

# Your LIFE

ADVICE 16  
PUZZLES 17  
WEDDINGS 18-19

SECTION 1

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

TRENDS • TECH • HEALTH • FOOD • THE WEEKEND • MOVIES • SPORTS

PEOPLE



## FACES OF CHANGE

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

**S**even women who will receive YWCA Tribute! Awards on Wednesday are joining a sorority built on leadership and vision. More than 150 women recognized with the award over 31 years exemplify the exhortation to be the change you want to see in the world. Their stories appear on pages 12 and 13, and each will be profiled in mini-documentaries during the event.

The luncheon at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, raises money to fund YWCA programs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse and for programs that reduce girls' vulnerability to violence.

Reservations, at \$50 each, can be made through 5 p.m. Monday by calling 459-7062, ext. 532, or by stopping by the YWCA office, 25 Sheldon Blvd. SE.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for the luncheon, which runs from noon-1:30 p.m.

### 2008 honorees, clockwise, from top left:

**Arts Award:**  
Sue Stauffacher, author, page 12.

**Professions Award:**  
Gayle Davis, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Grand Valley State University, page 13.

**Community Service Award:**  
Mary Angelo, director, Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, page 12.

**Advocacy Award:**  
Leslie King-Borrego, founder and CEO of Sacred Beginnings, page 13.

**Sports, Fitness and Wellness Award:**  
Barbara M. Hile, director marrow/stem cell program, Michigan Community Blood Centers, page 13.

**Business, Management, Industry and Labor Award:**  
Leann Arkema, president and CEO Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, page 12.

**Student Award and Judy Lloyd Leadership Award:**  
Rosa Lopez, senior, Lee High School, page 13.

**ONLINE**

Home: [mlive.com/grpress](http://mlive.com/grpress)

To see a short video of each Tribute! winner, visit [mlive.com/grpress](http://mlive.com/grpress). Visit again Wednesday for the full video.



“Every human being has within them the ability to make major changes in their lives.”

**LEANN ARKEMA: BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY AND LABOR**

**Job/profession:** Gilda's Club President/CEO

**Impact:** With Arkema's guidance, Gilda's Club has reached beyond the Grand Rapids community to serve people in 19 counties. She is leading a significant expansion of Gilda's programs and helping start an affiliate in Holland.

**Inspiration:** "People who walk through Gilda's Club's doors truly know how to value what's important in life and not take anything for granted because none of us know how much time we have. I'm inspired by their courage to live every day in the face of a life-threatening illness. The other thing that inspires me is the ability of people to be real and find within them that depth of wisdom they may have not known otherwise."

**Life lesson:** "Every human

being has within them the ability to make major changes in their lives. What I've seen here has helped me to dig really deep and look at some things in my own (life) and make changes to become more of a person I want to be and believe I am."

**Vision:** "We're creating a new model of the human journey of learning to live with cancer. It's not just for the person diagnosed, it's for the whole family, and especially the children," she said. "I've had so many people in their 30s and older share the pain of their cancer journey as a child. They felt isolated, and didn't know what was going on. I can't wait for the 7-year-old who has cancer now, to be able to look back when he's older and say he did not have those same pains because Gilda's Club was there."

**Rule to live by:** "I value



PRESS PHOTO/LANCE WYNN

'today' because I don't know how many tomorrows I have," she said. "I have been a personal witness to so many people who've come through our doors, especially the ones who are terminal, and I've learned what's more important to them. The

bottom line is it's about loving and being loved. Gilda's Club has given me more than I could ever give back in the past 10 years since I've been here."

**Personal challenge:** "I can become so passionate with

what we do here, sometimes my life is not as balanced as it should (be). Something I've been working on the past four to five years is making sure what I do is not who I am."

**What makes you laugh:** "I love to laugh at kids when

they say or do funny things. And great funny movies," she says. "When somebody says something unexpected, I love to laugh when somebody makes fun of cancer. I'm not the jokester type, but I love to join in with others."

— Paul R. Kopenkoskey



PRESS PHOTO/LANCE WYNN

“Children inspire me ... Their resilience, their sense of hope in the face of breathtakingly difficult odds inspires me to be more resilient and hopeful in my own life.”

**SUE STAUFFACHER: ARTS**

**Job/profession:** Author, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Aquinas College

**Impact:** The author of several acclaimed novels, picture books and a series of comic books geared to reluctant urban readers, Stauffacher, 47, often writes about quirky, touching characters while tackling such serious issues as child neglect and bullying. She volunteers with at-risk youngsters, matches needy children in urban schools with books they love and has funneled more than 50,000 new books into Grand Rapids Public Schools.

**Inspiration:** "Children inspire me, especially children in difficult circumstances," she says. "Their resilience, their sense of hope in the face of breathtakingly difficult odds inspires me to be more

resilient and hopeful in my own life."

**Life lesson:** "I've learned to acknowledge that, just as I'm busy judging an event or a person, I am only seeing the surface, not the unfathomable depths," she says. "It's so easy to judge a situation without knowing all that's going on. A person who's cranky might be grieving. Be open to that, and you'll be more compassionate and kinder."

**Vision:** My vision is very simple. I want to use my skills as an artist to invite children to love reading. Literate people make an informed democracy, but children of all socioeconomic strata are choosing to read less and less. You can't make kids want to read. They have to be drawn to it like a bee to a flower.

**Rule to live by:** "Treat every person you meet as a sage," she says. "Whether it's the

young lady who works behind the counter at the thrift shop or a child who blurts out an obvious truth in the classroom, we need to pay attention to these voices — they just might be conveying wisdom beyond conventional understanding."

**Personal challenge:** "It is my personal challenge to discern how my work as an artist can best meet the needs of my community. I have learned that it is not enough to have talent and passion, you also need to understand organizations and how they work."

**What makes you laugh:** "Taking life too seriously," she says. "My own inner drama-logue. I threaten my agent with a memoir entitled, 'I Bore Myself.' Americans are preoccupied with issues that look gnat-sized when viewed from the world stage."

— Terri Finch Hamilton

**MARY ANGELO: COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Job/profession:** Director of the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association

**Impact:** For more than a decade, Angelo, 61, has made this Hispanic neighborhood a better place to live, raising funds for such projects as a new playground for Hall School, a neighborhood library, the Grandville Avenue Academy for the Arts and new, affordable homes. Gangs no longer intimidate, graffiti has diminished and housing has improved. Legendary for her fundraising ability, she's brought millions of dollars into the once-blighted neighborhood and worked tirelessly to make it better.

**Inspiration:** "My inspiration is the people who have lived in this neighborhood, past and present, including my own parents," she says. "It was always a neighborhood of immigrants," she says — first German, Dutch and now Hispanic. "People come here with nothing," Angelo says. "Mothers are carrying toddlers with blankets in the winter because they have no

coats. They rent houses that are pretty crummy. Then, they work hard, they buy the house and, suddenly, it's not crummy anymore. They put up siding. They plant flowers. They make it home."

**Life lesson:** "It's OK to speak up," she says. "I've learned that there's no such thing as a stupid question." At meetings decades ago for an anti-nuclear organization, "I'd sit quietly and not talk about my opinions," she says. "In school, I was never the one in class to raise my hand." She smiles. "I'm not afraid to ask questions anymore. I've also learned that sometimes it's OK to let strong instincts win out over conventional wisdom."

**Vision:** "My vision for the Roosevelt Park neighborhood is that it is a place where people can raise their families in a safe and welcoming environment," she says. "A place where children can be proud of their surroundings and are encouraged, through many available resources, to thrive."

**Rule to live by:** "An oldie but a goldie. My mother's favorite: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' If everyone lived by that simple rule, this world would be an amazing place."

**Personal challenge:** "My personal challenge is to not get too frustrated by national and international issues that I believe directly impact our ability to build strong, healthy neighborhoods," she says. "When we spend billions of dollars every month on wars, but don't have enough money to continue important — inexpensive — local programs that are positive and directly affect our children, I want to tear my hair out. But, I try not to obsess over it."

**What makes you laugh:** "My grandchildren and my husband, Andy," she says. "Jokes and silliness don't make me laugh. It's usually just the simple human actions and responses — happening when we least expect them — that get me every time."

— Terri Finch Hamilton

“They work hard, they buy the house ... They put up siding. They plant flowers. They make it home.”



PRESS PHOTO/NATY BATDORFF



PRESS PHOTO/ADAM BIRD

**“Justice for all, not some. No matter what a person’s social or economic background, everyone deserves a chance.”**

**LESLIE KING-BORREGO: ADVOCACY**

**Job/profession:** Founder and CEO of Sacred Beginnings

**Impact:** As a survivor of drug use, prostitution and its violence, King-Borrego established the nonprofit residential program for traumatized women in 2005. Sacred Beginnings has just opened its third transitional home in the Grand Rapids area and is providing supervised living, mentoring, counseling, advocacy and 24-hour crisis intervention to 25 women.

**Inspiration:** “Justice for all, not some. No matter what a person’s social or economic

background, everyone deserves a chance.”

**Life lesson:** “I have so many. What I have learned is that I no longer have to be a victim to my past, of society or economics. I have a voice.”

**Vision:** “My personal vision is to expand Sacred Beginnings around the state and beyond. There’s too many women and young girls being victimized. We have three homes in the city and, hopefully, (we will have) one in Lansing by January. My professional vision is to continue my education until I get my Ph.D. Then I’m going

to make a lot of changes.”

**Rule to live by:** “No matter if you fall, get up, stand.”

**Personal challenge:** “When an obstacle is in my way, I meet it head-on, and I won’t stop until I conquer it.”

**What makes you laugh?** “I wasn’t here for my own children due to my prostitution and drug abuse. But I’m here for my grandkids. Watching them laugh, watching them tumble, that brings joy to my spirit. Don’t miss those moments of laughter.”

— Morgan Jarema

**GAYLE DAVIS: PROFESSIONS**



PRESS PHOTO/LANCE WYNN

**Job/profession:** Grand Valley State University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

**Impact:** Through her inclusive leadership style, willingness to listen and her determination, she has been a leader in the reorganization of the college, and earned a unanimous vote of support from the faculty senate. She has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to equity and fairness in workload and evaluation processes, and has been influential in diversifying the university’s leadership team. As chair of the Academic Officers Committee of the President’s Council in Michigan 2004-07, she had a major leadership role in coordinating programs, curriculum and policy for the state’s public universities.

**Inspiration:** What inspires me are people coming out of higher education institutions who are prepared to figure out where the world needs to go next.

**Life lesson:** We are here to help each other have better lives. I can’t really tell you how I learned that lesson except by looking around.

**Vision:** I really like the niche we (GVSU) have with undergraduate programs, which really does apply to a person’s next steps in life. It’s not a place where you come simply to learn a discipline, but it’s a microcosm of the world we’re trying to create.

**Rule to live by:** I try to be a good listener and a good thinker and be an encouraging person for others in their work. I try to be straightforward and

**“We are here to help each other have better lives.”**

principled so people can count on me.

**Personal challenge:** Primarily, early in my career, it was a significant personal challenge to make my way successfully through a male-dominated higher education system as a faculty member and administrator.

**What makes you laugh:** Irony makes me laugh more than anything else. The world is full of interesting contradictions.  
— Paul R. Kopenkoskey

**BARBARA HILE: SPORTS, FITNESS AND WELLNESS**

**Job/profession:** Michigan Community Blood Centers marrow/stem cell program director

**Impact:** Donors are encouraged by Hile to join the marrow drive registry at various events. She has found money to pay for the testing of donors and help patients through various partnerships in the community.

**Inspiration:** Empowering people. I want to be able to help people help themselves so they know they have the tools to keep going, to go on to do the best they can for themselves.

**Life lesson:** To treat everybody the way I want to be treated. Everyone is a guest in my home, (everyone) is family. Be sure to have enough food, wine and friendship.

**Vision:** To make Michigan Community Blood Centers the premiere stem-cell collection donor center, not only for West Michigan, but the Midwest region.

**Rule to live by:** When I was growing up, my dad would tell me to be sure to take care of people coming up the ladder because you never know if you’re going to meet them going back down. (I) never ask anyone to do something I wouldn’t do myself.

**Personal challenge:** I had a crabby old nun in eighth grade who knocked the self-confidence out of me. I’ve finally come to accept that I am good enough.

**“I like to find something funny in every situation, and have a good belly laugh every day.”**



COURTESY PHOTO

**What makes you laugh:** I like to find something funny in every situation, and have a good belly laugh every day. Just being able to admit my mistakes, laugh at them and move on.  
— Paul R. Kopenkoskey



PRESS PHOTO/ADAM BIRD

**“If I help others, I’ll always have somebody to back me up.”**

**ROSA LOPEZ: STUDENT AWARD**

**School:** Lee High School senior

**Impact:** Lopez’s volunteer work has benefited many children in her Roosevelt Park neighborhood.

**Inspiration:** “My family. I want to be somebody in life, to be able to support them. They’re always there for me, so I want to do the same for them. That’s what keeps pushing me.”

**Life lesson:** “I just keep telling myself, if I help others, I’ll always have somebody to back me up.”

**Vision:** “I really see myself as a successful businesswoman, with a career and a lot of experience in my field, in

either accounting or fashion marketing. And I want to keep volunteering because I love doing that, maybe helping other kids join clubs and groups.”

**Rule to live by:** “Not cheating in school. I see a lot of cheating, and what’s the point? You won’t be as prepared as you need to be.”

**Personal challenge:** “The classes I’m taking. I have AP English, and I’m not really good at writing papers.” How is she tackling it? “Practicing.”

**What makes you laugh?** “My friends, my baby brother.”

— Morgan Jarema



PRESS PHOTOS/LORI NIEDENFUER COOL

**Center of attention:** Leslie King-Borrego, center, founder and CEO of Sacred Beginnings, receives congratulatory hugs from well-wishers Wednesday after winning the 2008 YWCA Tribute! Advocacy Award.

## A Tribute! to women

### YWCA honors six for leadership in community

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

**GRAND RAPIDS** — YWCA programs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse could receive as much as \$6,000 more than last year through the organization's annual Tribute! Awards on Wednesday.

Proceeds also will help support programs that reduce girls' vulnerability to violence. Last year's luncheon raised almost \$80,000.

Six community leaders and one student were honored at the luncheon in DeVos Place, which drew about 900.

Those honored were:

- **Arts:** Sue Stauffacher, author.
- **Professions:** Gayle Davis, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Grand Valley State University.



**All smiles:** Rosa Lopez, right, winner of the Judy Lloyd Leadership Award, is congratulated by Grand Valley State University President Thomas Haas, center, and his wife, Marcia.

### ONLYlive

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■ **VIDEO:** To see profiles of Tribute! winners, visit the "Press Extra" section online.

- **Community Service:** Mary Angelo, director, Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association.

- **Advocacy:** Leslie King-Borrego, founder and CEO of Sacred Beginnings.

- **Sports, Fitness and Wellness:** Barbara M. Hile, director marrow/stem cell program, Michigan Community

**Blood Centers.**

- **Business, Management, Industry and Labor:** Leann Arkema, president and CEO Gilda's Club Grand Rapids.

- **Student and Judy Lloyd Leadership awards:** Rosa Lopez, senior, Lee High School.

"The awards are unique in that they honor women who educate and inspire us to do more, and they exemplify what the Y is all about: taking girls to seeing their full potential and learning to give back to the community," said Carla Blinkhorn, president and CEO of the YWCA West Central Michigan.