

TRIBUTE!
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The YWCA Salutes Women

A W A R D S L U N C H E O N
November 21, 1991
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Program

November 21, 1991
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Ambassador Ballroom
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

Welcome
Lynne Carthane, WOTV

•
Luncheon

•
Presentation of Tribute Awards
Antionette Turner, YWCA President
Susan Shannon, Executive Director

•
Keynote Speaker
Karin Orr
Community Activist
"Drawing Wider Circles"

YWCA Mission
"The purpose of the Grand Rapids YWCA is to
advocate for equality, eliminate racism, and
empower women."

TRIBUTE!

In 1977, the Grand Rapids YWCA created Tribute, a celebration to publicly honor local women for their outstanding contributions to the quality of life in our community.

Women's lives have changed since the seventies, but today's women, from grass roots activists to college presidents, continue to work with the same skill, vigor, and dedication that has been so typical of Grand Rapids women.

It is the YWCA's great privilege to honor the Women of Tribute 1991.



Virgilia R. Wade
Child/Parent Advocate

Throughout her lifetime, Virgilia Wade has advocated for the disadvantaged child and his/her family, both in her profession of social work and through her volunteer community service. Her advocacy is based on her knowledge of "the lack of resources for the poorest and most disadvantaged children and families."

In the late 1970s, Virgilia developed a drop-in center in the inner city offering respite care primarily for single parents and providing enrichment experiences for their very young children.

Virgilia was instrumental in the founding of local chapters of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Michigan Association of Infant Mental Health. Since her retirement, she has been active with the League of Women Voters and currently serves as co-president.



Peggy DePersia
Art Teacher
City High-Middle School

Peggy DePersia is described by her nominator as a "master" of the art curriculum at five levels, meeting and sharing art education with at least 400 students each year. From grades seven to eleven she incorporates African, Asian, European, Indian and American cultures into student projects.

She has been instrumental in guiding students to internships with the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Grand Rapids Public Museum carousel restoration project, and with local architectural firms.

Nationally, Peggy was one of 35 people chosen to participate in a six-week summer program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. She heads the art committee at Fountain Street Church, arranging shows and even commissioning art from local artists for the church. She has been influential in helping students and many others see art as essential in the fabric of all humanity.



Betty S. Burton
Vice President
Wonderland Business Forms, Inc.

Against great odds, Betty Burton faced the monumental task of suddenly leaving her chosen profession in teaching to assume management of a family-owned business. Through personal research, tremendous skill, and resourcefulness, she clarified the company's mission, developed long-range goals, and determined strategies for the continuing success and growth of the business.

Betty's determination to "give back to the community" is reflected in her volunteer involvement on numerous panels, committees, community groups and professional organizations. She facilitates minority volunteer training for the United Way's Project Blueprint and is a member of the Minority Council of the Chamber of Commerce.

The current Smithsonian "Field to Factory" exhibit at the Grand Rapids Public Museum is co-sponsored by Betty's business.

Community Service



Dr. B. (Bunny) Margaret Voss
Former Dean of Students
Davenport College

While Dean of Students at Davenport College, Bunny Voss supported M.E. Davenport's motto, "Make a life, make a living, make a contribution." Our community is the direct beneficiary of many of her contributions, particularly her strong support of women's progress.

Dr. Voss was a charter member and first woman chair of the Economics Club of Grand Rapids and a founding mother of the Women's Resource Center. She assisted in the design and development of the United Methodist Community House Day Care Center, the first such center in the state. Her long-term affiliation with the United Way included a term as chair of the Allocation and Review board. She is past president of Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (G.R.O.W.) and currently serves as president of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council.

Professions



Dr. Patricia Pulliam
Vice President of Instruction
Grand Rapids Community College

Dr. Pulliam's career achievements in the field of education span three decades. During that time she has worked as instructor, Director of Comprehensive Programs and Cooperative Education, Coordinator of the Mentorship Program, Special Assistant to the President, and Dean of Instructional Services. She is the first woman to fill the position of Vice President at Grand Rapids Community College.

Concerned that the Community College truly reflect community diversity, Dr. Pulliam has taken a leadership role in developing programs to assist with recruitment and retention of minority students, faculty and staff.

In partnership with her husband, Dr. Pulliam is also owner/editor of The Grand Rapids Times, fulfilling her dream of operating a newspaper that voices the issues and concerns of the minority community.