



Karen Noble Hanson
**Fund for
Social Justice**

The Karen Noble Hanson Fund for Social Justice has been established by the PathStone Board of Directors to promote social and economic justice on behalf of participants served by PathStone Corporation. The fund is supported with personal donations from staff, board members and friends of PathStone. The fund supports specific advocacy initiatives that benefit our participants:

- *Searching for increased income and improved working conditions*
- *In need of safe, affordable homes*
- *Trapped in underserved communities*
- *Traumatized by racism and discrimination*

Karen spoke truth to power and was not intimidated by those who would challenge her audacity to confront the existing social, economic and political power structures on behalf of PFI clients.



Karen's challenge to board members, staff and friends:

"You must continue to feel the indignation of injustice until every family has an opportunity to live with dignity."

Dr. Karen Noble Hanson (formerly Karen Tobin), one of PathStone's most revered and visionary leaders, died on November 7, 2018.

PathStone was organized in 1969 with a mission to provide job training, education, housing, health and emergency services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Our first grant was from the Office of Economic Opportunity created by President Lyndon Johnson as part of his transformative "war on poverty."

PathStone was established as the Bureau of Program Funding (BPF) under the auspices of SUNY Geneseo and the Geneseo Migrant Program led by Dr. Gloria Matera. In 1971, the BPF advisory committee incorporated the organization as Program Funding Inc. (PFI) and became the first Board of Directors. We've also been known as Rural New York Farmworker Opportunities, Inc. and then Rural Opportunities, Inc. before changing our name to PathStone Corporation in 2008.

In 1971, Karen was hired by Cornell Cooperative Extension as the director of the Agricultural Manpower Project working primarily in Wayne County. In 1972, she was hired as the regional coordinator of PFI, and in 1973, promoted to Executive Director. Under Karen's leadership, our organization expanded its geographic reach throughout New York State, increased staff from five to over 100, and developed an annual budget of more than \$4 million. Karen envisioned and established the administrative and management policies and procedures required to effectively manage federal and state farmworker programs. Many of those policies and procedures are still in place. Most importantly, Karen focused on the importance of delivering high-quality services to farmworkers.

Karen was a prolific writer and testified at countless hearings and meetings in an effort to highlight the plight of farmworkers. She visited labor camps on a regular basis and reported

violations to the New York State Department of Health. She challenged government as well as the agricultural industry to treat farmworkers with fairness and dignity. She led by example and inspired all of us who worked for her to act with integrity, be courageous, and always demand respect for the farmworkers we served. Karen wholeheartedly embraced the inherent value of being governed by those we serve. We are proud to report that 50 years later, our board maintains the same commitment.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Karen as the Farmers Home Administration (USDA) state director for New York and the Virgin Islands. In 1981, Karen return to Rochester and worked as an executive or a large private real estate development company.

"During Karen's tenure with the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester she championed our diocesan commitment to social justice at every opportunity. We are thankful for her collegial and visionary leadership."

Rt. Rev Prince Singh
Retired Bishop Jack Mckelvey

In 1998 Karen joined the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester as their chief financial officer and was installed as a Diocesan Canon. As Karen engaged with churches, she actively promoted the Rural & Migrant Ministry, a statewide farmworker advocacy organization. She served with distinction until her retirement in 2012. Karen remained connected to PathStone and supported our mission throughout her career. The Board of Directors honored Karen by inducting her into the PathStone Hall of Fame in 2003.

I am proud to become a Karen Noble Hanson Fund for Social Justice donor with a contribution of:

Enclosed is my check for: \$ _____ payable to PathStone Foundation (in support of KNHFSJ)

Please send me an invoice at the address listed.

I will donate online at the following:
<https://pathstone.foundation/donation>
and designate the Karen Noble Hanson Fund.

This donation is made in honor/memory of:

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Scan, fax or mail payment and form to:
Alex Castro
President of KNHFSJ
400 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607
acastro@pathstone.org

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.