

Helen Vukelich

Helen Vukelich was actively and tirelessly involved in the passage of Madison's Equal Opportunities Ordinance during the early 1960's.

She has a long history of commitment to civil rights. She resigned from her sorority in protest of discriminatory policy.

She was founding member of Friends of the South Madison Neighborhood Center. In this role, she gave time and energy to young and old around the Center. She made sure her children and grandchildren had good opportunities to know a diversity of other people. She encouraged their friendships with a wide range of culturally diverse individuals.

She mentored children in need and volunteered her time in Madison schools. She has provided practical and active support to candidates who espouse justice and equity everywhere. She helped organize and provided 24-hour support for church sanctuary to a young conscientious objector. She understood and objected to U.S. Central American policies. Helen was a peaceful demonstrator against the Vietnam War; supports organizations like the Madison Branch of the NAACP and Centro Hispano. She has been a YWCA Woman of Distinction and has volunteered her time as a UMOJA proofreader.

Characteristics: Passionate attention to justice and fair play. Her ability to give aid and succor to fellow humans is fueled by an amazing empathy for troubled lives. Has sensitivity and insight both political and emotional into the truth of any situation. Politically astute and active. Modest about her own achievements. Generous with time and energy—a giving person. Keen sense of humor. Brings out the best in others. Is a genius at networking on behalf of justice and equality.