



Parishioner Vonetta Edwards Chosen for "Beyond the Finish Line" Award

by Anne Haddad

We are proud to announce that the Runners for Others: An Ignatian 5K will present the 2018 "Beyond the Finish Line" Award to Vonetta Edwards, PhD!!

This annual award celebrates Ignatian service and commitment to others by honoring an individual possessing the vision, courage, humility and stamina to make great things happen.

In choosing Vonetta for this award, the committee considered her leadership at St. Ignatius Church to connect parishioner mentors with refugee families and to develop relationships with the local organizations that are serving these refugees.

In nominating her for this award, Father James Casciotti, SJ, pastor of St. Ignatius, said, "I admire Vonetta, not only for her hard work and dedication to immigrants and refugees, but also for her leadership style. She is soft-spoken and brings others in as partners, parishioners as well as networking with other groups serving and advocating for this population. That mix of direct service, partnering and advocacy is what makes our whole Justice and Peace Committee so effective."

She moved to Baltimore in 2012 as a researcher in women's health. She is a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Genome Sciences at University of Maryland School of Medicine. She joined St. Ignatius in 2013 and soon joined the Justice and Peace Committee, and is now the chair of the Immigration Sub-Committee. This year, she was elected to the St. Ignatius Pastoral Council.

The mission of the Immigration Sub-committee is to educate the community about challenges faced by immigrants and to advocate on their behalf. This advocacy work is a growth from the outreach work that Vonetta did in her previous parishes -- Fatima Roman Catholic Church in Georgetown, Guyana; and St. Mark the Evangelist in Hyattsville, Md.

At St. Ignatius, Vonetta has found a home to continue her work, joined by many compassionate parishioners. She hopes to bring novel proposals to engage fellow parishioners and move strategically forward to assist those most in need.

Thank you Vonetta for accepting this award!!

