

TRIBUTE!

2003 Awards Celebration
Presented by Fifth Third Bank
and the YWCA of Grand Rapids

November 6, 2003



*The YWCA of Grand Rapids and
Fifth Third Bank present...*

TRIBUTE!

2003 Awards Celebration

November 6, 2003

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Ambassador Ballroom

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

WELCOME

Cheryl Edwards, Chairperson

Board of Directors

YWCA of Grand Rapids

Michelle VanDyke

Executive Vice President

Fifth Third Bank

Deb Bailey, Chairperson

YWCA TRIBUTE! 2003 Steering Committee

INVOCATION

Rev. Pam Doty-Nation

United Church of Christ

*Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity
of Kent County*

LUNCHEON

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Cheryl Edwards

Deb Bailey

Thank you for attending.

2003 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



CHRISTINE (TINA) HARTLEY-MALIVUK

(December 7, 1952 - August 12, 2003)

Former President, Goodwill Industries

Nominated by Cherry Jacobus and Mary Alice Williams

As President of Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids, Tina Hartley-Malivuk used her gifts and talents to benefit those most in need. Her legacy in vocational rehabilitation is one that stretches more than twenty-five years and has touched thousands of people statewide.

Tina was passionate about her belief in the spirit and dignity of all individuals and advocated tirelessly on behalf of those with disabilities. She dedicated herself to her work but also found infinite pride and joy in her family. As one nominator wrote, "We hardly ever had a conversation at work that would not include activities of (her children) Valerie or Gregory and news of her husband Dave's work."

In a 2001 interview, Tina remarked on the state of poverty in our community, "It is absolutely unconscionable to have such desperate need" and she was confident she could change that. Beyond successfully managing Goodwill Industries, Tina assumed numerous other leadership positions with the Michigan Association of Rehabilitation Organizations, Horizons in Living of Allegan County, and The Recuperation Center. She served on the United Way Partner Agency Directors' Committee, Public Policy Committee, and Investment Council. Tina helped found The SOURCE which brings together private employers, government, and human service agencies to help meet training and human resource needs for small and mid-size companies. She also shared her gifts with the North American Indian Center Advisory Council, Delta Strategy-Coalition for Reducing Poverty Steering Committee, Grand Rapids Community College, and Community Mental Health.

Tina is a 1998 graduate of Leadership Grand Rapids. Reinforcing her own natural inclinations, the program fosters in its students the importance of accepting responsibility on behalf of the whole community to ensure the common good.

ADVOCACY



INGRID SCOTT-WEEKLEY

**Equal Opportunity Department Director,
City of Grand Rapids**

Nominated by Kurt Kimball

As Equal Opportunity Department Director for the City of Grand Rapids, Ingrid Scott-Weekley has devoted herself to learning about our community and leveraging that knowledge to open the doors of opportunity for all.

Her efforts have resulted in important studies that have shed light on key issues in our community, such as the status of women in city government and how city government conducts business. Through the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, she chaired a study on the status of African American women in Kent County as related to program initiatives implemented by area organizations. Most importantly, each study has helped create tangible positive results that increase participation and opportunity.

Ingrid has generously shared her energy, skills and time with numerous organizations that closely match her passion for equality and ensuring opportunity for those in need. She has helped raised thousands of dollars in scholarships for the United Negro College Fund and serves as its West Michigan Vice Chair. She is also a strong advocate for breast cancer awareness and has raised funds for sponsored educational programs for low-income women of color. In addition, Ingrid has served on the United Way's Board of Directors and Allocations Review Committee, the Michigan Women Commission, Women's Equity Taskforce, the Leadership Grand Rapids, the First Community AME Church-Missionary Society, the Metropolitan Blueprint Development Transportation Committee, the Grand Rapids Bar Association-Jury Representation Committee, the Rotary International, the Grand Rapids Urban League's Board of Directors, the YWCA's Board of Directors, Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Urban Cooperation Board, the Nokomis Foundation's Girls' Taskforce, and the Grand Rapids Public School's HOSTS Program.

ARTS



RUTH NICELY

Music Minister and Teacher

Nominated by Craig Van Ess

For over forty-five years, Ruth Nicely has shared her gifts and skills as a musician with thousands of children and adults throughout our community.

Ruth's talents have been a significant part of the music ministries at several area churches, including Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she served as the full-time music minister for twenty-two years. During her tenure, Ruth recruited, led and directed volunteers in eight children's choirs, a 125-member adult choir and an adult hand bell choir. With seemingly endless energy, Ruth spent much of the same twenty-two years teaching music full-time for the Grand Rapids Public Schools. Following her retirement, Ruth turned her energy to creating a children's music program at Mayflower Congregational Church. In just two years, over sixty children have joined.

Throughout her career, Ruth has worked tirelessly to ensure that those interested in music had every opportunity to experience it. She recruited students to participate in her church choirs. Often she chauffeured volunteers and provided private music lessons for students free of charge. Encouraged and emboldened by Ruth's example, many of her students have become teachers and first class musicians in their own right.

At every turn, Ruth has dedicated her energies to sharing the beauty of music with others, all while fighting a thirty-year battle with leukemia.

The unfailing support and encouragement Ruth gives to her volunteers and students has been key to much of her success. Within her choirs and ensembles, Ruth creates a sense of self-worth and confidence regardless of musical abilities, a deep appreciation for the value of music, and most importantly, a sense of belonging.

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY AND LABOR



BRENDA STRINGER

Interim Director, John Ball Zoo

Executive Director, John Ball Zoological Society

Nominated by Michael Taylor

Brenda Stringer's tenure with the John Ball Zoo and Zoological Society has been marked by visionary leadership, a commitment to ensuring our community's access to the zoo's educational opportunities and a passionate advocacy for the value of a high quality zoological park.

Through Brenda's direction, the Zoological Society increased its budget from \$28,000 to \$1.6 million in the last two decades and expanded its staff to thirty members. She has also worked diligently to ensure that the diversity of our community is represented on the Society's Board of Directors and that employees working in the Zoo have the language skills to best communicate with Zoo visitors.

With these and other improvements came greater opportunity to include more of our community in the Zoo's wonderful educational and cultural experiences. Brenda's efforts helped to establish the Zoological Society JUMP program which encourages students from six at-risk local schools and their families to attend an after-hours picnic and free night at the Zoo. Over 20,000 JUMP passes are provided each year to disadvantaged families in Kent County.

Just this year, and during an important point in the Zoo's history, Brenda was tapped to become Interim Director of the John Ball Zoo as well. The epitome of grace under pressure, Brenda has continued to be an effective organizational advocate for education and conservation, while debate ensues as to the Zoo's possible expansion or relocation. Throughout, Brenda has remained firm that whatever the future holds, the result must be a cultural attraction of the first order designed to educate and emphasize the uniqueness and beauty of the animal population.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



SHARRON REYNOLDS

**Vice President - Marketing and Community Relations
Huntington Bank**

Nominated by Vernon Ehlers

In just about every corner of our community, one can see Sharron Reynolds' fingerprints. Her enthusiastic commitment to community has resulted in richer cultural and business environments, stronger educational institutions, and greater opportunities for those most in need.

Sharron brings to the table a keen ability to grasp challenges and pave the way for creative solutions, and her volunteer efforts have helped raise millions of dollars for the Grand Rapids community. With contagious enthusiasm Sharron is able to attract key players and successfully lift new projects off the ground, as in the case of the American Cancer Society's Paul Henry Classic. Sharron's efforts helped the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's annual fundraising event raise \$90,000 after just four years. The celebration now serves as a national model. Sharron also helped lead a statewide public relations campaign that collected over 25,000 coats for the disadvantaged over four years.

Sharron took a leading role in creating an annual Fourth of July community celebration in downtown Grand Rapids. Now in its seventeenth year, the event attracts over 250,000 visitors to the area. She served as founding Treasurer of the Davenport College Foundation and the founding Chairperson for the Metropolitan Hospital Foundation. Numerous other organizations have benefited from Sharron's skills and energy, including Grand Valley State University-Seidman Advisory Committee and Alumni Association, University Club of Grand Rapids, VanSingel Fine Arts Council, "Positively Warren Golf Classic", St. Sebastian 150th Anniversary Community Celebration, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Family Services Association, Better Business Bureau, Economic Club, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Week, and the United Way Allocations and Review Committee.

PROFESSIONS



SUSAN BROMAN

Executive Director

Steelcase Foundation

Nominated by Lynne Ferrell

With a deep belief that her work is less about money and more about people, Susan Broman has shown extraordinary leadership as Executive Director of the Steelcase Foundation and within the philanthropic community.

In all areas of her profession, Susan has worked to bring resources to the people who can make changes for the betterment of our community as a whole. With characteristic pragmatism and clarity, she has furthered the foundation's policy as it relates to grant-making for organizations serving children up to five years old. In doing so, she has successfully moved the Steelcase Foundation to the forefront of the issue. As Chair of the Kent County Child and Family Coordinating Council-Early Childhood Subcommittee, Susan has helped direct nearly one million dollars in new resources to servicing young children in Kent County.

In her involvement with the Ready to Succeed Partnership, which includes representatives from business, philanthropic organizations, and government, Susan is working to increase the awareness of the importance of early childhood programs and ultimately the extent to which the children of Michigan come to school ready to succeed.

As further evidence of her commitment to ensuring resources are directed to those most in need, Susan is an active member of the Council of Donations, the Council of Michigan Foundations, and the Foundation CEO group. She serves on the Resource Allocators Consortium, Michigan AIDS Fund, Delta Strategy, United Way Impact Cabinet, Spectrum Health Community Commitment Advisory Committee, the Michigan League of Human Services Public Affairs Committee, the Public Policy Committee of CMF, the Grand Rapids Education Reform Initiative, Michigan's Children, and the Community Leadership Institute.

SPORTS, FITNESS AND WELLNESS



JAY ROBERTS-EVELAND

Vice President

Communities for Equity

Nominated by Laurie Kuna

Possessed with an innate sense of equality, Jay Roberts-Eveland has helped move female athletes throughout Michigan one step closer to an even playing field.

Jay began paving her path very early. As a high school freshman at Arthur Hill High School, she staged a student walk-out to protest the state's dress code which banned girls from wearing pants to school. Jay also holds the distinction as the school's first female student body president. The lessons she learned then and later on, provided her with encouragement as her concern about gender equity in sports began to take shape.

Those concerns led Jay, as a member of Communities for Equity, to lobby and later sue the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) in an effort to place the athletic schedules of female high school students at more equitable times of the year. They were successful, and the MHSAA has begun the process of examining the schedules, ultimately bettering the chances for Michigan's female athletes to receive scholarships and opportunities to compete. Today, Jay continues to educate our community about the issue of gender equity in sports.

In numerous ways, Jay has committed herself to ensuring access and opportunity for our community. She is the Kentwood Public Schools' Community Service/Volunteer Coordinator. In that role, Jay created the Youth Services Organization, facilitating over 364 high school students in volunteer endeavors each year, coordinated diversity training, and trained "Leaders Into the Next Century" members. She has also conducted Anti-Defamation League Anti-bias training for students, served as the Kent Intermediate School District Diversity Coordinator, and has been a member of Kent County's Youth Development Program.

STUDENT



DOREEN DUSENDANG

West Catholic High School

Nominated by Kathryn Black

As a freshman at West Catholic High School, Doreen Dusendang helped lead her basketball team to a perfect 20-0 record and became the only freshman invited onto the varsity competitive cheerleading squad. However, those triumphs were tempered by the loss of her father to Lou Gehrig's Disease that same year. Despite the heartbreak and challenges her loss posed, Doreen found strength in the courage her father showed during his illness. She credits his influence as key to finding her own strength.

That same strength has helped Doreen succeed academically as well, despite learning challenges. Her tenacious commitment has attracted the interest of university recruiters, and she plans on attending college next Fall.

Doreen's achievements and personal fortitude are easily matched by her desire to serve others. Doreen was selected as a West Catholic Peer Minister. In that role she helps counsel students and acts as a Peer Mediator to help resolve conflicts within the school. She has recruited many of her fellow female students to participate in the West Girls Club, which encourages young women through activities, guest speakers and service projects. Doreen has worked as a Youth Leader at The Peace Club summer camp to teach children conflict resolution skills. She coaches cheerleading at St. James grade school and teaches religious education classes every week to grade school children. Doreen founded the Youth Employment Strategy Program as well, offering at-risk teenagers the opportunity to learn about professional environments and then placing them in summer jobs. With characteristic gratitude, she also spends time at God's Kitchen to, in her words, "remind myself how fortunate I am to have a home and people who love me."