



THE YWCA SALUTES WOMEN

TRIBUTE Awards Luncheon
November 10, 1997
Grand Rapids, Michigan

The YWCA of Grand Rapids presents. . .

TRIBUTE!

1997 PROGRAM

November 10, 1997
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Ambassador Ballroom
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

WELCOME

Carla Blinkhorn
YWCA Executive Director

Mary McLoughlin
TRIBUTE Chairperson

INVOCATION

Reverend Doctor Linda H. Hollies

LUNCHEON

PRESENTATION OF TRIBUTE AWARDS

Peggy Bishop
YWCA Board President

Mary McLoughlin
TRIBUTE Chairperson

Carla Blinkhorn
YWCA Executive Director

Thank you for attending.

1997 TRIBUTE Winner
Advocacy



Kate Pew Wolters

Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Steelcase Foundation

Kate Pew Wolters has always used her unique position within the community to create greater awareness of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. Born with a physical condition that required her to move beyond the limitations it imposed, she has achieved prominence in her profession, her community, and nationally because of her advocacy efforts.

She plays a prominent role in educating the general public on the practical matters of fully integrating those who are disabled into work and social life. And with other advocates, she brought the issue to state and national legislatures. In 1994 she was appointed by President Clinton to the National Council on Disability, reconfirmed in 1996 by the U.S. Senate for a three-year term and currently serves as vice chair. In 1984 she was appointed by Governor Blanchard to the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and reappointed by Governor Engler as chair in 1990.

Called upon to comment on news or issues relating to those who are disabled, Pew is honest, straightforward and always accurately represents their viewpoints. Chair of the Steelcase Foundation Board of Trustees and formerly executive director of the foundation, Pew, a social worker, is a private consultant on philanthropic and disability-related issues. She has been director for the Grand Rapids Center for Independent Living and worked for Catholic Social Services, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Center and Steelcase, Inc.

She works to eliminate racist and sexist policies in the community, serves on university, bank and art boards and has received awards from Junior Achievement and the Grand Rapids Arts Council.

1997 TRIBUTE Winner
Arts & Communication



June Hamersma
Director, January Series
Calvin College

June Hamersma's vision of the tremendous potential for a world class lecture program in West Michigan has been richly rewarded with the enormous success of the January Series at Calvin College, which keeps drawing bigger and bigger names and a larger and larger audience. At a time when the drama, wit and intensity of spoken communication in lecture format have been nearly lost, her energizing influence (as director of the series) has resulted in a virtual renaissance of the art form. Twice she and the January Series have received first place "Silver Bowl" awards from the International Platform Society in Washington D.C.

She brings her energy, organizational skills, candor and attention to detail--her signature contributions--to volunteer work as well. She is an auxiliary president at Butterworth Hospital, president of Hospice of West Michigan board, and founding president of the Hospice Foundation of Greater Grand Rapids. She serves Hospice of Michigan, Hope Network and the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Program at DeVos Children's Hospital, as well, and was co-chair of the annual Helen DeVos Distinguished Lectureship in pediatric oncology.

Her love for community service and commitment to the highest ideals is evident in anything she undertakes. She provides leadership with honesty, integrity, compassion and a great deal of hard work and brings her blend of warmth, pride, humor, persuasion and persistence to all of the organizations with which she has been associated.

1997 TRIBUTE Winner
Business, Management & Industry



Faye Richardson
Director, Corporate Diversity and
Inclusion Strategies
Steelcase, Inc.

Faye Richardson's mission is to develop an awareness of the value of diversity and inclusion to Steelcase, Inc., and others in the Grand Rapids community. She developed the Diversity Initiative for 15,000 Steelcase employees, trained 50 diversity trainers and has been a leader and member of the Steelcase Executive Management Team. She also worked with the company's human resources team to develop new harassment and sexual harassment policies.

She provides leadership to the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce CEO Diversity Council and has worked with the Catholic Diocese School Board and its task force on racism. Richardson has helped empower women through her work at the Women's Resource Center. She served the Right Place Urban Redevelopment Council, Public Education Fund, Grand Rapids Public Museum Board and the Grand Rapids School Board. For 10 years as a Hot Line Crisis Counselor, Faye answered emergency calls from people who were contemplating suicide or being abused.

A graduate of Stanford University, Richardson tutors students in the Upward Bound program and at Madison Park Elementary School.

As a mentor she demonstrates a strong commitment to people needing her professional and personal insight by providing mentorship to individuals at Steelcase and other organizations. She has made an outstanding contribution to the community for the last 30 years through her service in a variety of roles.

1997 TRIBUTE Winner
Community Service



Aleicia Woodrick
Community Volunteer

Aleicia Woodrick has developed a keen sense of the problems facing the community. For many years she's raised awareness of the importance of organizations like GROW [Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women], Special Olympics, Grand Rapids Art Museum and Grand Rapids Children's Museum and has long understood that revitalizing the downtown area includes both revitalizing the landscape and the spirit of the people in the community. All of the projects to which she contributes affect not only the economy, but also the hearts and minds of individuals. Her solutions are always inclusive and relate directly to providing outlets and ways for children, women and persons with special needs to better their station in life.

As one of its original board members, Woodrick played an integral role in broadening GROW's recognition as a program that helps women start their own business: 67% of the participants have become entrepreneurs and 85% of their businesses have shown long-term stability. She served on the Michigan Area 11 Special Olympics board for eight years, helping to raise funds and encouraging D&W Food Centers to employ people who have mental impairments. Serving on the board, she helped keep doors open at the Grand Rapids Art Museum when it was on the verge of closing, and through her efforts made the museum's participation at Festival a success.

She's a member of the Downtown Management Board and also works with Cascade's Downtown Development Authority on such projects as Streetscape and Cascade Museum Gardens. She's been instrumental in bringing the Grand Rapids Children's Museum to the city by pursuing a vision, finding allocation and making it work. And in her spare time, Woodrick has helped build three homes for Habitat for Humanity.

1997 TRIBUTE Winner
Professions



Janet A. Haynes
Kent County Probate Court Judge

In her work as Kent County Probate Court Judge, Janet Haynes is a powerful community influence as she presides over cases dealing with wills, estates, guardianships, conservatorships, mental commitments and juveniles. Her most awesome and difficult task comes when she deals with children and families.

Through her efforts, the court has received national recognition for having a 90% adoption rate and saving children from the foster-care drift through efficiency in court proceedings aimed at preserving the family. Her goal is to make sure families are safe and well. "The ability to legally destroy a family is a devastating power we possess," she says, "and a real motivation for some families to make positive changes... there are powerful reasons to keep even troubled families together while we try to improve the parents' ability to give their kids what they need to be safe and healthy."

A mentor for women in the legal profession and a member of the Women Lawyer's Association, Haynes was the second woman to serve as president of the Grand Rapids Bar Association. She is a member of the Grand Rapids Foundation board and serves on numerous committees affecting children, including Perspective 21 and a focus group on juvenile issues for Congressman Vernon Ehlers. Passionate about giving her time and talent to the community, she's been active on the Grand Rapids Art Museum board, Family Service Association and Northern Michigan University's Commission on the Future. Haynes was a nurse before receiving her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She clerked for U.S. District Judge Benjamin Gibson and worked at the Kent County Friend of the Court and in private practice.

1997 TRIBUTE Winner
Sports & Fitness



Doris Zuidema
Former Women's Athletic Director
Calvin College

The first women's athletic director at Calvin College, from 1965-96 and now retired, Doris Zuidema provided leadership at Calvin and also in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and National Collegiate Athletic Association (Division III). Along with expanding the women's athletic program from three to nine sports, she successfully coached many of her teams through regional and national competitions to MIAA League championships. She coached basketball for 12 years, archery for 11, tennis for a year and, most recently, field hockey from 1977-91. She also served on state and national committees to shape policies in women's athletics.

A talented athlete with a love of sports, she played on intramural and intercollegiate teams as an undergraduate at Calvin College. She got an MA in physical education from Columbia Teacher's College then came back to Calvin to teach. Over the years she's taught archery, badminton, track and field, gymnastics, basketball, swimming, tennis, racquetball, square dance, volleyball, cross-country skiing, golf, field hockey, soccer, physical conditioning and bowling. With a gift for building skills and self confidence in her students and doing so with high standards, a sense of humor and large doses of encouragement, she's made students eager to improve their personal skills and her teaching style has been modeled by many graduates.

Long before Title IX, Zuidema had a vision for women's athletics. Her program has been recognized for its depth, excellence and integrity. Zuidema's selfless devotion to students and staff have been an inspiration to many who have known her.

1997 TRIBUTE Winner
Student



Antonia Henry
City High School

Antonia Henry, a City High School senior who views the entire world as her classroom, consistently demonstrates leadership, role modeling and a fresh approach to controversial issues while at the same time achieving high academic success. She has earned a straight 4. GPA, not only in school but also last year when she was a congressional page at the U.S. House of Representative Page School. She placed eighth in the state in oratory, is a member of the National Honor Society and has received the Grand Rapids Foundation Excellence in Education Award, Outstanding Academic Achievement Award and Public Education Fund Student Award. She participated in the NIH Howard University Minority High School Student Summer Research Program and the Summer Apprenticeship Program at the University of Michigan. She serves as student representative to the Grand Rapids School Board, spoke at the 1997 Children's Summit and has completed over 800 volunteer hours since seventh grade. In 1996 she was Most Outstanding Volunteer at Butterworth Hospital, with 196 hours.

In addition to giving to her community, Henry has been able to motivate other young people to get involved and to strive for academic excellence according to their ability. She encourages and fosters a sense of cultural sensitivity and equality at school and in the community.

A poised, responsible, intelligent young woman, Henry tempers her academic discipline with compassion for others and a strong sense of community responsibility. She is a great example for students at City High and for others who have come in contact with her.