

Joyce Starr

This community driver daily is an advocate for her constituents and for voting rights particularly relating to racial and social justice. Councilwoman Joyce Starr heartfully believes in helping others to lead a purposeful life. On a daily basis, she hopes to do whatever she can for whomever she can." She has been instrumental in forming community groups to become involved in the voting process, to be registered to vote, know the candidates, and be educated on topics that affect their lives. By getting involved in community committees and meeting with the public in Town Hall settings, she has increased her District's involvement and inspired others to seek City Council positions. She has helped revive her neighborhood through involvement and pride in community.

Joyce Starr continues to be an enthusiastic representative for her St. Joseph City Council District II constituents. She was re-elected to serve District II in 2010 and again in 2014 and has stood up to opponents over the years with courage and determination in promoting racial and social justice. Having served on her campaign committee, I have witnessed her verbosity as a strong representative of her community. Opponents have verbally assaulted her—but Joyce has withstood their attacks and held firmly in support of her District II neighbors. She listens to concerned citizens, researches information, and votes to best represent her District when votes are taken at Council meetings.

Joyce has been honored to receive

- **YWCA Women of Excellence** – Volunteer of the Year Nominee 2015
- **The David Berger Community Service Award** from InterServ. It is an annual award for public service to an outstanding community leader.
- **Service to Youth Award** (YMCA) Explorer's Early Learning Center – providing mentorship and educational assistance to youth
- **Soar Volunteer Award** for making a difference in the lives of others at the Missouri Department of Corrections – Western Reception Diagnostic & Correction Center through Christian leadership.
- **St. Joseph Museum – Black Archives – Inducted Honoree** An award for those who have devoted their life to public service.
- **Vandalia, MO Women's Prison Recognition** – for mentoring women in prison.
- **Journalism Award "Making Tracks"** – inspired kids to jump into writing and become successful.

Joyce has served Youth Alliance, Open Door Food Kitchen, Central Assembly of God Children's ministry, and honored to serve the Victims' Rights Committee. For decades, she has motivated others to join her in her prison ministry to bring hope to those who need it most. She inspires elementary students to be the best they can be. She is not afraid to stand up to those in her opposition. She is also a loving mentor to her granddaughter whom she cares for regularly.

Joyce continually inspires others to get involved with the prison ministry. She has ministered to both women and men at our Buchanan County Jail and other Missouri facilities including Vandalia, Missouri Women's Prison. Her inspirational words have created life-long bonds with women who learned from her leadership, integrity, hope, and strength. As one of the first female nominees to be selected to the Black Archives, she has paved the way for many others since her honored induction. Most particularly, as an un intimidated leader of the City Council, she has made great strides in involvement for her district.

Raised by her Aunt Cornelia on a farm, she was inspired by the words "You will succeed." Her first job motivated her to understand the importance of a good education and hard work. She has lived in St. Joseph for over 40 years, worked at Wire Rope for 30 years, and has worked at Skaith School for ten years. She is a mentor and leader in her community touching children's lives at Skaith School and her church. Joyce is also a loving mentor to her granddaughter.

Joyce Star seeks increased social and racial justice each and every day. She is very deserving of the Kelsy Beshears Racial Justice Award.