

MUFAO CHITAM



BIOGRAPHY

Civic-minded, understanding, generous, and thoughtful, Mufalo is gifted with a tremendous ability to relate across all ethnic communities no matter how different their experiences or needs may be. As an immigrant community leader representing 100+ members and partner organizations including immigrant constituency and advocacy groups as well as direct service and grassroots community organizations,

Most recently was recognized as **Spurwink's 2023 Humanitarian of the Year** and **2022 Maine Biz Women to Watch honoree** for her work as an immigrant advocacy leader at **Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)**. Mufalo works to elevate the voices of new Mainers as they find their way and cultivate a more diverse and inclusive Maine for future generations of immigrant children to come.

Early & Personal Life

Mufalo Chitam values serving her community, family, and faith. She was born and raised in Lusaka and is of Zambian descent. Mufalo graduated from the University of Zambia in 1994 with a degree in Public Administration and Library Studies. She has been connecting people and resources since 1995 when she began working for SARO Agro-Industrial Ltd. Later, she joined Child Fund International in Lusaka and currently works in Maine, USA, with underserved diverse populations. A member of Emmanuel Assemblies of God Church, Mufalo and her husband Frank Chitam, an IT Consultant at Greater Portland Health, live in Old Orchard Beach. They have a daughter named Grace who works at Education First in Massachusetts.

Mufalo came to America in 2000 and has since worked for various national organizations such as the University of Southern Maine, United Ways of Southern Maine, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Kidney Foundation, Easter Seals Maine, American Red Cross-Maine, and <https://granitebaycare.org/>, which is a multi-state human service agency.

She has over 29 years of professional experience in **Non-Profit Event Management & Logistics Planning, Customer Service, Sales Client Case Resolutions & Office Management, Project & Program Management, Marketing & Public Relations, Financial & Organizational Development, Volunteer Leadership & Supervision, Fundraising, and Development**. Currently, Mufalo holds the position of Executive Director at **Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)**.

Public Life

Mufalo is a former member of the Maine Advisory Committee for the United States Commission on Civil Rights and has served on various boards. She is the founder and organizer of several initiatives such as the Empower the Immigrant Woman Conference, Empower Maine Women Network Group, and Beauty in Colors Hair Show.

Professional Achievements

Mufalo has been featured in various media publications including Maine Magazine, Maine Policy Review Journal, Maine Public Bicentennial, Portland Press Herald, Keep Families Together-Portland Maine Rally 6/30/18, DisruptHR! Portland 1:0 2018 Speaker, and Amjambo Newspaper.

Mufalo is also a recipient of numerous awards notably the Zambian Community New York's Mwape Peers Award, Annual 50 Mainers, Maine Black Excellence - Leadership & Advocacy Award, Coast 93.1 20 Outstanding Women and France Perkins Center - Open Door Award.

2023 Humanitarian Award

Mufalo Chitam was chosen as the **Spurwink 2023 Humanitarian of the Year** in recognition of her advocacy, leadership, and commitment in transforming Portland's once informal network of immigrant support into a robust fabric of resettlement systems to integrate immigrants into Maine culture. As Executive Director of the MIRC, Mufalo has built one of the most successful immigrant rights organizations in Maine.

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