



Sadina Vanison, Bus Driver Supervisor for the Alexandria Area Agency on Aging, Department of Community and Human Services, is the 2021 recipient of the City of Alexandria Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Spirit Award, awarded each year to a City employee who exemplifies Dr. King's leadership and vision through commitment to social justice, diversity, inclusion and service.

Sadina, who was nominated by Adult Day Services Center (ADSC) Therapeutic Recreational Leader Jackie McCord, was chosen for the award because of her deep commitment to service for others through her work and her personal time, including during the challenging times of the past year.

Dr. King once asked, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Sadina has answered that call with, according to Jackie, a "heart of service for anyone she encounters," and "a leadership style of humility that comes with a joyous personality."

Sadina was noted for ensuring the safety of the City's drivers during the pandemic by securing personal protective equipment and initiating plexiglass barriers for them while they continued to provide services to senior residents at risk of isolation including delivering PPE and hot/cold meals, sightseeing tours, furniture for a senior in need, Mother's Day gift baskets, walking activities and much more.

As a member of the Alexandria Successful Aging Committee, Sadina helps plan activities for the senior centers and adult day services center. She has incorporated her church in donating gift cards for a holiday celebration and contributions for senior walkathons. For a Thanksgiving drive-thru held for 20 seniors and organized by the ADSC, Sadina donated a turkey with green beans that she prepared. For those seniors unable to attend the drive-thru service, she arranged for the delivery of meals.

Jackie says that "Sadina is a visionary who will help anyone execute their vision for humanity." Sadina's many acts of service to others and outreach to the community carry on the traditions of Dr. King and embody the City's Mission, Vision and Values.

Jackie also commends Sadina's professionalism and dedication to the City. "Throughout the years, I have admired Sadina's leadership skills and productivity," says Jackie. "She is a legacy for me to follow."