

FLAIR

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

2003 TRIBUTE WINNERS



Christine (Tina) Hartley-Malivuk, Lifetime Achievement

PRESS FILE PHOTO



Ruth C. Nicely, arts

PRESS PHOTO/PAUL L. NEWBY II



Brenda Stringer, business, management and industry and labor

PRESS PHOTO/DIANNE CARROLL BURDICK



Sharon Reynolds, community service

PRESS PHOTO/ANNA MOORE BUTZNER



Susan Broman, professions

PRESS PHOTO/ANNA MOORE BUTZNER



Jay Roberts-Eveland, sports, fitness and wellness

PRESS PHOTO/LORI NIEDENFUEER COOL



Doreen Dusendang, student honoree

PRESS PHOTO/ANNA MOORE BUTZNER

INSPIRING MINDS

*Their drive motivates
a community*

If the walls of the Ambassador Ballroom could talk, they'd tell of that luncheon every November where 700 people squeeze in to witness the palpable power of women.

Another packed house is expected at noon Thursday for the YWCA Tribute Awards, when the YWCA of Grand Rapids honors seven outstanding local women and a remarkable student at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

Tribute is also the YWCA's biggest fund-raising event of the year. Last year it raised \$55,000 for YWCA programs, including the Domestic Crisis Center, sexual assault programs, child sexual abuse treatment services, child care and health programs. Cost for the luncheon is \$50 per person. Some seats may be available. Advance reservations are required. Call 459-4681 by Monday.

The honorees make things happen.

Find out more about the women, their purpose and passion on pages J4, J5 and J10.



Ingrid Scott-Weekley, advocacy

PRESS PHOTO/ADAM BIRD

2003 TRIBUTE WINNERS

Jay Roberts-Eveland

Sports, Fitness and Wellness



PRESS PHOTO/LORI NIEDENFUEER COOL

The room was filling up. Students — girls and boys, white, black, Hispanic — filed in, some to eat their lunch, some to just talk.

They sat on a donated sectional couch, a love seat and bean bag chairs in what once was a classroom at East Kentwood High School. "A lot of people don't understand this room," said Jay Roberts-Eveland, the staff member whose desk is in a corner of the room.

"It's such a magical place. On any given day, it's different in here. If someone's having a problem, it's safe in here. They don't have to be in a box if they're poor. They don't have to be in a box if they're rich. They don't have to be in a box if they're black or Latino."

Technically, Roberts-Eveland's job is to place students in volunteer positions through the school's Youth Service Organization and conduct classes in diversity, but she sees herself as an advocate for all kids; particularly for female athletes in Michigan's schools.

For her work as a founder and vice-president of Communities for Equity, a Grand Rapids-based group urging equal treatment for female and male athletes, Roberts-Eveland will receive this year's YWCA Tribute award in the sports, fitness and wellness category.

Roberts-Eveland and Diane Madsen, a Kentwood teacher and recipient of a Tribute award last year, were in the forefront of a lawsuit that resulted in Federal District Judge Richard Enslen ruling the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) was violating the rights of girls by scheduling their sports off season.

"The message we were giving girls is, 'We don't care about you. You're not important.' That's what's driving me," said Roberts-Eveland, 48, the mother of four daughters and a son, each an accomplished athlete.

"It's not just because I have athletes. I hate injustice of any kind. How can you look at your sons and daughters differently and not want equal treatment for them?" asked Roberts-Eveland, who inherited her determination from her mother, the first woman to coach football in Saginaw. "My mother taught me never to take 'no' for an answer."

As a freshman in high school, Roberts-Eveland led a walkout to protest a school rule requiring girls to wear skirts. The following year, the school dropped the policy.

"Being forced into a box that you're only a girl if you wear a skirt just doesn't fit me," she said.

Taking on the MHSAA turned out to be a more formidable challenge. Scorn was heaped on her and her children.

"I didn't know how difficult it could get," Roberts-Eveland said. "It was hell living through it." The MHSAA has appealed the ruling to the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. Roberts-Eveland knows the appeals court hearing likely will reopen the old wounds.

"Do I regret it?" she said. "No. It's the right thing to do. My kids and my family absolutely believe in what we've done."

She looked over at the group of students gathered in her room.

"I'm an advocate for these kids, finding resources, teaching them to be empowered and to have a voice," she said. "I love kids. They're my heart."

— Pat Shellenbarger

Ingrid Scott-Weekley

Advocacy



PRESS PHOTO/ADAM BIRD

Ingrid Scott-Weekley looks forward to the day her job no longer will be needed.

"Unfortunately," she said, "I think we're a long way off."

As the director of the Equal Opportunity Department for the City of Grand Rapids, Scott-Weekley tries to assure everyone, regardless of gender, race, religion or handicap, equal treatment, particularly in dealings with city government.

Although she's had the job since 1989, her role as an advocate began much earlier. As a junior high student in Santa Ana, Calif., she led a walkout when her school refused to lower the flag following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

"We were pretty distraught with what happened to Dr. King," she said. "We wanted to do something, wanted to say something."

For her activism, she got in trouble, not only with school officials, but with her father, a custodian, and her mother, a preschool aide.

"My parents felt the most important thing we could do was stay in school and get an education," said Scott-Weekley, who agrees education is important but so is standing up for what she believes.

"I grew up in a pretty racially hostile environment," she said. "I think that's why I'm so passionate about my job."

Born in Mississippi, Scott-Weekley moved to Chicago as a child, then to California when she was 9 years old. En route west, her family was denied service at a restaurant in Missouri.

"People of color go through these issues so often," sometimes encountering blatant hostility, often facing more subtle forms of racism as a result of 'white privilege,' she said.

"It's an invisible set of privileges you have by virtue of being born white that allows you to maneuver through society without worrying about your race."

"The issue is not that we should be a color-blind society. The issue is we should embrace the differences and get on with it."

After obtaining her bachelor's, master's and law degrees in California, the newly divorced mother moved to Grand Rapids, looking for a better place to raise her son.

Scott-Weekley, 52, has since married Dale Weekley. She was director of affirmative action for Grand Valley State University in the late 1980s, then was hired to head the city's Equal Opportunity Department in 1989. In her job, she advocates doing more business with companies owned by minorities, conducts diversity training, enforces equal employment opportunity laws, investigates sexual harassment, promotes fair housing and handles affirmative action.

She is concerned about efforts in Michigan and nationally to outlaw affirmative action programs.

"How do you dispute statistics that show people of color are discriminated against? Anybody who says otherwise has blinders on."

"If it weren't so, there'd be no need to have people like me in positions like this," she said.

"I've always said I would welcome the day when this office could be dismantled. I haven't seen any dramatic changes in those kinds of inequities. Until we see those dramatic changes, we're going to need offices like mine."

— Pat Shellenbarger

Susan Broman

Professions



PRESS PHOTO/ANNA MOORE BUTZNER

To look at Susan Broman's career path, you'd think she had it planned.

"Things just happened," she said. "That's kind of how my life has gone."

One job led to another, which led to another, always a step up, and today, she is executive director of the Steelcase Foundation, overseeing assets of more than \$127 million and annual grants of \$7 million.

Ironically, one of her strengths was her innocence when she took on a new job, unaware and undaunted by the task at hand. While still a student at Western Michigan University, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's in counseling and personnel, she asked to be placed in an internship helping families deal with death and chronic illness. Instead, she was assigned to a substance abuse program, setting a course that ultimately would lead to her current job.

In 1977, the Traverse City Women's Club hired her to create a residential substance abuse treatment program for women in Traverse City.

"We had a building and an idea," she said. "I didn't have experience pulling together a staff, preparing a budget, raising the money. I was 23 years old. I was a baby. I was idealistic and naive. I didn't know what I was getting into."

But she succeeded, and 26 years later, the program — Phoenix House — still is operating. Broman moved on and up. She took a job with the Kent County Health Department as a substance abuse specialist and later became deputy director, overseeing the allocation of money for substance abuse programs.

By the mid-1990s, discouraged with state funding cuts for substance abuse programs, Broman decided it was time for another change.

"I was at a point where I didn't feel like I was making a contribution," she said. "I was overseeing the demise of these programs."

That's when she heard the Steelcase Foundation was looking for a new executive director. Having no experience working for a foundation, she applied. So did many others.

"A lot of people wanted this job," said Broman, who despite her lack of experience, was hired.

"I was flabbergasted. I didn't know if I could adjust to this environment. Was this going to be a good fit?"

Apparently it was. Seven years later, Broman still is overseeing the foundation, accepting applications and recommending how the board should spend its money.

"Sometimes, I feel like an ATM machine, and people are trying to figure out the code," she said.

The foundation doles out money to nonprofit organizations in the arts and culture, community and economic development, health, the environment, human services and other areas.

— Pat Shellenbarger

2003 TRIBUTE WINNERS

Christine (Tina) Hartley-Malivuk

Lifetime Achievement Award

If you were the kind of kid that nobody liked, that other kids picked on, Tina Hartley was nice to you.

She loved people and a challenge and her family and her work. Valerie VanderMark is the perfect person to tell us all this, but she needs a box of tissues nearby to do it. She misses her best friend.

Christine Hartley-Malivuk was killed in August in a car crash on her way home from work at Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids.

The 50-year-old mother of two had served as president of the organization the past seven years, responsible for managing the \$144 million, multilocation employment training facility, retail operations and a manufacturing center.

They say she changed lives through the power of work. Her loss devastated her close-knit family and her larger family at Goodwill. Now, as she posthumously receives the YWCA Lifetime Achievement Award, they tell of the gifts she left behind.

"She was a champion to the underdog," says VanderMark, 50, performing arts coordinator at

"She knew there are people out there who need to feel like important, contributing members of society. She helped people find their usefulness."

VALERIE VANDERMARK

Montcalm Community College. She and Tina were best friends since kindergarten, when they giggled together and napped on rugs next to each other. When they grew up, they named their daughters after each other.

VanderMark was there when her pal Tina collected for UNICEF and was a Girl Scout and worked on clothing drives. She watched her friend be nice to everybody and grow into a woman with a mission to help people in need.

Hartley-Malivuk began her career in 1977 and spent the next 25 years in vocational and employment programs, always helping people learn to help themselves. Along the way, she served on numerous employment and rehabilitation boards and committees.

She had worked at Goodwill for 10 years. She had a background in psychology and rehabilitation

counseling but was a strong and smart businesswoman, too.

While the stores have the highest profile of Goodwill Industries' mission, its foremost goal is getting those with employment barriers back to work. Hartley-Malivuk carried that mission in her heart, her friends say.

"She always drew from her mission first," VanderMark says, "then she'd use her business savvy to make it happen. She didn't say, 'OK, we have X amount of dollars, now how will we use it?' She said, 'OK, we have these needs. Now how are we going to fill them?'"

"She knew there are people out there who need to feel like important, contributing members of society," VanderMark says. "She helped people find their usefulness."

Under Hartley-Malivuk's



PRESS FILE PHOTO/JOHN M. BROUWER
This photo of Tina Hartley-Malivuk, president of Goodwill Industries, was taken in 2002.

leadership, Goodwill grew and thrived with new programs, new stores. An Urban Center in downtown Grand Rapids was opened, which made Goodwill's training and job placement services within walking distance for many people who needed them and doubled the number of people the organization could serve.

Hartley-Malivuk was a friend and mentor to Susan Cloutier, vice president of employment and training at Grand Rapids Goodwill. Cloutier passed up a job at Muskegon Goodwill, just two minutes from her house. She'd put up with the commute, she decided, so she could stay and learn more from her inspiring

boss.

"You learned from her just by watching her be who she was naturally," Cloutier says. "She was so respectful of people, no matter who they were, no matter where they came from. Everybody was on the same level playing field with Tina. And even though she knew people had disabilities, she would always focus on their abilities first."

"And her attitude was contagious."

Her nomination form came with nearly 50 signatures from people representing agencies all over town, from United Way to the American Red Cross to the Baxter Community Center.

All of this led the YWCA to award its Lifetime Achievement Award for only the second time in the program's 26-year history. It's presented to a woman whose extraordinary efforts throughout her lifetime particularly reflect the YWCA's mission and values.

Local civil rights icon Helen Claytor received the award in 2000 as the YWCA celebrated its centennial. Claytor, 96, was the first black woman elected president of the Grand Rapids YWCA, in 1949. She also was the first black woman to head the national organization's board of directors, from 1967 until her retirement in 1973.

"The Lifetime Achievement Award can be awarded to a woman who is still with us or who has passed away, but it's

definitely reserved for special situations," says Lisa Rose Starner, special events coordinator at the YWCA.

"Tina's tragic passing wasn't the impetus for the award," Starner says. "The community believed she touched so many people that it was very appropriate to honor her in this way. She made a difference in her lifetime."

Hartley-Malivuk lived in Allegan with her husband, David, a Godwin Heights teacher, and their two children, Greg, a junior at the University of Michigan, and Valerie, a senior at Allegan High School.

"She was the family cheerleader," VanderMark says of her friend.

When Hartley-Malivuk's daughter Valerie decided at age 9 to become a vegetarian, her mom joined her. When Valerie joined the cross country team, her mom started running with her.

When VanderMark spoke at her best friend's funeral, she urged everyone to guard and nurture the things Tina loved.

"We must carry on her mission to help change for the better the lives of people in all walks of life," VanderMark said. "This is the least we can do for Tina. In this way, she will continue to live on this earth, through all of us who love her and share her passion."

— Terri Finch Hamilton

Doreen Dusendang

Student Honoree

Doreen Dusendang figures she'll always remember that 9-year-old boy she met while volunteering at Steepletown Neighborhood Services.

Angry and defiant, he pushed everybody away. Calm and quiet, she persisted.

"I went up to him and just started talking to him," she says. "He told me that his mom had just died. I said, 'I know what that's like. My dad just passed away, too.'"

"He seemed better after that — not so mad," she says. "It gave me a warm feeling."

Doreen, 18, a senior at West Catholic High School, has overcome a lot of her troubles as she works to help other kids with theirs. She lost her father, Bruce, to Lou Gehrig's Disease when she was a freshman. She was devastated, she says, but somehow, he gave her motivation to keep going.

"I have honestly never seen a student work so hard," says Kathryn Black, Doreen's school counselor, who nominated her for Tribute. "She uses every ounce of her time to give back to her community."

At school, Doreen was selected to be a peer minister, trained to talk to other students about problems that don't require a professional counselor. Students request her, Black says.

"I like listening to people," Doreen says. "Just knowing you're there for someone is a pretty huge deal."

The youngest of 10 kids, she's handled enough of life's challenges to help other teens, she says.

"I live on the lower side, too," she says. "I connect with a lot of the issues they have. I come from a big family, so we don't have very much."

"Everyone has problems," she says. "Sometimes, it helps to know you're not the only one."

Doreen helped recruit girls for the school's West Girls Club, a support group she helps that encourages young women through activities, guest speakers and service projects. She volunteers at Steepletown Neighborhood Services, which offers tutoring, mentoring and English classes on the city's West Side. She attended programs there as a child.

"It had such a big effect on me, that I had to give something back," Doreen says.

Through Steepletown, she founded the Youth Employment Strategy, which teaches at-risk teens how to dress and act in a professional work environment and places them in summer jobs.



PRESS PHOTO: ANNA MOORE BUTZNER

She has volunteered at God's Kitchen, coached elementary school cheerleaders and taught religious education classes. The year her father died, Doreen helped lead her school basketball team to a 20-0 record and was the only freshman to make it onto the varsity competitive cheerleading squad.

Her dad inspired her, she says.

"For a while, I was getting really bad grades," she says. "One day, I was talking to my dad after work, and he fell asleep while I was talking to him. I just watched him. I could see how tired and worn out he was and I thought, 'He's tired because of me. He's working hard, so I can go to a good Catholic school.'"

It inspired her to work harder. But the bad grades, she discovered, weren't all her fault. In seventh-grade, she was diagnosed with a severe reading disorder that makes reading and writing a huge challenge.

"As soon as I knew about it, I wanted to fight it," Doreen says. "But it's hard, when I have to spend three hours on an English assignment, and I see other kids start and finish theirs in class."

Doreen says she used to think college was out of the question, but lately she's been busy researching scholarship options with her counselor's help. She'd like to be a social worker.

"Where there's a will, there's a way," Black says. "It's amazing enough to find a student who does all these things but to find one who does all these things with a learning disability is unbelievable to me."

"I have honestly never seen a student work so hard. She uses every ounce of her time to give back to her community."

KATHRYN BLACK
School counselor

She inspires me."

Other kids inspire her, Doreen says.

"There are so many kids who have really hard lives," she says. "They're caught up in stealing, abuse, drugs. They feel like they won't have any kind of career, except on the street."

"I want these kids to have what other kids have," she says. "I want them to have normal lives and not come home after school at age 8 or 9 and have to cook dinner. I know a kid who gives half his paycheck to his friend's mom every week, so she can pay her rent. It opens your eyes. I wish all kids could open their eyes more and maybe do more."

— Terri Finch Hamilton

Tribute Award Winners

The Grand Rapids Press salutes your commitment to our community. Thank you for being the person you are, and for what you've inspired others to become.



NEW PRESS

CELEBRATING STRONG WOMEN



PRESS PHOTO/ANNA MOORE BUTZNER

David Malivuk, husband of the late Christine Hartley-Malivuk, visits with a well-wisher Thursday after his wife received posthumously the YWCA Lifetime Achievement Award during the annual Tribute Awards luncheon. Hartley-Malivuk, at right, was killed in August in a car crash on her way home from work at Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids. The 50-year-old mother of two served as president of the organization the past seven years. Friends and family say she changed lives through the power of work. This is only the second time the YWCA has awarded the lifetime honor in 26 years. Thursday's event also recognized six other local women and a student.

