**Bob Mann’s Citation for the 2015 Kozeny Communitarian Award**

The Fellowship for Intentional Community (FIC) hereby recognizes Bob Mann as the 2015 recipient of the Kozeny Communitarian Award, honoring the indomitable spirit of Geoph Kozeny, who devoted his adult life to creating community in the world.

Bob has lived in intentional community settings for the last 30 years and has created community in a number of ways. Here are highlights of this activist’s life, apropos this award.

o  In the early '90s he was appointed to chair the Mayor’s Task Force for the Environment to address how Kansas City would go forward with the state mandate to reduce its waste and to provide recycling and other non-landfill options to its citizens. He brought together elements of government, private business (waste haulers, recyclers, etc.), and "tree-hugger" activists who had never been able to sit down in the same room and have a civil discussion together, and helped them create a plan that won everyone’s approval and guided it through acceptance by the Mayor and the City Council.

o He then founded a nonprofit environmental education organization, Bridging The Gap (BTG), which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2012 based on the same model of collaboration; always bringing together divergent interests in the community to find common ground. He established a contract with the city to provide more than a dozen drop-off recycling centers throughout the metropolitan area, and created a volunteer force of more than 2,000 people to staff these centers. One of BTG’s early slogans appearing on KC busses and elsewhere was “We’re simply building community.” Over the next decade, Bob, as Executive Director, received grant funding to reproduce this model at many levels, and he brought together large entities such as Hallmark, Harley Davidson, Kansas City Power & Light, and Bayer, to collaborate on a "synergy" model for using one another’s waste products to create new products and services, thus reducing what went into landfills. He has spent many years in helping others learn what a "sustainable community approach" is all about.

o In his late 30's Bob took frequent family vacations and retreats at a rustic mountain lodge in Grand Lake CO called Shadowcliff. He and his faith community helped build additional facilities there. Shadowcliff was owned and operated by Warren and Pat Rempel, a ministerial couple, and through the years Bob, whose early career was in law, volunteered to help resolve legal issues that came up. When the Rempels decided to retire, they told Bob that they chose not to sell the $2 million property to private developers, but instead wanted to give the property away in a manner that would enable it to be kept as a not-for-profit lodge and retreat center—on the condition that he and his wife, Judith, would assume the directorship and become the keeps of the vision for Shadowcliff. Bob and Judith agreed, and for 10 years they directed the activities of Shadowcliff, which has become an eco-lodge under Bob’s innovative program direction. Using his contacts from BTG as a base, Bob created more than 50 multi-day sustainability workshops and eco-retreats to bring together government entities, private business and citizen groups, guiding them to deepen their environmental commitment and connection with the natural world. After a decade as directors, Bob & Judith stepped down in 2012, though Bob has remained an active Board member and volunteer leader.

o  In the early ‘80s Bob and several partners invested money in renovating a decaying urban apartment building in Kansas City’s midtown area. The building was surrounded by pimps and drug users. The only "legitimate" business around was a convenience store next door. This was an early effort to help change a social/urban environment from the inside out, without government financing or other official assistance. After renovating the property, Bob and Judith sold their home and became the building’s first tenants as well as onsite managers. Bob and Judith’s idea, far ahead of its time, was to create an apartment living community that would provide a structure to strengthen social ties among the apartment dwellers and thus, by putting faces and names to those who shared the building’s fate, to create more of a shared sense of accountability and responsibility.

o While this experiment failed, out of it grew a new determination to live in a more intentional and community-oriented manner. In 1986, Bob, Judith, and three others bought a house together and created a household partnership called Hearthaven. Located in a low-income, midtown neighborhood in Kansas City, it provided a base for Bob to continue his environmental community efforts, and for all of the housemates to model an option for sustainable community living; others in the household carried out their individual missions but with an overarching goal of providing a sanctuary (haven) with heart, with connections to the earth, and with open hospitality to others, especially those in need of community while in personal transition.

Hearthaven lasted for 17 years. For the last eight years Bob & Judith have been living in River Rock, an established cohousing community in Fort Collins, to be nearer family and Shadowcliff and to continue their commitment to living in community.

o  Three years ago Bob was asked by his undergraduate college, William Jewell (Liberty MO), if he would provide leadership in bringing together faculty, students, administration and alumni in planning for and establishing a Justice and Sustainability Center at the college. Once again Bob created an engaging forum where all institutional stakeholders were included in a visioning process that resulted in the college embracing the principles of justice and sustainability that could be applied throughout its programs and curricula. In 2012 he received the William Jewell Humanitarian Award in recognition of his current and lifelong efforts.

o As a young man Bob helped organize a baseball league for inner city boys in Kansas City, and recruited suburban men to both coach and umpire the kids. Over the next decade the Ernie Mehl Baseball League grew to serve over 1300 inner city youth. During the Kansas City race riots he volunteered his time and legal expertise to African-American leaders who negotiated with city officials to keep the city calm in a difficult time.

o During the anti-nuclear peace movement years he helped organize an annual Peace Walk from Kansas City’s Bendix plant (where the triggers for nuclear bombs were made) to Whiteman AFB in Warrensburg, MO, a three-day, 63-mile walk where participants spent the night in churches along the way and ultimately met outside the base. Bob was the one who communicated with Air Force officials each year to let them know that our intentions were peaceful, but that we would be asking permission to come onto the base to pray for peace in their chapel, and if permission was refused there would be those whose conscience called them to trespass onto the base. Like other peace activist demonstrations across the country, these highly emotional annual attempts resulted in arrests, fingerprintings, ban-and-bar letters and occasional misdemeanor charges for repeat offenders—but never once over a period of about 15 years, thanks at least in part to the quality of the conversations between Bob and the Air Force majors in charge of the base, did any violence occur. Bob’s idea of peacemaking has always been inclusive.

• • •

In particular, we celebrate Bob for three main qualities that are basis for this lifetime achievement award:

—**Networker**: Bob has done an outstanding job of: a) creating and strengthening relationships among organizations on the basis of a we’re-in-this-together attitude; b) spearheading successful joint projects among entities that did not have a prior history of collaboration; and c) bringing the inspiration and tools of cooperation to the general population.

—**Creating Community in Place**: Bob has helped existing neighborhoods, businesses, and nonprofit organizations develop and sustain a significantly greater sense of community and connection, as well as an enhanced commitment to place.

—**Cooperative Leadership**: Bob has modeled exemplary and inspirational leadership in a cooperative context. This includs the creation and development of a culture in which the leadership capacity of others flourished under his guidance; the demonstration of grace and the ability to hold the group together in times of crisis; the modeling of healthy ego management and the appropriate acceptance of responsibility when things didn't work well; and foresight to prepare well for an orderly transition to others when it was time to step down.

For all of these reasons, the FIC’s salutes Bob with this award.