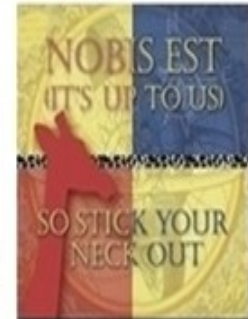




Giraffe Heroes India Program

Nominations invited...

**GHIP honors the risk-takers,
people who are largely unknown,
people who have the courage to
stick their necks out for the common good**



Some earlier Giraffe Heroes of India



Baba Amte , Dr. Mabelle Arole, Jaya Arunachalam, C. P. Bhatt, Ela Bhatt, Neha Gupta



Sunitha Krishnan Usha Narayane Bunker Roy Vijay Saluja G. Venkataswamy Lucy Kurien S.C. Agrawal

Nomination form & criteria downloaded link: www.dwarkaparichay.com/ghi.pdf

Send the filled form at email IDs: saluvk@gmail.com

info@dwarkaparichay.com

Vijay K. Saluja

Digital Media Support:

Director- Giraffe Heroes India

www.dwarkaparichay.com

Criteria for Giraffedom INDIA

To be named a Giraffe, a nominee must have taken a significant risk for the common good. However, as we pass the 1000 mark in commendations presented, the task of communicating the precedents set by our previous decisions has become too cumbersome to discuss on a case by case basis. We've resisted codification of this process because we want to affirm that there is no uniform standard for all human beings. So interpret our criteria with some flexibility, taking into account the background and personality of the nominee, and other highly subjective factors. Furthermore, these criteria are open to amendment.

THE COMMON GOOD CRITERIA

General: Giraffes have been named in over 30 separate fields of work. Broadly speaking, working for the common good means alleviating suffering, rectifying injustice or advancing goals such as peace or a healthy environment.

Disqualifying factors: Giraffes don't have to be saints, but we honor no one who advocates violence, hatred, racial prejudice, abridgement of civil or human rights or ecologically destructive practices. Civil disobedience in the manner of a Gandhi or a Martin Luther King Jr. is honored, but not actions that are unconstitutional. Sufficient numbers reached: A Giraffe's actions must be of benefit to a significant number of people, either as beneficiaries of the action or as people who may be inspired to emulate the Giraffe.

Personal gain: Candidates whose motives seem to be primarily personal or limited to the benefit of their own families generally do not qualify. Personal motives might be: self-preservation, financial or political gain, personal entertainment or personal growth. However, if these things simply occur as a by-product of their concern for others, they could be Giraffes. For example, if a nominee's altruistic work starts attracting money, that's fine, so long as money-making wasn't the primary motive.

Continuing actions: The Project generally does not honor one-time actions. The only exceptions we've made are when the action served to galvanize an entire community into long-term action. At the other extreme, we've honored people for a lifetime of Giraffe actions, rather than for any one of those actions.

Acting from where you are: People who wait for grants, funding, further training or approval from 'the proper authorities' before taking action are rarely Giraffes.

Intentions don't count: Giraffes must have taken concrete actions.

THE RISK CRITERIA

One or more of the following risks must be present in the story.

Risk as an encounter with fear: Most Giraffes have broken through or acted in the presence of fear. Broad categories of fear include fear of physical harm, of severe financial loss, of legal repercussions, of social or professional ostracism, or of losing large amounts of treasured personal time.

Subjective risk: In some cases, significant risks are taken when individuals overcome powerful fears or blocks within themselves in order to help other people, even if the fears or blocks are those which many other people in the same situation might not experience. For example, the risks of working in an inner-city drug treatment center are different for a 100-pound woman than for a 250-pound man. A Giraffe who is a disabled Vietnam vet had to overcome personal blocks to mentor Vietnamese refugees, which might have been no risk for a non-vet.

Objective risk: On the other hand, some Giraffes seem literally 'fearless,' even when faced with situations that would terrify most people. They are not downgraded for attaining such peace of mind.

Career changes: Taken alone, 'mid-career' switches do not count, unless accompanied by other factors which are qualifying. That is, the personal motive must be accompanied by a motive to serve the common good and the willingness to take significant risks to do so. For example, a Giraffe gave up his salary and perks as a senior corporate executive to start a nonprofit farm in the South Bronx. His family gave him a hard time about the lifestyle plunge; he hired dozens of South Bronx people and he brought a lot of hope to inner cities across the country by his example.

Financial risk: There must be no safety net (i.e., a spouse's handsome income or a handy trust fund.) Foregoing income (i.e., rejecting higher-paying work for service work) has not been treated as a true risk, unless it results in great financial sacrifice or a wrenching change in lifestyle. Example: a Giraffe who was a football All-American walked away from handsome offers to go pro and took on the risks and uncertainties of starting a ranch for troubled youth.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

'Above and beyond': Trained professionals doing their work within the boundaries of paid employment can qualify only if their service to others goes very far above and beyond the de facto standards of their profession. For example, a priest or social worker who takes on the bishop or City Hall to advance the cause of the homeless or a government employee who carries out the agency mission despite pressure within the agency to do nothing.

Legal Risk: Some Giraffes do break the law. But they do so without violence, with a willingness to accept the consequences, and with respect for the 'opposition.' Lawbreakers should have utilized all legal and political courses of action prior to their law breaking actions, and have continued to do so since their arrest. Examples: tax resisters who didn't file returns or who lied on them would not qualify. Lawbreakers whose goal is personal gain, general anarchy, disabling of the state or the personal satisfaction of raising hell do not qualify, although an activist battling for some well-reasoned and defined change in the government might.

Lawsuits: It's fine if a candidate sues to recover losses or to force an institution or individual to begin acting for the common good. But people who try to profit personally by suing for punitive damages will not be considered. Those who sue for punitive damages are only eligible if the money they receive is used directly and entirely to alleviate the conditions which brought about the lawsuit. Example: A Giraffe's lawsuits force polluters to clean-up the messes they've made, cease and desist polluting, and pay big fines that go to environmental groups in the affected region, not to the Giraffe. The Giraffe Project would greatly appreciate not receiving nominations of wonderful people who are doing good things but who do not meet these criteria. It ruins our day to have to tell a nominator that a wonderful person isn't a Giraffe!

Nominate a Giraffe - INDIA

Giraffe Sighting Report

Thank you for spotting a risk-taker for the common good, and for caring enough to complete a sighting report. To learn more about our criteria for choosing Giraffes, please read Criteria for Giraffedom on our web site. If your nominee is commended as a Giraffe, you will receive copies of the announcement letter and of the commendation itself. (* = required fields)

Nominee's name: *

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First

Last

Nominee's address: *

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Nominee's main phone number: *

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Nominee's email address: *

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1. What has the nominee done for the common good? *

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2. How long has the nominee been doing this? *

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3. What did the nominee risk as a result of his/her actions for the common good? Please provide anecdotes that will help the jury evaluate the risk— the most common reason nominations have failed in the past is that the jury hasn't seen a risk in the information. For example: Has your nominee stood up for the common good against powerful opponents, angry neighbors or coworkers? Could s/he have been fired or his/her livelihood otherwise endangered? Was there physical danger or threats? Did the nominee endanger his/her health? Did his/her actions cause a wrenching and unwelcome change of lifestyle? If the risk has been time or money, please be as specific as you can about the percentage of the nominee's time or income that is involved. *

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4. If the actions for which you are nominating this person are part of his/her paid employment, please tell us how the acts go significantly beyond the job description.

5. If your nominee, in the course of serving the common good, created a new organization which now pays him/her, how many years or months did he/she need to work without a paycheck?

6. If the nominee has committed civil disobedience, what laws were broken and why?

7. If your nominee has sued or is suing a person or an institution, please give details. If the litigation involved/involves significant award (for instance for damages) please tell us how such an award was or is planned to be spent.

8. Who else knows your nominee's story? (At least two such references are needed)

Contact information for referral person #1: *

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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First

Last

Address: *

Phone: *

E-mail:

Relationship to nominee (how do they know the nominee?):

Contact information for referral person #2: *

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First

Last

Referral #2 Address: *

--

Referral #2 phone: *

--

Referral #2 E-mail:

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Referral #2 relationship to nominee:

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9. Your Name: *

First Last

Your address: *

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Your phone: *

--

Your E-mail: *

--

Your relationship to nominee:

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Upload additional information about the nominee that you feel would support this nomination. Newspaper articles are particularly helpful.

Download & Fill out a nomination form (Doc file):

www.dwarkaparichay.com/ghi.doc

Send the filled nomination form at following email IDs:

saluvk@gmail.com

info@dwarkaparichay.com