

KIRBY EDMONDS
1951-2020

Kirby Edmonds attended Glastonbury High School after having been educated in Nairobi, Kenya, and Beirut, Lebanon. He went on to earn two degrees from Cornell University, a BA in History and a Masters in Public Administration. His life's work revolved around helping those who were marginalized in the Greater Ithaca area. He considered himself to be a community organizer and used his skill in various jobs to advocate against racism and to champion human rights.

As a young man Mr. Edmonds set up a drug and alcohol crisis hotline and became a trainer in prevention and treatment systems. Through this work he was able to develop a deep understanding of the challenge of getting well in an unhealthy society. This lead Mr. Edmonds to co-found Training for Change (Tfc Associates) to support healthy organization development and eliminate racism and all forms of systemic oppression.

Edmonds worked with indigenous people in the Northwest Territories and used his connections as a co-founder of Human Rights Educators USA (HRE). In this role he led anti-oppression workshops for Cornell's Human Relations Training Program. As his career progressed he was a co-founder of the Dorothy Cotton Institute and used this platform to promote her message of non-violent direct action.

Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick said of Edmonds, "Kirby was a marathon runner in the race for social, racial, and environmental justice, he worked his whole life to make a more just world."

Information contained herein was compiled by the Historical Society of Glastonbury for the Glastonbury MLK39 Mural Project dedicated in September 2024.

