

# Aban Institute and Associates, Inc.

establishes



## Ramina Williams and Yvonne Clear Community Engagement Award

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### Ramina Williams & Yvonne Clear Community Engagement Award

Aban Institute and Associates, Inc., is pleased to announce the establishment of the Ramina Williams and Yvonne Clear Community Engagement Award. This award is named in honor of two remarkable women, Ramina Williams and Yvonne Clear, who dedicated their lives to “making the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition.”<sup>1</sup> Both were native New Yorkers who would eventually move to the Washington Metropolitan Area to call home and raise their families. Very determined women, they staked their reputations on the line to ensure their community received the support and services it needed. They were extremely passionate about serving their community and making a lasting impact. Both left this earth too early, within two years of each other, never having met.

Ramina and Yvonne were both avid gardeners and loved seeing the beautiful work their green thumbs produced. They both made the world a bit better in their own special way. Even in the brevity of their life, they pursued their life’s purpose with passion and commitment, never succumbing to naysayers.

### Family and Medical Counseling Services, Inc. is first recipient of Williams-Clear Community Engagement Award

As role models, Ramina and Yvonne inspired a whole generation of youth to live out their dreams and make this world a better place to live. Aban owes its existence to such powerful unsung heroines.

It is with the greatest pleasure and honor that Aban establishes this award in their memory and to recognize one of our community partners, either an individual or organization, for their effort “to make the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition.”

Our very first award recipient is being presented to Family and Medical Counseling Services, Inc. for their tireless effort to reduce and prevent the rate of HIV and AIDS infections in Ward 8; among their other health and social service activities. Many of our colleagues working in this field know we are facing an epidemic of tragic proportions in the District of Columbia, particularly in Ward 8. FMCS is on the front lines every day fighting against this scourge called AIDS.

FMCS embodies the ideals and dedication that Ramina and Yvonne exhibited throughout their lives to create social change. We applaud the staff, founders, and executives at FMCS for their work and know that they will not rest until the tides change in favorable direction.

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<sup>1</sup> Line in a poem by Ralph W. Emerson