

TRIBUTE!

THE YWCA SALUTES WOMEN

TRIBUTE AWARDS LUNCHEON
NOVEMBER 17, 1993
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

TRIBUTE 1993 PROGRAM

November 17, 1993
Noon—1:30 p.m.
Ambassador Ballroom
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

WELCOME

Birgit Klohs
1993 TRIBUTE Chairperson

LUNCHEON

Jennifer Moss
WOOD TV 8
Mistress of Ceremonies

PRESENTATION OF TRIBUTE AWARDS

Mary McLoughlin, YWCA President
Susan Shannon, Executive Director

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kate Pew Wolters, Executive Director
Steelcase Foundation
"Diversity and Empowerment: A Personal Experience"



SISTER AGNES THIEL, O.P.
CHAIRPERSON, ADVISORY COUNCIL
AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

Over the past twenty years, Sr. Agnes Thiel has been a leading advocate for seniors on the local, regional, and statewide levels.

Sr. Agnes founded and served as president of the Senior Citizens' Senate of Kent County, a recognized model for local senior advocacy in Michigan. She also formed the Aging Network Legislative Committee in 1985, bringing together seniors, service providers, and state legislators to discuss important legislation.

Sr. Agnes chairs the Advisory Council of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, the agency which plans, coordinates, and distributes federal funds for seniors in a nine county area. She also helped establish Senior Power Day—the largest senior advocacy event in the nation—and chaired the event for three years. Acting as volunteer coordinator with the national Close-Up Program, Sr. Agnes helped local seniors visit Washington, D.C., to learn about the political system.

Motivated by her sincere belief that the senior years can be the most rewarding and personally satisfying, Sr. Agnes continues to motivate seniors toward volunteer service and political action.



JULIE CHRISTIANSON STIVERS
COMMUNITY ARTS ADVOCATE

As founding editor of *On the Town* magazine, Julie worked for ten years providing an excellent publicity vehicle for all area arts organizations. Her love and support of the arts extends to nearly all facets of the local arts community.

Prior to founding *On the Town*, Julie was a long-time member of the staff of the Grand Rapids Symphony and has since served as a board member for the Chamber Music Society of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Film Theatre. She also has been involved with The Arts Council and the Saint Cecilia Music Society.

Julie's commitment to the Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts (UICA) has been demonstrated by her seven years of service to that organization. For the past five years, Julie has served as president of UICA, conducting successful fundraising efforts and playing an integral role in bringing visual exhibits and multimedia events to Grand Rapids that might not otherwise have had a local venue.

As a strong defender, in person and in print, of an individual artist's right to self-expression, Julie has championed the cause of the arts throughout her professional and personal life.



JANE M. ROSS
PRESIDENT
ROSS & ASSOCIATES

Jane Ross is an award-winning marketing industry leader. In addition to running two full-time successful businesses and extensive community involvement, Jane somehow finds the time to personally deliver inspiration, help, and practical advice to hundreds of other women business owners.

Prior to starting her own business, Jane headed marketing and communications for the Health/Science Division of Herman Miller, Inc. In that position, she produced a number of award-winning marketing and communications programs and was twice named Herman Miller Outstanding Employee of the Year.

Jane believes that women business owners are an undervalued and tremendously untapped resource in the state of Michigan. She was one of the creators of the local EXCEL Program, a training resource for women business owners. Currently serving as an EXCEL personal trainer, Jane has developed three pilot programs and training materials.

In the local Chamber of Commerce, Jane has served for five years as vice chair and chair of the U.S. Small Business Week seminar and training programs.

Jane is currently serving her second term as chair of the Michigan Alliance of Women Business Owners. Working through that organization, she plans to identify all women business owners in the state and to create a consortium to provide training resources statewide.



ELIZABETH (BETSY) DOLE
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

In every aspect of her life, Betsy Dole demonstrates her deep commitment to breaking down the barriers that keep minorities, children, and women from realizing their potential.

As president of the United Church Outreach Ministry, Betsy was instrumental in establishing Homework House, an after-school tutoring program at an ethnically mixed elementary school. Starting with a few children in one big room at the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Homework House now serves nearly half of all students at Hall Elementary School and has been expanded into Burton and Westwood Middle Schools.

Betsy has also maintained and strengthened Smith Memorial Church's food and clothing distribution services to families on the southwest side of Grand Rapids.

Most recently, Betsy demonstrated brave and dynamic leadership at Olivet College, leading efforts to help the college combat racism and sexism. She worked with Olivet's interim president to institute programs and workshops on multi-culturalism for students, faculty, and staff. In October of 1992, Betsy was named the first woman chairperson of the Olivet College board of trustees.

The scope of Betsy's community involvement over the years is impressive and includes the Grand Rapids Symphony and Symphonic Choir, the United Way of Kent County, the YWCA, and the Grand Rapids Public Education Fund.

PROFESSIONS



MARGARET SELLERS
PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Margaret Sellers' professional and community life has been marked by commitment, innovation, and vision.

Prior to moving to Grand Rapids in 1986, Margaret distinguished herself as the first woman and the first African American to lead the personnel division for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. She is credited with dramatically improving morale at the DNR during a time when the Department faced significant downsizing, and she was publicly recognized for her extreme competency, honesty, and professional courage.

Margaret was hired by the City of Grand Rapids in 1986 as the city's director of human resources. She initiated many constructive changes, including computerizing the department's operations. She initiated the city's current Supervisors' Training Program to help managers sharpen their skills and the Employee Recognition Program to award outstanding job performance. Margaret was quickly promoted to assistant city manager. She spent the past year as president of the International Personnel Management Association.

Margaret's history of community service is as impressive as the list of her professional accomplishments and includes work with Baxter Community Center, the United Way, Family Outreach Center, the Dwelling Place, the Grand Rapids Symphony and Art Museum, the Dyer Ives Foundation, the Council for the Humanities, and the Grand Rapids Public Library.

STUDENT



VALERIE TRASKY
NORTHERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Throughout intense treatment for childhood cancer, Valerie Trasky remained focused on her academic goals and pursuits, but even more importantly, she shared profound lessons and constantly sought ways to enhance life for others.

At the time of her death in August, Valerie was energetically planning her academic schedule for her freshman year at Forest Hills Northern High School. She never let her battle with cancer overshadow her academic plans or her interest in pursuing a career as a pediatric oncologist, though she knew it would require long years of study and personal sacrifice. This inspiring young woman would have achieved her dream and shared her knowledge, skill, and empathy with countless other children and teens facing the challenge of illness.

Valerie's concern about the lack of information on childhood cancer outside the hospital world motivated her to become a peer counselor and spokesperson for other cancer-stricken teens. As the Children's Miracle Network "Miracle Child" last spring, Valerie delivered powerful messages of hope and courage to the communities of Western Michigan.

In the words of her nominator, "Once in a while a person of greatness crosses our paths and, for a brief second, encourages others to share their vision and experience their beauty. Val was such a person."