



**Sylvia James-Miller, Chair**  
**Debra Dowds, Executive Director**

## **Idelio Valdes Leadership and Advocacy Award**

### **Description**

Idelio Valdes was a self-advocate who had a tremendous impact on the people around him and the community in which he lived and worked. His life's journey included many ups and downs but he always stayed the course to self-realization, commitment to service and a belief that he and others with developmental disabilities can be included in the community. His demonstrated advocacy activities, his belief in building partnerships, his initiative in challenging the status quo and his enthusiasm for life and its possibilities endeared him to all who were fortunate enough to know him. This award is dedicated to his memory.

### **The Self-Advocate Chosen for this Award will be Selected Based on the Following Criteria:**

- Does the individual with a developmental disability?
- Within the last two years, has demonstrated advocacy activities in keeping with the spirit of Idelio Valdes and has acted as an advocate for themselves and others.
- Within the last two years, has worked to develop community partnerships.
- Within the last two years, has enthusiastically embraced the community and encouraged others to do so by example and working with groups.

**While membership in a self-advocacy group is not required, membership is regarded as a plus in the selection process.**

### **Award Time Frame:**

- Call for Nominations – 01/20/2015
- Deadline for returning Nomination Forms – 02/20/2015 – 5 p.m.
- Selection completed – 02/27/2015
- Recipient notified – 02/27/2015
- Presentation of Award on 3/5/2015  
(during the Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day)

**The Winner of the Idelio Valdes Leadership and Advocacy Award should limit his/her acceptance remarks to one (1) typed page.**

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