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**Louisville Attorney Tom M. Williams
Named "Louisville Peacemaker of the Year"
By Interfaith Paths to Peace**

Interfaith Paths to Peace (IPP), a Louisville-based interfaith peacemaking organization has awarded it's 2011 "Louisville Peacemaker of the Year Award" to Tom M. Williams, an accomplished Louisville attorney and social entrepreneur. The Peacemaker of the Year is presented by IPP and Ms. Carolyn King in the name of her son, the late Richard Hunt Smith. (A brief biography of Mr. Smith appears below.). Although a national Peacemaker of the Year Award was presented in 2010 by IPP, this is the first time that a *Louisville* Peacemaker of the Year has been recognized by IPP.

The award was presented at IPP's second annual "My Recipe for Peace" dinner which was held at The Temple (Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom) on Thursday night, July 21, 2011. In making the presentation, Terry Taylor, Executive Director of Interfaith Paths to Peace, cited Williams' work in furthering the idea of Restorative Justice, his efforts to foster leadership for the community as Chairman of the Board of the Leadership Louisville Center, his success in creating Thomas Merton Square in downtown Louisville, his volunteer efforts with Interfaith Paths to Peace and the Thomas Merton Institute for Contemplative Living. The presentation concluded with Taylor citing Williams' coordination of efforts to ensure that Louisville joins the ranks of communities that have been designated as international "Compassionate Cities."

About Tom Williams

Tom Williams serves as Vice Chair of the Labor, Employment and Employee Benefits Practice Group at Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC. Since 2004, Mr. Williams has been recognized by Chambers USA as a "Leader in Kentucky" in the field of labor and employment law. Mr. Williams has also served as President of the Louisville Bar Association. Active within the community, he has served as the Board Chair for the Leadership Louisville Center, has been a member of the Board of Interfaith Paths to Peace and currently serves on the Board of the Thomas Merton Institute for Contemplative Living.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT RICHARD HUNT SMITH FOR WHOM THE AWARD IS NAMED

Richard attended Guilford College where he majored in English and minored in music. Following his graduation he was drawn to the field of education and more particularly to working with children. Richard taught at Cone Elementary School in Greensboro, North Carolina, where most of the students he served were African Americans who faced enormous economic challenges. He empowered these youngsters by his example. Together they shared kindness, mutual respect, and joy.

Richard died in 2009 at the age of 31 after a brief but intense life devoted to peacemaking. His life serves as a powerful model of what each of us can accomplish when we strive to be fully human. Richard made it his life's work to expand the flow of love in the world by reaching out to others, striving always to help those less fortunate than him. He did not judge anyone; nor did he exclude any from the wide circle of his care. His peacemaking efforts reached individuals of many races and religions, both in his native land and in countries as far away as India. His loving kindness deeply touched members of his own family. That same loving kindness eased the pain of the ordinary and often forgotten men, women and children whose lives are difficult and who often just need a friend.

About Interfaith Paths to Peace

Interfaith Paths to Peace (IPP) is a nonprofit organization based in Louisville, Kentucky. IPP works to make our community, the nation, and the world more peaceful by bringing people of different religions together through programs and events that promote inter-religious understanding. IPP now delivers more interfaith events and opportunities than any other group in the Midwest and perhaps in the US.