

TRIBUTE!

THE YWCA SALUTES WOMEN

TRIBUTE! AWARDS LUNCHEON
NOVEMBER 13, 1996
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

YWCA's
TRIBUTE! 1996 PROGRAM

November 13, 1996
Noon—1:30 p.m.
Ambassador Ballroom
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

Welcome

Carla Blinkhorn
YWCA Executive Director

Ellen Brown
1996 TRIBUTE! Chairperson

Invocation

Reverend Dr. B. Margaret Voss (Bunny)
North Kent Guidance Services

Luncheon

Presentation of TRIBUTE! Awards

Deb Bailey, YWCA Board President
Judy Lloyd, TRIBUTE! Selection Committee
Chairperson

Mistress of Ceremonies:
Ruth Butler, *The Grand Rapids Press*

Keynote Speaker

Diana Sieger
The Grand Rapids Foundation
"The Chronicles of a Tap Dancer"

TRIBUTE!

With great pride, the YWCA salutes the winners of this year's TRIBUTE! Awards — Diane Zarafonetis, Cathy Large, Barbara Greene, Kyle Irwin, Valerie Simmons, Karen Sterk, and Caroline Crawford.

From all walks of life, these women have demonstrated outstanding performance in their chosen field and have set remarkable examples of dedication, vision and perseverance.

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped make this year's TRIBUTE! Awards celebration a success:

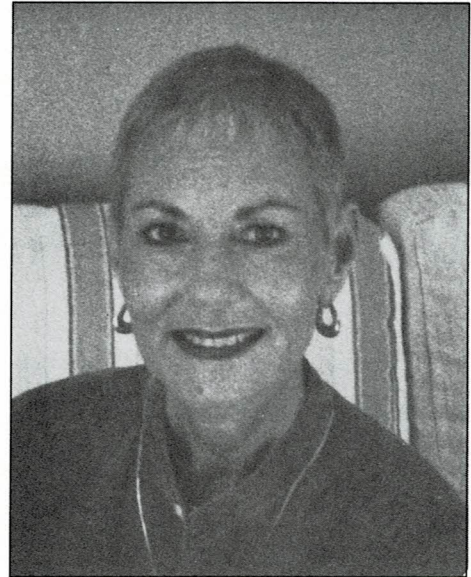
Steering Committee

Ellen Brown, Chair	Jim McKay
Joan Bennett	Mary McLoughlin
Micki Benz	Amy Orr
Peggy Bishop	Milt Rohwer
Kim Elzinga	Stella Royce
Jeanne Englehart	Elaine Sattler
Terri Handlin	Hilary Snell
Carol Karr	Wendy Stock
Janet Knaus	Judy Tremore
Birgit Klohs	Karen Thrun
Judy Lloyd	Carole Valade
Diane Martin	Dotti Zimdar

Selection Committee

Judy Lloyd, Chair	Judge Benjamin Logan
Margo Anderson	Hank Meijer
Charles Burkholder	Wendy Stock
Dee Frazier	

1996 TRIBUTE! Winner Advocacy



Diane Zarafonetis

Founder and Past President
Expressions for Women

With a widely respected sense of humor, infectious optimism and effervescent energy, Diane Zarafonetis has been an advocate for women surviving breast cancer. Diane's own diagnosis with the disease led to her discovery that there were few resources and little community-based support for women. Her response was to found Expressions for Women (now known as The Diane Z. Group), a support and recovery network for women living the day-to-day ordeal of breast cancer.

Because of her candid, no nonsense leadership, The Diane Z. Group has become a highly visible, influential voice within the community, advocating for the rights of women to make their own treatment choices. The organization has helped educate others about breast cancer treatment options, long-term recovery, rehabilitation and survivors' rights.

Diane has been a persuasive, poignant spokeswoman on the issues of women's health and breast cancer, including the recent prosthesis recall and access to bone marrow transplant services.

By addressing a critical and largely unmet health care issue and establishing a network of group support, she has empowered women to demand the medical care and services they deserve. Even as she continues her own courageous battle, she has selflessly done what so few are ever able to do – to reach out to others similarly afflicted with hope and compassion. She personifies an important aspect of true leadership: that out of dark personal adversity can come a triumph of creativity, advocacy and support.

1996 TRIBUTE! Winner
Arts & Communication



Cathy Large

Director of Multicultural Education/Gender Equity
Grand Rapids Public Schools

An author, poet, playwright and producer, Cathy Large has coordinated performing art activities in churches, public and parochial schools and colleges. Many of Cathy's projects grow from her love of children and her commitment to their empowerment through artistic expression.

Cathy personally employs 10 students each summer, mentoring them as they help her work on poetry writing, reviewing, editing, skit writing and production. She firmly believes that students desperately need activities that are both entertaining and substantive, and that engaging children in the performing arts can become a mechanism to educate them and increase their self-esteem.

An active member of the New Hope Baptist Church, Cathy teaches Sunday school and a women's class, and is the director of the New Hope Drama Ministry. Every February, Cathy coordinates skits for the NAACP's Black History Program. She has written and directed 16 Christian plays, presented to the Grand Rapids Community, and 10 cultural plays that have been presented to area high schools and colleges.

In her work as Director of Multicultural Education/Gender Equity for the Grand Rapids Public Schools, Cathy develops and presents cultural diversity training for parents, teachers, students and staff and designs curriculum that is multicultural, gender fair and anti-biased.

Cathy speaks about the importance of writing as self-expression; "My writing strengthens me. It's medicine for myself and a way for me to let others know that you define who you are - no one else does that."

1996 TRIBUTE! Winner
Business, Management & Industry



Barbara Greene

President
Direction Center

As president of the Direction Center, Barb Greene helps non-profit organizations help themselves. She is an innovative program developer, promoting Total Quality Services and technology to help each organization improve its efficiency and its ability to effectively deliver services, even in the face of funding uncertainties.

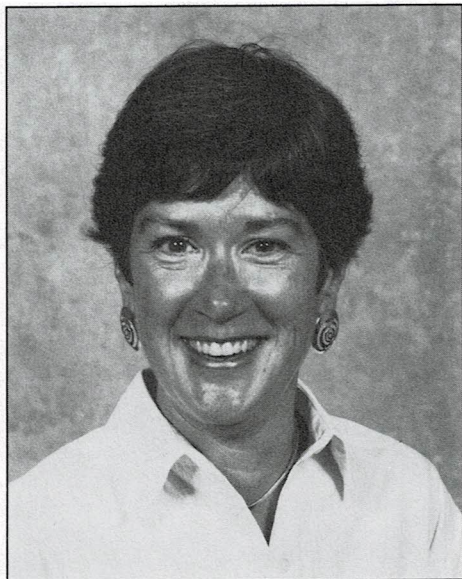
Barb works to strengthen governance of public and nonprofit boards, and is herself an active board and committee member for many community groups, including the North American Indian Center of Grand Rapids and the Council of Performing Arts for Children.

Described as a visionary who can turn ideas into reality, Barb has an excellent grasp of issues and actively promotes a participatory management style. She values working as a team player, rather than a boss, and encourages others to contribute their inspiration and best skills to benefit each project undertaken. She continually challenges herself and staff to fully develop professional skills.

Barb's has demonstrated inspired leadership of the Direction Center since she joined the organization in 1992. Her accomplishments, just to mention a few, include: a 186% increase in the number of clients served; a 41% increase in training programs offered; and a 514% increase in requests for information and referral. She has managed the Center's growth creatively, by supplementing staff with students, faculty consultants and volunteers.

With a special genius for recognizing the needs of the nonprofit sector, Barb worked collaboratively with the Community Media Center and others to provide training and technology needed to bring the nonprofit sector successfully into the 21st century.

1996 TRIBUTE! Winner
Community Service



Kyle Irwin
Community Volunteer

Kyle Irwin's nominators describe Kyle as "the quintessential community trustee." She is a long-time volunteer in the arts, education, social issues and advocacy, often acting as a catalyst to bring people together to solve problems and reach goals.

Much of Kyle's community service work can truly be described as "hands on." As a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, she coordinates a monthly dinner for the residents of Liz's House, My Sister's House and Hope Community. She also leads St. Mark's yearly fund-raising ethnic dinner to benefit the residents of Dwelling Place.

Her services as a board member have benefited the John Ball Zoo, the Children's Assessment Center, Opera Grand Rapids, and the Grand Valley State University Foundation for which she received the GVSU Leadership award. She also serves on the Advisory Council for Dwelling Place Transitional Housing and chairs the committee for the Friends Program of the Children's Assessment Center. Kyle is an active volunteer at the YWCA and for Planned Parenthood. She helped found the Women's History Council and continues to be an active board member.

Kyle's presentations as a United Way volunteer have helped nonprofit organizations raise funds for critical programs. Graced with a special ability to relate well to others, from all walks of life, she has made it her business to really understand their needs, to make those needs known and to see that they are addressed.

Working faithfully and quietly, Kyle has gained the love and respect of the Grand Rapids community.

1996 TRIBUTE! Winner
Professions



Valerie Simmons
Attorney and Partner
Warner, Norcross & Judd

Valerie Simmons is a recognized leader in both the West Michigan legal community and the public education system. A partner with the law firm of Warner, Norcross & Judd, Valerie specializes in litigation and health law, and she is widely respected for her keen intellect, mature judgment, and fine sense of humor.

Valerie currently serves the Grand Rapids Bar Association as a member of the Diversity Committee and the Professional Relations Council, and is a past *ex officio* member of the board of trustees. She is past president of the Floyd Skinner Bar Association, currently serves on the executive committee, and is a past recipient of the organization's Service Award. She also currently services on committees of the Michigan State Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the Michigan Supreme Court.

The Grand Rapids Jaycees Foundation presented Valerie with their Five Outstanding Young People Award and she also received the 9 + 4 Leadership Award from Grand Rapids Magazine, the NetWORK! Achiever Award, and the State Bar of Michigan Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

Valerie is president of the Public Education Fund, and she serves on the Grand Rapids Public Schools Children's Summit 1996 steering committee, the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Advisory Board, and the GVSU Foundation Board. She is a volunteer for the Black Educational Excellence Program, and was instrumental in guiding her law firm into partnering with a local elementary school.

Valerie's accomplishments and dedication are a testament to her belief in the power of education and her commitment to giving back to her community and her profession.

1996 TRIBUTE! Winner
Sports and Fitness



Karen Sterk

Owner
Change of Heart

Karen Sterk's expertise has benefited many populations throughout the Grand Rapids and West Michigan areas. She has been an effective teacher and an innovator, encouraging and empowering women and men through wellness and physical fitness.

Her experience has included teaching fitness programs for the Steelcase Wellness Program; working with overweight, hypertensive women at Blodgett Hospital; and serving as recreation director at Michigan Dunes Correctional Facility. In 1984 she launched Change of Heart, her exercise and fitness studio. The focus of Karen's master's study at Michigan State University was the effects of exercise on aging.

Karen has been an active community volunteer on the Dance for Heart Committee, the Michigan Women's Foundation, and the YWCA's annual Run, Jane, Run event. She has served on the board of the American Heart Association.

Karen shares information with the community in a variety of ways. She writes a monthly fitness column for Grand Rapids Metropolitan Woman, publishes a monthly newsletter for her clients, and makes public presentations. At Family Services, Karen works with groups on self esteem, health and fitness and she provides constant encouragement to her clients at Change of Heart. She also serves on the Diversity Committee in the East Grand Rapids School District.

Understanding that women face special demands, Karen has made it her mission to encourage and empower them in a non-judgmental manner. She shares her belief that exercise is a key component to living a quality life, and encourages others to use exercise to relieve stress and maintain good health.

1996 TRIBUTE! Winner
Student



Caroline Joy Crawford

Senior
Northview High School

A senior at Northview High School, Carrie Crawford believes it is important to be active in the community. She is involved in the Key Club, the National Honor Society, and Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD). She is the school representative to the Western Michigan Learning Initiative Committee, which focuses on strengthening the bond between schools and businesses. She is also a member of the Young Women for Change Committee, a county-wide board of 14 young women who disperse \$20,000 from the Frey Foundation to organizations that benefit girls' programs.

Carrie has served in many leadership roles in student government activities. She twice served as class representative, and twice as class treasurer. She chaired and co-chaired school related events such as homecoming, Staff Appreciation Dinner, Thanksgiving Food Drive and various class fund-raisers. She has made presentations for student government at the both regional and state conferences.

In addition to her student government and civic involvement, Carrie participates in both sports and the arts. She has played the flute for eight years in the symphonic and marching bands, and served as captain of the color guard. She was captain of her basketball and volleyball teams and had a starting position the softball team.

An excellent student, Carrie has taken advanced courses in math, English, science and social studies and maintains a 3.8 GPA. In evaluating her own success, Carrie says, "I value all of these special talents and hope to use them to grow into a well-rounded, responsible and productive adult."