

Tribute!

eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

2006 AWARDS CELEBRATION

Presented by the YWCA West Central Michigan with Title Sponsor



Fifth Third Bank

agenda

November 14, 2006

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

DeVos Place

Girls Incorporated® at YWCA West Central Michigan - Step Team

Welcome

Bridget White, *Immediate Past Chair*

Board of Directors

YWCA West Central Michigan

Michelle VanDyke

President/CEO

Fifth Third Bank of Western Michigan

Elsa Kerr, *Co-Chairperson*

YWCA TRIBUTE! 2006 Steering Committee

Invocation

Sharel Harris

Girls Incorporated® Participant

Luncheon

Awards Presentation

Bridget White

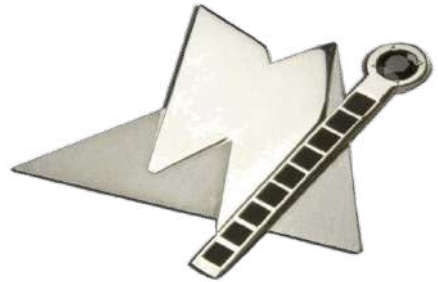
Kysha Frazier, *Co-Chairperson*

YWCA TRIBUTE! 2006 Steering Committee

Thank you for attending.



2006 Award Honorees



The Tribute Pin — presented to each award recipient — was designed to symbolize the YWCA and the characteristics that each honoree demonstrated as they went about improving the lives of those around them.

The background is a stylized “Y” and “W.”

A pin was chosen so Tribute honorees could wear it close to their hearts, the origin of the passionate commitment they bring to their causes.

The staff in the middle symbolizes the strength and fortitude of those extraordinary women.

A jewel crowns the piece. Much like the Tribute honorees themselves, it was formed over time and under great pressure, and shines as a beautiful example to others.

advocacy



Karen Henry

Executive Director

Grand Rapids Weed and Seed

nominated by James B. Fahner, MD

"Karen Henry is an extraordinary woman of bold convictions, moral courage, and intellectual honesty. She inspires community awareness because she is instinctively aware of need in our community", states her nominator Dr. James Fahner.

She is an advocate for those diminished by social constructs, racial hatred, poverty, gender discrimination, or hopelessness. Karen has turned very personal experiences with illness, gender-bias, and racial-injustice into a platform to help educate and inspire others. She is currently learning to live with her third diagnosis of breast cancer.

Karen's success is rooted in her personal affection for those around her. She is able to bring people together, transcending seemingly insurmountable obstacles to achieve positive results for our community. Always ready with a quick smile and a hug, she encourages activists to first work within established systems despite challenges – and when necessary – work around them.

Her involvement in BRIDGES—a group of Arab and Muslim Americans and law enforcement established by the U.S. Attorney and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee—has helped ease tensions following September 11th and opened critical communication lines. Determined that our community should be safe for everyone,

Karen has played a key role in Project Safe Neighborhoods. As a PSN Task Force Member for the Western District of Michigan, she has helped reduce illegal gun use locally by reaching out to youth. Through Grand Rapids Weed and Seed, Karen has forged alliances among every sector of our community to address truancy and criminal activity, to provide youth programming, and offer neighborhood skills-development.

A journalist by training, Karen is a savvy critic and sought-after lecturer on issues surrounding how women and girls are portrayed, particularly those of Arab or Muslim descent.

Karen has served as Interim Director for the Institute for Global Education, is the founder of the Women's Political Action Network, and a Co-Founder of the Middle East Education Project. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Pediatric Oncology Resource Team at DeVos Children's Hospital and formerly served on the city's Community Relations Commission and the Executive Board of the Progressive Women's Alliance.

Karen has received the ACLU of West Michigan's Civil Libertarian of the Year Award and the Women's Resource Center Woman of Equality Award. She has been profiled in Who's Who in America and Who's Who of American Women. Gov. Granholm appointed Karen to the Arab and Chaldean American Affairs Council for the state of Michigan.

Her accomplishments are a powerful inspiration to those around her.



Lori Tennenhouse

Artistic Director

Grand Rapids Women's Chorus

nominated by Janice Scalza

Combining her love of music and her appreciation for the harmony that comes when unlikely voices join together, Lori Tennenhouse founded the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus in 1996. "Singing together is a way to foster understanding of our own diversity as women and allows us to build bridges in the community that help promote creativity and communication," writes Lori in her opening letter in the Chorus' handbook. In every aspect, the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus reflects Lori's beliefs.

The mission statement for the GRWC states, "Established for the education, enjoyment, and enrichment of its members and its audience, the GRWC seeks to create and inspire meaningful experience through musical expression." It welcomes women of all ages, social backgrounds, political interests, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and musical experience. Under Lori's guidance, they come together once a week to express the meaning of women's lives through music.

In an artistic genre where women still find too many obstacles, the Chorus is particularly dedicated to performing music that promotes an appreciation of women composers and arrangers from all cultural backgrounds. Our community has enjoyed the unique multicultural experience of the Grand Rapids

Women's Chorus' performances for 10 years. The significance of these experiences is all the more memorable when the Chorus performs songs from around the globe as they were written in their original language.

Among the many community opportunities to which Lori has steered her Chorus are performances for the Institute of Racial Healing, AIDS Awareness, nursing home residents, children with cancer and collaborations with the West Michigan Academy of Music for Girls.

As its Artistic Director since its inception, Lori helped establish the GRWC as a 501(c)3 organization and secured funding that has allowed it to pursue a variety of community projects that reflect a commitment to women, music and diversity. Of particular note is the Chorus' recent commissioning of five new pieces of music. The fifth piece, with lyrics by Mary Oliver, is entitled "Summer Day." Mary Oliver does not normally allow her poetry to be used in this manner. It was only because of Lori's perseverance that this piece exists for the chorus and chamber orchestra.

Lori is an accomplished musician, having played bass with the New England Women's Symphony. She is an equally gifted musical composer and arranger. In this and all that she has done locally, Lori has added greatly to the richness of our artistic community.

business, management, industry and labor



Katherine Humphrey

President & CEO

*Planned Parenthood Centers of
West Michigan*

nominated by Charles E. Burpee

There are few things that impact the overall well-being of women more than access to quality health care. For the last 18 years, Kathy Humphrey has dedicated herself to ensuring that the women of our community – particularly those who are marginalized – have the access they need.

Under Kathy's leadership, Planned Parenthood Centers of West Michigan (PPCWM) provides medical care to 25,000 clients each year (85% have incomes at or below poverty). Each has access to comprehensive annual exams, affordable birth control methods and education, screenings for cancer and sexually transmitted infections, immunizations, nicotine withdrawal therapy, and pregnancy testing...to name just a few.

Kathy's commitment to diversity and inclusion led to the development of critical culturally-sensitive programs for African American, Native American, Latino/Latina, GLBTQ, senior citizens, and young people. In fact, PPCWM's efforts to reach the Hispanic community resulted in a 25% increase in the number of Latinas able to access key health care services. Its success caught national attention. PPCWM's agency-wide systems approach to diversity has been recognized as a model for the nearly 120 Planned Parenthood

Kathy's administrative leadership is equally impressive. A recent accreditation review conducted by PPFA audited PPCWM on board governance, administration, finance, medical services, education and advocacy within its nine separate clinics. PPCWM received a never-before-seen perfect score.

Educating our community is central to improving the health and well-being of women's health. PPCWM's educational programs reach 10,000 people annually. PPCWM boasts a widely-respected resource library and provides dozens of culturally- and developmentally-appropriate curricula related to women's health and sexuality.

Always aware that the health and well-being of women is tied to countless other issues, Kathy generously shares her skills and experiences. She is a former YWCA board member. She played a key role in the formation of the local chapter of Gilda's Club and served on its board of directors. She is a co-founder of the Progressive Women's Alliance which was formed to revitalize grassroots involvement in the political process. Kathy has also served as a member of the African American Health Institute steering committee and as a co-chair of the Healing Racism Committee of the Grand Rapids Rotary Club.

In each role Kathy embodies a commitment to excellence that has improved the status of women and the well being of our community as a whole.

community service



Dianette Hight

*Engineering Services Administrator
City of Grand Rapids
nominated by Christine Barfuss*

Raised to believe that we should each "pay it forward," Dianette Hight's commitment to community is evident throughout her personal and professional life.

As Engineering Services Administrator for the City of Grand Rapids, Dianette can be easily considered a key figure in local development efforts. She manages various processes in connection with the City Engineer's annual budget of over \$50 million including construction bidding and consultant selection, as well as agreements with contractors, consultants, and other government agencies. Dianette has been an integral part of our community's most significant development projects, as well as those that ensure that our day-to-day life will continue as expected. Her efforts have enhanced the quality of life for residents and have made Grand Rapids an envied model for public-private partnerships.

Dianette worked on the Grand Rapids-Kent County Convention/Arena Authority Building Committee for the construction of the DeVos Place Convention Center, a facility that has helped make downtown Grand Rapids a regional destination. Her expertise is a valuable part of her work on the Utility Advisory Board – a regional organization that makes recommendations regarding water and sewer services for Grand Rapids and its customer commu-

nities. Dianette is also a valued Trustee for the City's General Retirement System Pension Board.

In each role, Dianette brings an appreciation for the needs of those around her and for the progress that is possible when opportunity and resources are available. It is this philosophy that fuels her efforts on behalf of women and underserved populations.

As an early board member and president for the Women's Resource Center, she helped grow the Women in the Workplace event which recognizes community employers that implement policies to support women entering and succeeding in the workplace. Dianette also successfully lobbied legislators to restore state funding that had been cut for the Displaced Homemakers' Program administered by the WRC.

Dianette is an strong advocate for women's health and well-being. She has served two terms on the board of Planned Parenthood Centers of West Michigan. Dianette was a member of the first group to serve on the Advisory Council for the Transitional Housing Program for women at Dwelling Place, and she is active in organizing the annual spring fashion show fundraising event that supports those served by the program.

Whether she is working with City contractors, participating in a Get-Out-The-Vote effort or mentoring a young co-worker, friends and colleagues comment that where there is a need, Dianette will find a way.

professions



Olivia Margo Anderson

*Board of Trustees
Grand Rapids Community College
nominated by Michael A. Stearns,
Ed.D.*

W.E.B. DuBois wrote, "Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled..., the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental." Margo Anderson takes this to heart and has spent her life empowering people through education.

With over 30 years experience as an elementary teacher, a high school counselor, and an elementary school principal within Grand Rapids Public Schools, Margo has guided the education of hundreds. Always ready with a hug or stern warning, she encourages students to achieve and makes sure they have the resources to do so. Regardless of the task at hand—whether evaluating curricula, managing school facilities, helping a student complete a college application, advocating for the value of public education, or working to get a student back on track—Margo has dedicated herself completely and in turn, gained the trust and respect of educators, students and parents.

After retirement, Margo continued to assist Grand Rapids Public Schools as a substitute principal. In the fall of 2005, Margo was asked to assist with the opening of Highlands Middle School for the Northview School District. As an African American woman

working in a predominantly white environment, the challenges were many. However, Margo changed attitudes by setting an example of excellence. She did an extraordinary job and was so respected by those she worked with that she was asked to lead Highlands permanently. The school thrived, but most importantly, she taught her students a key life lesson – respect for all yields success for all.

Margo's commitment to education and opportunity extends beyond the classroom. She currently serves as a member of Grand Rapids Community College Board of Trustees and has worked to increase the ability of students to gain access to higher education. She has worked as a liaison to GRCC's Diversity Learning Center, strengthening the college in its journey toward greater culturally-sensitive practices and efforts to educate our community about diversity issues. Margo is also a valued Trustee at her church and is active in her sorority – Alpha Kappa Alpha — where she has served as president and initiated projects that benefit those in most need of help. Margo has been equally dedicated to the YWCA, working tirelessly to ensure to that women and children, broken and battered by violence, have the chance to heal.

Throughout her life, Margo has worked to promote understanding and open the doors of opportunity for others. In turn, our community is a brighter place for all.

sports, fitness and wellness



Carolyn Heines

Owner/Teacher

The Yoga Studio

nominated by Jean Reed Bahle

There's more to Yoga than incense and pretzel-like poses. With 5000 years of Indian tradition supporting them, devotees proclaim that Yoga can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and even ease symptoms of chronic ailments. It is mentally rigorous and provides practitioners greater focus, renewed energy and perspective. For women, the benefits reach further – increasing flexibility and strength which are key to overall physical health as we age. In short, Yoga treats the whole of a person and has the potential to transform life.

It is here that Carolyn Heines found her calling almost 3 decades ago as one of our community's first Yoga instructors. Carolyn was initially introduced to Eastern philosophy and meditation. She immersed herself in its practice and even lived in an ashram (essentially a retreat/ school) for 6 years. She received extensive training in Hatha Yoga at the Iyengar Yoga Teachers Institute and has continued her studies with senior teachers since then. As fellow teacher Chris Smith puts it, "Carolyn began Yoga for herself, but she could see how valuable it was and began to share."

Long before the benefits of Yoga were widely accepted, Carolyn quietly provided opportunities for those seeking holistic approaches to health, fitness, and wellness. In a culture dominated by

unrealistic expectations of beauty and youth, Carolyn's classes gave students a place where they could feel safe, comfortable and accepted.

Carolyn laid the foundation for Yoga's local success by reaching out to health practitioners. She taught in countless venues – churches, health clinics, universities, storefronts and even her own home. Slowly, Carolyn's experience and ability gave Yoga the credibility it needed.

Under her steady mentorship, the practice of Yoga has thrived locally. Carolyn has brought countless guest instructors to our community and has helped launch the careers of several Yoga local instructors, some now with studios of their own. Carolyn also founded the Grand Rapids Yoga Teachers Association to foster mutual support and maintain high standards for the practice.

A savvy entrepreneur as well, Carolyn's studio – The Yoga Studio – has been a mainstay in our local business community for 27 years. She is one of the original members of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies in West Michigan. She is also active in "Local First" which is dedicated to creating and supporting a vibrant local economy that promotes personal, social and ecological well-being.

Carolyn sums up the reason for her dedication best. "Yoga is not about becoming enlightened...it is about making the body last long enough so that you can become enlightened."

judy lloyd leadership award

presented by the ywca board of directors



Judy Lloyd

September 18, 1945 to June 1, 2005
presented by the YWCA Board of Directors

"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. She was a role model for us all; the most graceful and respected of leaders. Judy led in a quiet, unassuming way – connecting individuals and organizations to the benefit of those most in need. She was a cheerleader and a touchstone, knowing who to bring to the table to get a job done and then devoting herself wholeheartedly to the tasks needed to get there. She touched hearts and strengthened our community at the same time. Judy's passing was met with an outpouring of generosity in her memory which the YWCA has housed at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and directed to long-term support of our services to create a community supportive of women and their families.

Within the YWCA, Judy's two-decades of influence is immeasurable. She participated on the TRIBUTE! Steering and Selection Committees. She helped establish and grow the YWCA's Circle of Women Celebration exponentially. Judy was a mem-

ber of our 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 to lay the foundation for fundamental change in the national YWCA. And through each moment, with each task, Judy offered those she worked with warm words of encouragement and the 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 and lead. The TRIBUTE! Student Award is an extension of that. We honor those young women who, while still in high school, have already shown themselves to be gifted, competent models for us all. The connection between these young women and Judy is natural and apparent. It is most appropriate that the Student Leadership Award should bear her name.

Inspired by Judy's life and work, the YWCA Board of Directors chose to establish the Student Leadership Award in her honor. It is designed to offer practical help to TRIBUTE! student honorees as they work to fulfill their dreams. It is in this way that we recognize Judy and commit ourselves to a future motivated by her values and example.

student honoree *and recipient of the judy lloyd leadership award*



Lily Nguyen

Student

Kelloggsville High School

nominated by Nora Wade

*Exemplary student • Devoted daughter •
Kung Fu instructor • Aspiring physician
• Gifted artist • Cultural ambassador*

Lily Nguyen immigrated to the United States as a small child and moved with her family several times after that. With each move, Lily worked to create opportunities from her experiences. The daughter of parents who were forced to flee their homes as teenagers during the Vietnam War, she says, "They have worked very hard for me. Everything they have done has helped me learn about people and about what I am capable of."

That optimistic attitude coupled with a lot of hard work has kept her in good stead. Lily is ranked in the National Honor Society and is first in her class. She has received awards in Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, English, and Mathematics. Her talents extend to the arts as well, and she has received equal recognition for her beautiful depictions of the world around her.

However, it is her interest in working with others that energizes Lily the most. She devotes much of her time to tutoring fellow classmates. She volunteers at a local elementary school, and teaches Kung Fu to several younger students at a local studio.

In a world where a deep understanding of diversity and culture is key, Lily is certainly doing her part. She has already mastered four languages – Vietnamese, English, Japanese and Spanish. With the goal of graduating from medical school and practicing overseas, she is drawn to experiences that broaden her understanding of others and the world. At her previous high school, Lily founded the Japanese Culture Club where she organized fundraisers and after-school classes. More recently, Lily helped organize the Diversity Assembly at Kelloggsville High School where students from a variety of backgrounds could introduce their cultural heritage to other students. She even serves as a school ambassador, welcoming students whose native language is one other than English and helping them in their new surroundings.

Yet Lily doesn't stop there. She is part of the Kelloggsville High School Leadership Team which works to improve the school and increase school pride. She is a class officer on the student congress and a member of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD).

Lily has proven herself to be the best of leaders, one whose life is informed by optimism and personal drive. She is an exceptional young woman, not just because of what she has accomplished but because of what we are certain she will accomplish.