

# Patricia Kelly

*2022 Spotlight Recipient*

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Patricia Elaine Kelly was born, raised and attended elementary and High School in Hartford, Connecticut. Mrs. Kelly has a BS in Human Services from Southern New Hampshire College and a Masters in Nonprofit Management from St. Thomas University.

Patricia is a United States Marine Corps veteran serving during the Vietnam War and received training in Military Intelligence and received military clearance for Secret and Top Secret messages. Patricia, is also certified as an Urban Riding Specialist Instructor, Master Urban Riding Instructor, Certified Equine Husbandry Instructor, and is a certified Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Horse Specialist.

In 1984, Patricia E. Kelly founded Ebony Horsewomen, Inc. (EHI), Ebony Horsewomen, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-service organization, developed and directed by African American female equestrians whose mission is to encourage and empower inner city youth toward positive and successful lives through the use of horses and Equine Assisted Therapy. Patricia was the first Chairwoman and has been the Chief Executive Officer for 38 years. Under Patricia's leadership the Ebony Horsewomen Inc. has grown from a local to a national organization with members across the United States and the Ebony Horsewomen programs and services have been recognized for its excellence across the United States.

Ebony Horsewomen Equestrian and Therapeutic Center is a leader in the region providing Equine Assisted Therapy and Psychotherapy. Patricia has received numerous awards which includes: CNN Top Ten Hero, induction into the National Cowboys of Color Hall of Fame, Fort Worth Texas, National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, The Community Economic Development Fund's Community Development Award, induction into the Cricket Hall of Fame, The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Community Service Award, State of Connecticut African American Affairs Woman of the Year, Boy Scouts of America, Spirit of Scouting Award, Greater Hartford Alliance of Black Social Workers - Dr. Ivor Echols Community Service Award, Urban League of Greater Hartford William Brown Community Leadership Award, Leadership Greater Hartford Polaris Award, Aetna's Champions For Change, and a host of other awards and recognitions from Governors of the State of Connecticut and Mayors of Bloomfield and Hartford. Patricia is also a great Grandmother!