

2026 Live Forward Award Nominees

Angela Puerta	Angela Puerta is an urban planner, musician, and bilingual Colombian immigrant whose work connects planning, culture, and community well-being. At the City of Madison Planning Department, she works on neighborhood and area planning, bringing community voices into conversations about land use, housing, transportation, public spaces, economic development, and cultural resources. She is also involved in efforts to strengthen Madison’s music ecosystem and create a more welcoming environment for musicians and creative workers. As a musician, Angela develops bilingual, interactive programs that introduce children to Spanish and Latin American culture through music, rhythm, movement, and dance. Through partnerships with the Overture Center, Madison Public Library, Dane County schools, and community organizations, she creates opportunities for children—especially children of color—to see their cultures represented and celebrated.
Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals WI EHS Team	The WI Arrowhead Environmental, Health & Safety Team (Matt Felder, Katie Piper, Erin Valdivia, and Collin Hagen) are honored to be nominated for the Live Forward Award! They support all things safe and sustainable at the Madison and Verona, WI Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals sites, where their daily work includes everything from assisting safe laboratory and manufacturing operations to rescuing frogs from retention pits and dumpster diving for compostables. In February 2026, with leadership in Madison from Matt and in Verona from Katie, front-of-house composting was launched at both WI Arrowhead sites to collect food scraps and single-use paper items. They have collected almost 8,000 lbs of compostable material in the first seven months of the program.
Employees of Pellitteri Waste Systems, Inc.	For almost 50 years, Pellitteri Waste Systems has demonstrated sustainability leadership in the community through its ongoing efforts to improve recycling and divert more materials from the landfill. In addition to building the first state-of-the-art, automated single-stream Material Recovery Facility in South Central Wisconsin, Pellitteri has introduced confidential data destruction services, specialty recycling for manufacturing and industrial customers, and recycling education resources. Last year, the family-owned and operated waste disposal and recycling company recycled 205 million pounds of materials across its facilities. Most recently, Pellitteri worked behind-the-scenes with others to pass new

	battery safety legislation to reduce the risk of battery fires. The company has grown from a mom-and-pop hauling operation to the nation's 32nd-largest waste hauler—all the while never losing sight of one of its core business values: being good stewards of the environment.
Gloria Castillo Posada	Gloria Castillo Posada is a customer engagement and community services manager at Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), where her work focuses on community partnerships, customer-centered engagement, and energy education that support MGE's goals of reliable service, sustainability, and long-term decarbonization. Gloria brings extensive experience in stakeholder engagement and community-based program development. She is deeply committed to translating complex energy concepts into accessible, meaningful learning opportunities, elevating community voices, and fostering inclusive collaboration to expand awareness and understanding of clean energy solutions across diverse populations. Before joining Madison Gas and Electric, Gloria built more than 15 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, working across Colombia, Canada, and the United States, and has served in leadership and advisory roles on multiple nonprofit boards. Her professional background reflects a longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship, education, and community-centered solutions. Gloria earned a Bachelor of Science in ecology from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, and a master's degree in environment and resources from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her impact has earned her a spot on Madison365's Most Influential Latino Leaders list in 2023 and the Nelson Institute's 2024 Rising Star Alumni Award.
Goodwill of South Central Wisconsin	Goodwill of South Central Wisconsin is a 100% local nonprofit employing more than 550 team members across a 14-county region. Purchases and donations at its retail stores and donation centers support mission programs that help people live, work, and thrive, including supported employment, job skills training for people facing barriers to employment, stable housing, and free tax preparation for individuals and families with low to moderate incomes. Through its operations, Goodwill also advances sustainability by giving donated items a second life, recycling materials responsibly, and keeping millions of pounds of materials out of landfills each year. This

	combination of retail, employment, community services, and environmental stewardship allows Goodwill to make a lasting impact throughout the region.
Jessica Hannebert and Catherine Frerker	Jessica Hannebert and Catherine Frerker co-lead Climate Changemakers Madison, a nonprofit chapter helping everyday people take civic action on climate. After their day jobs, they host gatherings where people outside of standard climate or policy spaces can learn and take meaningful action together. In their year and a half as leaders, they've facilitated climate action for hundreds of volunteers at regular "Hour of Action" gatherings and through direct meetings between constituents and legislative offices, and they've helped advance state policy priorities including balcony solar legislation and support for food rescue initiatives. Their ongoing food rescue work brings together nonprofits, businesses, food rescuers, and policy groups from across Wisconsin to shape strong, inclusive policy for our state. Their goal is to promote functioning democracy and to make civic engagement accessible so people's concerns on climate are heard and acted on.
Martin (Martye) Griffin	Martye has always been about the 'WE' in 'WATER' and how human decisions impact water quality. He received his graduate degree in biology examining the impacts of excess nutrients on coastal ecosystems at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and has over 25 years of experience working in the public and private sector looking holistically at the interaction between human land use and water quality and seeking sustainable solutions. With increasing societal and regulatory pressure to produce cleaner water than ever, It costs more to clean water after it is polluted than preventing the pollution in the first place. Martye focuses on solving problems adaptively as a way to "move at the speed of trust". Working in communities focusing on sustainable pollution prevention actions is just the way we must do business.
Nate Good	Nate Good is an environmental educator and social worker. He works for Operation Fresh Start, a non-profit organization working to empower young adults on their path to self-sufficiency through education, mentoring, and employment training. Nate holds a unique dual role at OFS. He spends part of his time as a conservation crew supervisor, helping to manage projects with Dane County Parks and Dane County Forestry with young adults finishing their high school diploma. The rest of his time he spends as OFS' resident social worker,

	helping participants access the community resources and support they need in order to achieve their goals.
Ryan Holley	Hiking, paddling, and other outdoor activities were formative youthful experiences that ingrained the importance of protecting our shared environment and creating opportunities for more people to connect with it in positive ways. I moved to Madison to pursue graduate studies over a decade ago, and after becoming enmeshed in the local landscape and culture decided to put down more permanent roots in the area. For the past 5 years I've worked at The River Food Pantry, where I've been privileged to lead a variety of sustainability initiatives and build connections with others throughout this community. In my off time I still enjoy getting out into nature, especially through whitewater or sea kayaking trips and expanding the gardens and native landscaping around my house.
Sara Booth	Sara Booth, BSN, RN, CNOR is a registered nurse on the Eyes, ENT and Plastic Surgery Team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital. She has been a practicing operating room (OR) nurse in both the circulator and scrub roles for 15 years. In 2024 she received Madison Magazine Top Nurses Award for her evidence-based practice project on intraoperative patient positioning assessments. In April 2026 she represented the UW Health Green OR Council at the Association of Registered periOperative Nurses (AORN) Global Surgical Conference in New Orleans, presenting a poster on perioperative sustainable normothermia management. This project was projected to divert 979 pounds of plastic out of the landfill annually and save thousands of dollars in healthcare expenses. Sara's latest project is focused on repurposing clean, unused OR supplies within the community in an effort to divert waste out of the local landfill while also making a community connection. So far, 539 pounds of OR supplies have been donated to local community organizations including school art programs, vet clinics and local healthcare simulation labs.
Troy Farm and Kids Garden	The Troy Kids Garden and Troy Farm are two gems on the Northside of Madison that offer community members a bounty of organic produce, educational opportunities, and ways to connect with the land. The Troy Kids' Garden on Madison's north side is a space that hosts weekly community group visits for kids in the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as field trips from schools & camps throughout the year. Youth participants have the opportunity to see how their food is grown and take part in caring for it, as well as harvesting it to then cook up meals for themselves on site! We help students try new things,

	become more comfortable outdoors, and get to exercise their creativity and curiosity about the world around them! The garden and field trips are managed & run by Laura Bettenhausen and Addie Taddy. Troy Farm grows produce both for sale to farm members and local restaurants, as well as for donation to 4 different community centers on the Northside of Madison through the Purpose Grown Project. Community members can get involved and learn in many different ways through volunteering, attending our free and family-friendly community events, or just taking advantage of the free community U-pick flower and herb garden. Troy Farm also supports emerging farmers and community organizations through the Troy Farm Collaborative by offering land access, infrastructure access, tool access, technical assistance, and other resources.
Urban Triage: Supporting Healthy Black Agriculture	Urban Triage's agricultural initiatives center food sovereignty, community wellness, economic empowerment, and sustainable food systems. Through urban agriculture, community gardens, agricultural education, and hands-on growing opportunities, we create pathways for community members to connect with land, food, culture, and wellness. Our work includes the Hemp Specialty Crop Program, which explores hemp cultivation, education, and its potential as a sustainable agricultural and economic opportunity. Through Less Noise Wellness, Urban Triage also connects agriculture, wellness, and community care by promoting holistic approaches to health and well-being. Together, these initiatives address food access, build agricultural knowledge and skills, support environmental stewardship, and create opportunities for greater self-sufficiency and community ownership. Urban Triage is cultivating healthier communities by investing in people, land, food, and collective wellness.