

Your LIFE

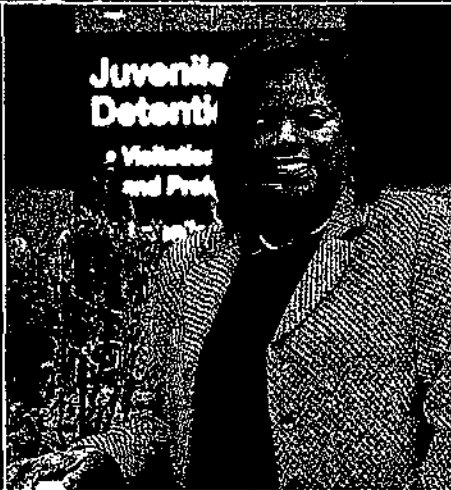
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SECTION
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

MARK TWAIN AUTOBIOGRAPHY RELEASED 100 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, G7



2010 YWCA TRIBUTE

SALUTING SEVEN WOMEN FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND VISION



THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

While it's not written on the tickets, there's one thing that's guaranteed at the annual YWCA Tribute Awards: You will leave inspired by the stories of the women honored at the event.

The Ambassador Ballroom at the Amway Grand Plaza is expected to be packed Tuesday for the noon program, during which six outstanding local women and one student will receive

Tribute Awards. The winners were nominated by the community for the leadership and vision they have shown.

Last year's event was attended by more than 800 people and raised almost \$77,000 for YWCA programs, which serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse, and offer child care and health programs.

Tickets cost \$50 per person. Some seats still may be available, but pre-paid reservations are required by 10 a.m. Monday. Call 459-4681.

2010 HONOREES

ADVOCACY AWARD
Candace Cowling, G2

ARTS AWARD
Laurie Cirivello, G2

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY AND LABOR AWARD
Jo-Anne Perkins, G2

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Linda Patterson, G2

PROFESSIONS AWARD
Stacy McGinnis, G3

SPORTS FITNESS & WELLNESS, HEALTH AWARD
Karen Kaashoek, G3

JUDY LLOYD STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
Yolanda Cornejo, G3

ARTS: LAURIE CIRIVELLO



PRESS PHOTO/EMILY ZOLADZ

Job/profession: Cirivello, 50, is the Grand Rapids Community Media Center executive director

Inspiration: I'm inspired by people's stories, not of the famous and powerful, but the histories and cultures that make ordinary people really unique. For example, I love to sit at a kitchen table and hear about someone's grandmother or why a piece of art touches them in a certain way or a difficulty they've overcome. These little stories add color and depth to my experiences.

Life lesson: It's been important to get past labels and first impressions. We have such a tendency to put people in boxes so quickly. It's not always easy to do, but I've found my life greatly enriched when I make attempts to see people as unique individuals and not put them in a certain box.

Vision: Creativity is a core strategy to problem solving. In my work, that's contributed to helping to create spaces where everybody has the capacity to participate. What I mean by that is for people to participate; everybody has barriers. For some, it's money or knowledge. I want to create an environment where people feel comfortable to be part of the creative conversation, that they know it's OK to be different.

Rule to live by: I try not to live life as a checklist. If you go through life from goal to the next goal to the next goal, you miss opportunities. Instead, you

"I'm inspired by people's stories, not of the famous and powerful, but the histories and cultures that make ordinary people really unique"

— Laurie Cirivello

have to explore, talk to strangers, be curious and improvise.

Personal challenge: I moved to Grand Rapids from California four-and-a-half years ago. We left our kids when they were 17 and 21 when we were in California, and that's where their lives were. My challenge was to be not just let go emotionally but be able to trust that I had done what I was able to do, and they were able to create these amazing lives for themselves. It has turned out to be the most incredibly good thing to happen to any of us.

People, living or dead, you most admire: I tend to not be iconic. On a very personal level, it really boils down to my husband of 27 years, Michael. I'm nurtured by his support, his priorities and just his bravery to trust that no matter where we go, it will be good.

— Paul Kopenkoskey

ADVOCACY: CANDACE COWLING



PRESS PHOTO/KATY BAIKORFF

Job/profession: Cowling, 43, is a social worker and executive director of the Child & Family Resource Council, an agency aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect

Inspiration: It is inspiring to see people work together, focusing on where they agree and acknowledging their diversity of opinions. The purpose is to create a more nurturing community in which our children can be safe, thrive and reach their full potential. Every time I see a person take a step in that direction, I am inspired and hopeful. At the end of the day, who's going to argue that children should be at the forefront of our lives?

Life lesson: There is no substitute for honesty. If you operate under that basic principle, even if we have differences and argue, you know you're coming from a sincere place.

Vision: A community that is free of abuse and neglect, where children can reach their full potential.

Rules to live by:

- Careful what you let become normal. Every day, I see people who let negative things creep into their life: meanness, disrespect. Be aware of how you treat others and how you let others treat you.
- Try to understand others and be understood. We get in trouble when we assume what others believe is the way we believe.

Personal challenge: To find the funny in the moment. There are a lot of difficult situations in life. You've got to find some humor. If you're gonna laugh about it later, find some humor in it now. Life's too short to be cranky.

People, living or dead, you most admire: Alive: Klaas Kwant, my best friend. I admire his humor, intellectual curiosity and passion to live life well.

Dead: Abraham Lincoln. I admire his ability to listen to and unite disparate viewpoints, his willingness to stand up

to injustices while continuing to learn and explore his own vulnerabilities.

— Terri Hamilton

"The purpose is to create a more nurturing community in which our children can be safe, thrive and reach their full potential. Every time I see a person take a step in that direction, I am inspired and hopeful."

— Candace Cowling

COMMUNITY SERVICE: LINDA PATTERSON



PRESS PHOTO/JESSICA SCOTT

Job/profession: Patterson has been a volunteer at Mary Free Bed for 45 years. In that time, she served as chairwoman of the board of directors and president of the hospital's guild and foundation. She continues to serve on the board.

Inspiration: I love helping people. I enjoy a huge variety of interests and experiences.

Life lesson: When I was very young, in high school, I received a nice award, and my father's words when I received it were, "That's wonderful, but don't ever forget who you are. You need to remember you're not better than anyone else."

Vision: To give more than to take out of this life. I was born into a loving and supporting family and into a community that was safe. I was afforded a good education through college. That was just good luck. When your life has been blessed, you owe it to society and others to give back. I believe in the adage that you get more than you receive every time you give.

Rule to live by: I'm sort of an unchurched person, but I do try to live by the golden rule: Treat people the way you hope they will treat you. It's a hard edict to abide by under all circumstances, but

"I believe in the adage that you get more than you receive every time you give."

— Linda Patterson

I think we all need to try our best.

Personal challenge: I lost both of my parents when I was quite young, and I still miss them today. I had to try to get beyond asking, "Why did this happen to me," and putting myself in the center. You accept life and look at the positive in life and build on that.

People, living or dead, you most admire: I admire so many people with different attributes or skills. There are so many political leaders and community leaders and artists in all senses of the word and not just drawing, music and entertainment. I don't have a single answer to that. I'm a little too pluralistic to narrow that down.

— Paul Kopenkoskey

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY AND LABOR:

JO-ANNE PERKINS



PRESS PHOTO/JESSICA SCOTT

Job/profession: Perkins, 53, is general manager of Cascade Cart Solutions, Cascade Engineering, which developed the pink waste and recycling carts that support the American Cancer Society

Inspiration: My daughter, Heather Derrick, for her selfless contribution to mankind every day of her young life. At 14, Heather decided she wanted to serve God in Romania. I said, "What?" The child couldn't drive. I didn't think she knew where Romania was. She took the year between high school and college, at 18, and went to Romania by herself, to work in a home for young mothers and their babies. After returning to get a degree in social work from Cornerstone University, Heather went back to Romania, now assistant director of the home. She's a far better person than I will ever be.

Life lesson: Ambition is not a dirty word. Labels can be assigned to women very quickly. If I'm running a meeting and I'm firm, there are labels. That can beat a lot of people down. Ambition is not a negative thing. Channeled correctly, it's a great thing.

Vision: To inspire my colleagues each and every day to be brave and independent thinkers of their own destiny

Rule to live by: Keep everything in perspective. Every day has significant challenges, to ensure the health and well-being of employees, to ensure financial success and environmental impact. If you take it too seriously, you can get burned out real quick.

Personal challenge: To remember there are only 24 hours in the day and tomorrow will present another opportunity. I'm one of those people who jams all I can into every day. My parents would put me to bed, and I'd sneak out on my belly to the top of the stairs and watch my parents. I could not bear for the day to be over. (She laughs.) It's no different now. Every day is full — and I get to do it all again tomorrow. Lucky me.

People, living or dead, you most admire: I most admire my parents

— my mom, Arlen, who died of breast cancer, and my dad, Clifford — for raising all three of their daughters to be strong, confident

and independent women who have all been good contributors to society.

— Terri Hamilton

"At 14, Heather decided she wanted to serve God in Romania. I said, 'What?' The child couldn't drive. I didn't think she knew where Romania was."

— Jo-Anne Perkins

SPORTS FITNESS & WELLNESS, HEALTH: KAREN KAASHOEK



PHOTO BY DARRIN BREEN

Job/profession: Kaashoek, 51, is executive director of Catherine's Health Center, where she heads a staff of eight employees and about 80 volunteers. The center provides free or reduced-cost medical care to some of the city's neediest men, women and children. She started at the nonprofit as a volunteer, administering flu shots and cholesterol screenings. As the scope of the organization and its needs grew, so did her commitment to its mission.

Inspiration: The idea of what inspires me is a vision of seeing what could be. There are so many problems in the world right now. If you look only at how bad it is, that's not inspiring. But if you look at what you can do for the next person who walks through the door at Catherine's, we make things better. That's what keeps all of us going.

Life lesson: We can't always control the things that go on around us. The only thing we can control is how we look at them, our attitude. If you

look at things as obstacles, they will pull you down. But if you look for the opportunities in there, it makes a really big difference.

Vision: Imagining a community where no one has to go without the health care they need. Not just handing it to them, but giving them the tools they can use to empower them. It impacts them, not just now, but (also) their families, their children. It's a very good investment of your time to empower people with lifelong skills and tools.

Rule to live by: Don't expect somebody else to do what you're not willing to do. It's the whole idea of modeling the behavior you hope to see in other people. We have an organization where we have people of all skill levels. And none of those is too good to take out the trash or make coffee.

Personal challenge: (In the midst of capital campaign for Catherine's expansion and two days before finishing classes for her master's

degree, her son, John, a graduate student at Michigan State University, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. After chemotherapy and radiation that ended in August, he is officially in remission.) The experience gave me a whole other level of awareness of what clients at Catherine's face every day: the lack of health insurance. The irony of this is that I have spent the last 10 years dealing with the underinsured, and my son was considered to be underinsured.

People, living or dead, you most admire: My parents. They really modeled a lifestyle of taking care of other people, of selfless giving. My first memories are of my parents doing things for other people. They never made a big deal of it; it was, "We do this because this is what we're supposed to do." I grew up not thinking "Should I or shouldn't I contribute to others"; it was "How should I contribute?" I would not be who I am today without my parents.
— Morgan Jarema

"We can't always control the things that go on around us. The only thing we can control is how we look at them, our attitude. If you look at things as obstacles, they will pull you down. But if you look for the opportunities in there, it makes a really big difference."

— Karen Kaashoek

PROFESSIONS: STACY MCGINNIS

Job/profession: McGinnis, 41, recently was promoted to superintendent of the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center. She starts in the new post in January. The Detroit native has been a college mentor, child-care and Job Corps worker and juvenile probation officer. She works directly with children, whom she calls "my kids," school officials, judges, social workers and doctors. But she doesn't wait for kids to enter the court system: The mother of 10-year-old twins is active in youth groups at her church, in the Big Sisters program through her sorority and other community and school youth programs.

What motivates her: Going beyond traditional job requirements and realizing that even one success is worth it. It took me a while to realize that I can't save them all. But they're human beings, and they're still children, and I have to try.

Inspiration: The first thing that comes to my mind is Jesus Christ. When I think about what he endured for me, I just say, "How can I complain about anything?" In difficult situations, that's what I lean on. My children also inspire me. I start my days with them, I

end my days with them. They truly give me reason and purpose.

Life lesson: The things that are most important really don't cost anything. The more I teach my children (Shanelle and Sherman), the more I learn from them. Shanelle once asked, "What do you like about me?" I said "I just love that you are so nice to people and that you're trying your hardest." (Her daughter's response was) "I love that you cheer for me. I can hear you yelling my name." I started bawling.

Vision: "My vision is for all women to recognize and appreciate their true destiny. Society tends to limit us in our purpose and, in turn, we limit ourselves. I would love to see more women support and encourage one another."

Rule to live by: What we give determines our wealth, not what we get. It's so rewarding when you give, and give more.

Personal challenge: I've learned there's some things I can change, and some I cannot change. My personal challenge has been accepting the difference. That's going to be a lifelong challenge."

People, living or dead, you most

admire: The mothers in my life. My own mother, she is the greatest thing. She has shown me how to take care of my family while still taking care of myself. And my grandmothers, who have shown me to appreciate the simple things: waking up, breathing, sunshine.

— Morgan Jarema

"My vision is for all women to recognize and appreciate their true destiny. Society tends to limit us in our purpose and in turn we limit ourselves. I would love to see more women support and encourage one another."

— Stacy McGinnis



PHOTO BY WARR COPIER

JUDY LLOYD STUDENT LEADERSHIP: YOLANDA CORNEJO

Job/profession: Cornejo, 17, is a senior at East Kentwood High School, where she is vice president of her class and president of the Young Entrepreneurs Association. She also leads and organizes school events, and trains students how to start and run a small business. She works as an administrative intern for Superintendent Scott Palczewski, helped develop a social media strategy, has been called on by the district to give input on diversity issues and worked with students from other area school districts on hypothetical business problems and solutions. "Working with people is my passion, my strength."

Inspiration: All the negative things in the world and in my family. (She cites her mother's strength following her parents' divorce and her brothers' getting into — and getting out of — gang activity and crime were sources of inspiration.) The more negative things are, the more it gives me reason to do better, to prove people wrong.

Life lesson: You have to take risks, even when you don't want to, and trust in yourself that you're capable and that it's going to be OK. I had to take the risk of putting my foot down to my brothers. What I have been through has made me who I am, and got me where I am. I know some people look at me like a goody-good,

but I wish they could see how much I struggle. It's hard to not share what I've been through if it will help other people.

Vision: To make a difference in kids' lives, kids who have struggled the way I have struggled. And to help my community, the Hispanic kids — help them realize they don't have to live up to stereotypes.

Rule to live by: It would have to be smile, and never give up, no matter what's going on in your life. Hard times don't last forever.

Personal challenge: To overcome stereotypes. Especially with my brothers, they paved the wrong path for me at school, and it's hard to overcome the stereotype of Mexicans — gangs and pregnancy. (What would she say to those who doubt her?) Actions speak louder than words. On graduation day, when I walk down the aisle, that's my day of proving to everybody who judged me.

People, living or dead, you most admire: I most admire my mom, because we have gone through a lot of the same struggles, as women, and continue to go through the same struggles. She shows me to not give up, no matter what. She instills confidence in me every single day.
— Morgan Jarema

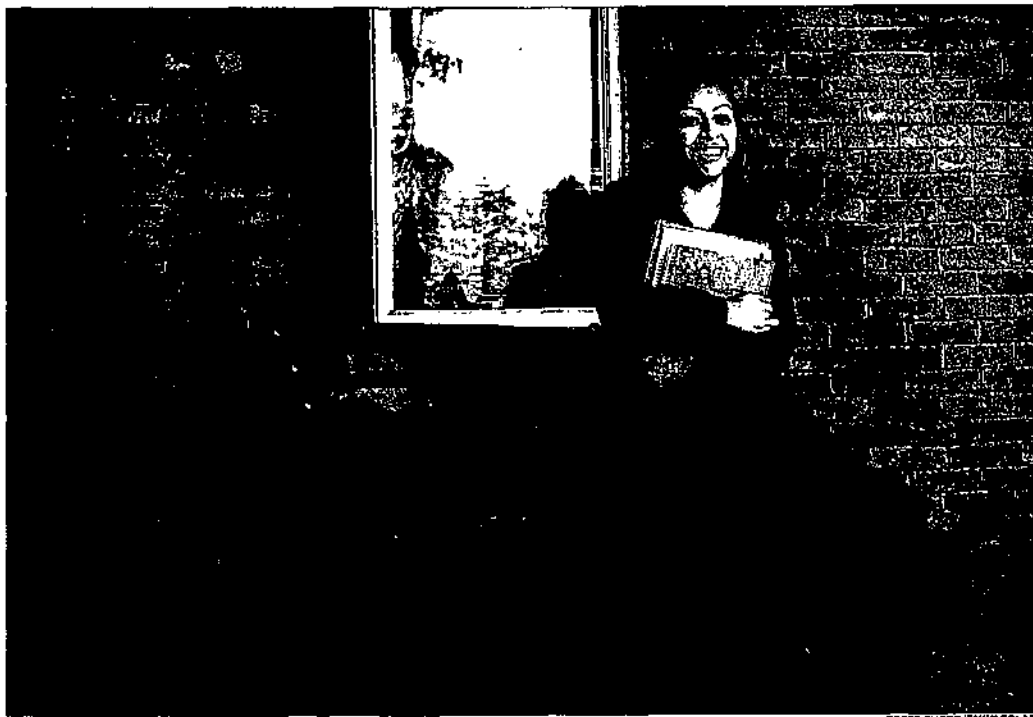


PHOTO BY EMILY ZOLADZ

"To take risks even when you don't want to, and trust in yourself that you're capable and that it's going to be OK. I had to take the risk of putting my foot down to my brothers. What I have been through has made me who I am, and got me where I am."

— Yolanda Cornejo

TRIBUTE WINNER



PHOTO BY EMILY ZOLADZ

YWCA Chairwoman Mary Gill-Thornton, left, shakes hands with Child and Family Resource Council Executive Director Candace Cowling as Cowling receives the YWCA Advocacy award Tuesday during the 2010 Tribute Awards Celebration at DeVos Place. Cowling has spoken at the National Prevent Child Abuse Conference and was appointed to the Michigan's Domestic Violence Treatment Board.