

A W A R D S

| 2005

C E L E B R A T I O N

TRIBUTE!

Presented by the YWCA of Grand Rapids
with Title Sponsor



Fifth Third Bank

ywca

Grand Rapids

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

TRIBUTE!

2005 Awards Celebration

November 3, 2005

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Ambassador Ballroom

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

WELCOME

Bridget White, Chairperson

Board of Directors

YWCA of Grand Rapids

Michelle VanDyke

President/CEO

Fifth Third Bank Western Michigan

Elsa Kerr, Chairperson
YWCA TRIBUTE! 2005 Steering Committee

INVOCATION

Francesca Amari
Suzanne Katerberg
Barb McPherson

Anika Smith

Cassandra Kroondyk

Prayer of Peace

Text based on Navaho prayer; Tune by David Haas, 1957

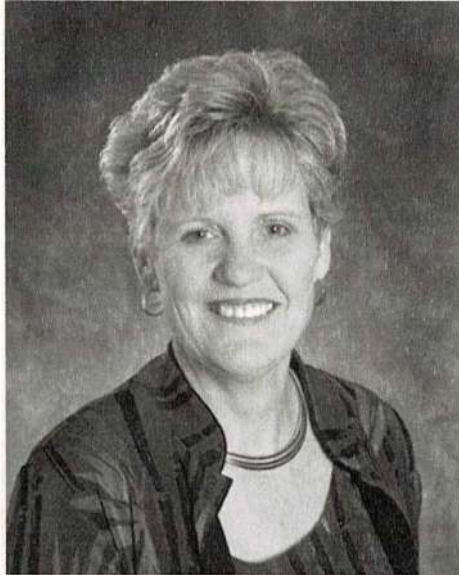
LUNCHEON

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Bridget White
Elsa Kerr

Thank you for attending.

ADVOCACY



REVEREND PAM DOTY-NATION

Executive Director,

Habitat for Humanity of Kent County

Nominated by Carol Muth and Meredith Gremel

ARTS



DEANNA MORSE

Professor, Grand Valley State University

Nominated by Julie Stivers

Pam Doty-Nation's entire professional life has been one committed to making a difference in the areas of homelessness, affordable housing and transitional housing for women and children.

When hired as the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity seven years ago, Pam set an ambitious goal: building 200 Habitat houses by 2005. Since its 1983 beginning, the local affiliate had built just 85 houses. She approached her new position with a passion, drive, intelligence and vision that motivated others. In September 2005, Habitat broke ground on its 200th house, to be dedicated in December.

Pam has developed Habitat from grassroots functionality to a professional social service agency. It operates as a construction company, a mortgage company and a social service agency all rolled into one. She believes intrinsically in people's ability and desire to become self-reiliant. She creates a warm, nurturing environment, full of hope -- for her staff, her board, volunteers, donors and the many recipients Habitat helps. Her ability as a leader makes her a sought-after community partner, and she has developed projects with Grand Rapids Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools and Grand Rapids Community College's M-TEC Program.

Prior to joining Habitat, Pam spent eight years as Director of Transitional Housing for Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids. During her tenure, she expanded her department from one to seven programs, including the establishment of Liz's House.

A graduate of Western Theological Seminary, Pam was ordained as a pastor in the United Church of Christ in 1991. Her deep faith and spiritual studies are a central part of her professional outlook. Early on, she chose to apply her talents to serve the homebuilding/family-building model of Habitat for Humanity. She has used her unique spiritual voice to speak out for inclusion, and she continues to nourish the spirit of all whose lives she touches.

Deanna Morse is an independent artist specializing in animation and personal short films and videos. She is also an educator and a leader in several international organizations for independent film and video artists.

Deanna has produced more than 30 films and videos. Her work has been selected for international festivals from Canada and the U.S. to Japan, Italy, France and England. She has produced films for national broadcast on Sesame Street and Romper Room, and she is represented in permanent film collections in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 1991, her films were published in the recently re-issued Addy and Omni-Award winning DVD, *Move-Click-Move*.

On GVSU's faculty since 1979, Deanna was named Distinguished Professor by the MI Association of Governing Boards, and Outstanding Alumni by Iowa State University, her undergraduate school. She earned an MA from Goddard College and MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

A leader in the field of animated filmmaking, she has been a jurist in prestigious film festivals worldwide, including Russia, Korea, Croatia and Japan. She has served seven times as a field reader for the U.S Department of Education's Javits Fellowship program, and is a Grants Reviewer for Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Locally, Deanna works as both an artist and volunteer for Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, ArtWorks and Festival. Most recently, she helped organize a GVSU class in which students make promotional films for nonprofit organizations. She's been a powerful role model for her female students, many of whom have gone on to successful film careers. Looking to the next generation, she has been instrumental in establishing two film scholarships at GVSU, one which was named for the late Dirk Koning, former director of Community Media Center.

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY AND LABOR



LINDA LAFONTSEE

Co-Owner, LaFontsee Galleries/Underground Studio

Nominated by Twink Frey

COMMUNITY SERVICE



MARY CAROLINE "TWINK" FREY

**Founder, Nokomis Foundation and
Gilda's Club Grand Rapids**

Nominated by Leann Arkema

Linda LaFontsee is a visionary. In 1987, she and her husband Scott opened Underground Studio, a small frame shop designed to help artists find affordable and high-quality framing services. Located on Grand Street, it was the only business in the residential neighborhood. Linda was confident they would grow once word spread about their quality work. So, she set out to build what was to become a premier studio and gallery.

Linda's efforts matched her vision and Underground Studio soon grew to include LaFontsee Galleries. It is considered one of the most significant commercial galleries in West Michigan, providing services to private and corporate art collectors, framing and presentation services, a retail showroom, workspace, and gallery dedicated to showcasing local and regional artists. Last year it received a Governor's Award for business from ArtServe and was Voted "Best Art Gallery" by the community 9 of the last 10 years.

Linda expanded her vision in 1991, when she oversaw the studio's move to the then-deserted warehouse district of Monroe Avenue. With an amazing 18,000 square feet of retail, gallery and workspace, LaFontsee Galleries became the anchor and pioneer of what is now one of Grand Rapids' hottest and hippest neighborhoods.

Linda is also a successful artist dedicated to expanding access to and appreciation of all types of art in our community. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group shows, and her volunteer work and artistry often overlap. For years, she has donated art to Very Special Arts Auction, God's Kitchen, UICA and the YWCA's Run, Jane, Run. She's donated personal art to Gilda's Club and oversees its art collection. For the Nokomis Foundation, Linda organized and facilitated the creation of a totem pole in the lobby to symbolize women's strength, diversity, history and potential; and for WomenMatter, a state advocacy organization, she coordinated and produced a quilt comprised of the work of local women artists of all ages and cultures.

"Twink" Frey has long been a philanthropic leader and dedicated advocate, especially for women and children. She began her professional career changing young lives as an elementary teacher, where she spent 25 years in a variety of settings. However, her desire to strengthen and educate our community extends beyond the traditional classroom setting.

In her own words, she describes why she chose to establish Nokomis Foundation, designed to create stronger voices for women and girls: "When I was growing up, I had no voice. Later, as a teacher of young girls, I found myself urging them to speak up, express themselves, shout and sing. Sometimes I was successful; too often, I was not." Since its creation in 1991, the Nokomis Foundation has grown to play a significant role in our community, focusing on supporting programs that serve women and girls - a population that is traditionally underserved - and infrastructure grants for non-profit organizations. It currently offers approximately 80 grants a year, totaling over \$1,000,000.00.

As a survivor, Twink carries a deep, heartfelt empathy for those learning to live with cancer. In the spring of 1995 when she heard of the first Gilda's Club opening in New York City, she immediately recognized the importance of an organization designed to provide social and emotional support during a cancer journey. Twink soon recruited Deb Bailey and Susan Smith to join her in establishing a Gilda's Club in Grand Rapids. Just six years later, her dream became reality. As the largest and busiest of North American clubs, Gilda's Club-Grand Rapids is a national model and serves more than 1,600 visitors each month.

Twink has served as a leader on the boards of Michigan's Children, Council of Michigan Foundations, Grand Rapids Art Museum Foundation, Grand Rapids Women's History Council (a founding member) and the Center for Education of Women at the University of Michigan. In each role, she has dedicated herself to doing things that make a difference in the lives of others, especially those who don't yet know the power of their own voice.

PROFESSIONS



GWENDOLYN HOFFMAN, M.D.
Chief of Staff and Chairperson,
Department of Emergency Medicine
Spectrum Health
Nominated by Dr. Bryant W. Pierce

SPORTS, FITNESS AND WELLNESS



MARIA DEL CARMEN CRUZ
Program Coordinator, Programa de Apoyo
a Nuestra Comunidad,
Spectrum Health
Nominated by Mary Kay Kempker-VanDriel

Through her early influence in the field of Emergency Medicine, at a time when the field was almost entirely made up of men, Dr. Gwendolyn Hoffman has shown tremendous vision and leadership, and risen to the pinnacle of her profession both locally and nationally.

Dr. Hoffman provided the impetus for Butterworth's Emergency Medicine Residency program when Emergency Medicine was still in its infancy as an independent, medical specialty. By going directly to local emergency physicians, she successfully made the case for the program and its importance in physicians' education. In 1977, she became its first resident and in 1980, the first graduate of the new program. That same year, she was named its Director, a position she held until 2001. During this time, she was responsible for training over 190 doctors in the specialty of Emergency Medicine.

Always active in the Medical Staff Leadership at all area hospitals, Dr. Hoffman was part of the team of health care professionals that accomplished the merger of Blodgett Memorial and Butterworth Hospitals to form Spectrum Health, creating one of the largest health care systems in the country. She has been a tireless advocate for Quality Improvement in the system as a whole and in the Emergency Department in particular. Dr. Hoffman now serves as the Chairperson of the Department of Emergency Medicine for Spectrum Health and in January, 2005 was elected Chief of Staff by the Spectrum Health Medical Staff, a recognition of how highly regarded she is by her colleagues.

Dr. Hoffman also serves as President of the American Board of Emergency Medicine, where she has led the creation of the Emergency Medicine Continuous Certification (EMCC) program. This program demonstrates that those with Board Certification have continuous learning and periodic assessment throughout the length of their certification, and is now a model for other medical specialties.

Maria Del Carmen Cruz is a native of Puerto Rico and moved to Chicago as a teenager in 1973. Through her experiences, she has gained great awareness of the cultural, social, educational and gender challenges that today's Hispanic women face.

Maria began serving Spanish-only speaking women and families as a Community Specialist for the Latin American Services in 1992. She then joined Spectrum Health's Mothers Offering Mothers Support (MOMS) program, dedicated to serving under-served, at-risk pregnant women. She became the program's first Hispanic Community Health Worker and was a pioneer in taking support services directly into participants' homes.

In 2000, Maria originated an innovative program devoted to supporting Hispanic families new to our community. PANC, The Programa de Apoyo a Nuestra Comunidad (Helping Our Communities), was created to provide better access to health care for families through a case management approach for 12 months following their arrival. Today, PANC services include case management, access to health care, educational workshops, HIV patient and family support and a youth program that focuses on violence prevention, health education and leadership skills. It serves 300+ families and individuals each year.

While working full-time and attending college, Maria also volunteers. She served four years on the Godfrey-Lee Board of Education, which opened her eyes to the lack of health care resources for students in that district. As a result, she secured resources from Spectrum Health to fund a full-time nurse. She's also served on the Latino Youth Conference Steering Committee since 2000 and is a founder of the Latino Mental Health Task Force.

JUDY LLOYD LEADERSHIP AWARD

Presented by the YWCA of Grand Rapids



JUDY LLOYD

September 18, 1945 to June 1, 2005

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” -

John Quincy Adams

It was this way with Judy Lloyd as well. Her kindness and extraordinary grasp of the issues facing our community inspired countless numbers to follow Judy's lead. Quietly, she connected individuals and

STUDENT



MEGAN THREATS

Creston High School

Nominated by Ronald Andrus

organizations to benefit those most in need. She knew who to bring to the table to get a job done and devoted herself wholeheartedly to the tasks needed to get there, touching hearts and strengthening our community simultaneously. Judy's passing was met with an outpouring of generosity in her memory, which the YWCA has housed at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. Those gifts are now providing long-term support of our services for our women and their families, a beautiful testament to Judy's lifetime of work.

Judy's two-decades of influence within the YWCA is immeasurable. She participated on the **TRIBUTE!** Steering and Selection Committees. She helped establish and grow the Circle of Women Celebration. Judy participated on the Finance Committee, helping manage finite resources to effectively address the seemingly infinite challenges facing women and girls. She led the YWCA's Board of Directors during some of the organization's most historic moments, and helped lay the foundation for fundamental change in the national YWCA. Through each moment, with each task, Judy always offered warm words of encouragement and practical hands-on help to succeed beyond expectations.

With a corps of volunteers who resemble Judy's dedication and quiet leadership, the YWCA has worked hard over the last century to create an environment that allows women and girls to thrive. The **TRIBUTE!** Student Award is an extension of that. The connection between these young women and Judy is natural and apparent.

Inspired by her life and work, the YWCA Board of Directors has established the annual Student Leadership Award in Judy Lloyd's honor. Designed as a complement to the Student **TRIBUTE!** Award, it will offer practical help to this and future student honorees as they work to fulfill their dreams. It is in this way we recognize Judy and commit ourselves to a future motivated by her values and example.

Carla Blinkhorn,
YWCA President/CEO

According to her nominator, Megan Threats is an empowered, young, ambitious and vital African-American woman with such great potential that she already has his vote when she runs for political office after college. Yes, politics is where Megan has set her career sights. More importantly, she has the will, passion, intelligence, grace and energy to make it happen.

Megan is well-known and highly respected in her school, her church and her community. Even while achieving prestigious leadership awards like MSU's Outstanding Junior Award, GRCC's Outstanding Minority Junior Award and the Close-Up Program Scholarship, she takes the time to reach out to others. She's in her ninth year as a server at the Salvation Army's Christmas Dinner for the homeless and her sixth year as a volunteer at the Mel Trotter Mission Thanksgiving food drive. She's volunteered at the Fifth Third River Bank Run and received WZZM's Helping Hands Volunteer Service Award. Megan finds the resources to financially support the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Leukemia/Lymphoma Foundation and Ronald McDonald House Foundation, among others.

At Creston High School, Megan maintains a 3.4 GPA and is in the National Honor Society, while also serving on the Peer Resistance/Peer Listening Teams, Students Against Drunk Driving Club and as a ticket-taker at Creston basketball games. At her church, she's involved in the Youth Succeeding to Excellence (after-school mentoring) and the Renaissance Church of God in Christ Black History Program; all of which have helped Megan to empower others to "reach for the stars."