

TRIBUTE!

THE YWCA SALUTES WOMEN

2001 PROGRAM

WELCOME

Judy Lloyd, Chairperson
YWCA of Grand Rapids

Kevin Kabat, President/CEO
Fifth Third Bank

Peggy Bishop, Chairperson
TRIBUTE! 2001 Steering Committee

INVOCATION

Rev. Vicky Menning
*Aquinas College
Congregational Leadership Center*

LUNCHEON

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Judy Lloyd, Chairperson
YWCA of Grand Rapids

Peggy Bishop, Chairperson
TRIBUTE! 2001 Steering Committee



TRIBUTE! AWARDS LUNCHEON
NOVEMBER 14, 2001
NOON - 1:30 P.M.
AMBASSADOR BALLROOM
AMWAY GRAND PLAZA HOTEL

ADVOCACY



DOLLIE GRANT

Director of Development

American Red Cross of West Central MI

Dollie Grant's name is synonymous with advocacy in Grand Rapids. Whether it be AIDS education and prevention, the services of the American Red Cross or the issue of diversity, she is unequalled in her tireless efforts to raise awareness and educate the public about the organizations and issues that are dear to her. Dollie has worked for the American Red Cross for 23 years and epitomizes the agency's commitment to the humanitarian principles of equality, diversity and service to others. She has been a catalyst for the agency's outreach into the African-American and Hispanic communities. Her commitment to community service extends far beyond her Red Cross role. For 15 years, she has been a key spokesperson for the Heart of West Michigan United Way, delivering more than 300 presentations and stressing the importance of individual support for human services.

Throughout the 1990s, Dollie was at the forefront of efforts to educate the public about the risk of HIV/AIDS. She was one of the area's first certified HIV/AIDS (volunteer) instructors to teach a culturally-specific Red Cross HIV/AIDS course for African-Americans. She has served on the local African-American AIDS Task Force and helped form the Hispanics Against AIDS organization.

At the core of Dollie's being is her commitment to diversity. Not only does she work for the Red Cross, but works there as a volunteer as well, becoming a diversity instructor in 1993. In 1996, she volunteered for further training and was named one of the Red Cross' national "Diversity Champions." She has extended diversity advocacy outside of the Red Cross, to groups and organizations including DeVos Children's Hospital, G.R.A.C.E., the Kent County Prosecuting Attorneys Office and the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

ARTS & COMMUNICATION



DR. MONIQUE SALINAS STAUFFER

Founder

West MI Academy of Music for Girls

Growing up the grandchild of Mexican immigrant migrant workers, it was assumed by her family and many in her community that **Dr. Monique Salinas Stauffer** would marry young and have children. Only once - when she was - in 3rd grade did anyone give her any other notion for the future, when her dad said, "You're a bright girl, Monique, maybe you should go to college." Yet it was never mentioned again.

Monique had one unusual advantage - her mother got a piano and had her take a lesson. From that day forward, her life was changed and Monique's love for music inspired her to complete college and graduate school. This led her to establish the West Michigan Academy of Music for Girls in 1997. With the mission of providing young women of West Michigan with opportunities to perform music of the highest quality and to grow creatively, socially and musically, she started the program with 21 girls. The organization now boasts over 200 girls in 5 choirs. In the spring of 2001, the WMAMG Chorale (4th through 9th grade) placed 1st in a national competition at Disney World in Florida.

Stauffer, devoted to her Latino heritage, also began a free outreach program, the Grandville Avenue Girls Choir, in order to provide young Latino girls an opportunity to participate in the arts. At a time when 30% of Hispanic girls drop out of high school, Stauffer donates her time at Hall and Kensington Elementary Schools each week to help these girls grow musically and to develop leadership skills. *"Who are their role models?" she asks. "Jennifer Lopez and Christina Aguilera. I hope I can make them aim higher."*

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY & LABOR



LANA BOLDI

International Representative
UAW, Region 1-D

When she began her career with a Fisher Body Automotive plant in 1976, **Lana Boldi** didn't plan on blazing trails and setting records in the auto and union fields. Most illuminating about her strength and courage, however, is the fact that she made history by becoming the first female skilled trades apprentice in the entire auto industry since WWII. From her start as a skilled tradeswoman to her extensive union involvement, Lana has been a true modern-day pioneer. A 23-year veteran of the UAW Region 1-D office, she is International Representative and the Community Action Program Coordinator for the UAW and is a nationally recognized labor leader.

Lana has received numerous local, state and national awards, including the 2000 "Walter Reuther Award" for distinguished service from the national UAW, the highest recognition available; two "Special Tributes" by the Michigan House of Representatives honoring her community service work; the Heart of West Michigan United Way's "Kenneth W. Robinson Community Service Award;" and the Michigan Education Association Region 9 "Distinguished Service Award."

Lana has a long history of "firsts," including:

- being the first woman elected to her local union board;
- being the first woman (appointed by former Gov. Milliken) on the Michigan Construction Code Commission; and
- being appointed by Gov. Milliken to the very first Michigan Children's Trust Fund board.

She serves on numerous boards, including WMU Board of Trustees, the Heart of West Michigan United Way, Grand Rapids Public Museum Foundation and many more. Boldi is also the Chairperson of the Kent County Democratic Party and plays a leadership role in local, state and national Democratic Party activities and conventions. She truly reflects the spirit of TRIBUTE!'s Business & Labor Award.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



BETSY BORRE

Community Volunteer

The roots of **Betsy Borre's** involvement in the community extend in many directions. The winner of this year's Community Service Award, Betsy has been instrumental in the formation or improvement of a number of local organizations, including The Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and the West Michigan Horticultural Society.

Betsy's leadership is best seen in the phenomenal success of the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Before the gardens had a name and a generous, well-known benefactor, she spent years laying the groundwork for the project. As president of the West Michigan Horticultural Society, Betsy worked with WMHS to realize its goal of establishing a botanic garden in West Michigan. She led a committee that explored and reviewed possible sites, eventually recommending the site where the Gardens now sit. Betsy also commissioned a feasibility study to evaluate the concept and spearheaded the development of a visual presentation that board members presented to garden clubs and other organizations throughout Michigan to garner support. And, it was Betsy who was ultimately responsible for securing funding from philanthropist Fred Meijer, including a \$1 million endowment fund to ensure the Gardens' future.

Borre has also played crucial roles in the development of Blandford Nature Center, the Jellema House Center for Women and Children, the relocated Kent County Humane Society and the Ryerson Library Campaign for a brand new downtown library.

PROFESSIONS



REV. PEGGY LAWRENCE BURNS

Director

Traveling Grannies/Grandpas

In 1992 the **Rev. Peggy Lawrence Burns** was asked to submit her ideas for a program that would have national significance. She thought she had nothing to contribute and put the letter aside. The next day, however, she started writing and didn't stop until a blueprint for Traveling Grannies/Grandpas was on paper. Since then, the program has flourished under her vigilant guidance.

Because of that vision, the Professions Award goes to Rev. Burns, director of this innovative and nationally-recognized program through the Gerontology Network. Rev. Burns recognized that teen pregnancy would continue unless teens had caring, strong role models. Traveling Grannies/Grandpas matches low-income senior volunteers with pregnant teens and at-risk youth for up to 20 hours a week, providing guidance, support and companionship. The program, which has helped over 60 pregnant teens and 99 at-risk children, has national awards, including:

- the 1999 J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award;
- the first Unsung Hero Award from WOOD TV8 and Foremost Insurance;
- the Older Learner Award of Excellence from Michigan's Office of Service to the Aging; and
- a Certificate of Commendation from Governor John Engler.

Traveling Grannies/Grandpas also offers a school-based intervention program and has partners throughout the community.

Peggy Burns attributes the inspiration for Traveling Grannies/Grandpas to divine intervention. A deeply spiritual person, she recently became an ordained minister at the Universal Church of the Risen Christ.

STUDENT



NOORAIN KHAN

Senior

Forest Hills Central High School

Our Student Award Winner truly exemplifies the vitality, compassion and intelligence that we all value and seek in our leaders and role models. Forest Hills Central High School senior **Noorain Khan** not only holds a 4.0 GPA, but has accomplished more in her 17 years than many of us will in a lifetime.

One of Noorain's passions is her faith, which led her to establish the Islamic Youth Group of Grand Rapids, where she serves as President and oversees the organization and its activities. She also planned and organized a week-long camp for Muslim youth in Grand Rapids that attracts 40 children annually. She is the youth representative on the Islamic Center Board of Directors.

Her other passion is the Girl Scouts. A leader in the local Girls Scouts of Michigan Trails Council, she has received the Gold Award (the highest offered by the organization), the Silver Award, the Cadet Leadership and the Senior Leadership Award. She is the youth representative on the agency's board of directors and a member of "Face-It Teens," an outreach program presenting workshops about substance abuse, diversity and other issues.

Noorain is active at school, playing on the varsity tennis team, participating as a member of the Model United Nations team and the Science Olympiad team, which placed in the top 10 nationally. She was a finalist in the state forensics match.

Noorain is an inspiring and exemplary young woman who has her sights set on the toughest and most competitive universities in the country. With her intelligence, energy and commitment to community, she provides a wonderful glimpse into the capabilities of our future leaders.