



Tribute!

eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

2014 AWARDS CELEBRATION

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

#ywtribute

With Title Sponsor



AGENDA

YWCA Tribute Awards

November 5, 2014

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

DeVos Place

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Welcome

Jacqueline Schafer

President, YWCA Board of Directors

Co-chair, Tribute Awards Planning Committee

Carla Blinkhorn

CEO, YWCA West Central Michigan

Tom Welch

President, Fifth Third Bank Western Michigan

Dale Ann Iverson

Co-chair, Tribute Awards Planning Committee

Luncheon

Awards Presentation

Jacqueline Schafer

Dale Ann Iverson

ADVOCACY



Sister Jarrett DeWyse, OP

Director of Housing Development,
Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids
Nominated by Sr. Laurena Afflen

Sister Jarrett DeWyse first saw how people struggle to find affordable housing while serving as Personnel Director of the Recuperation Center, a respite house for those being discharged from local hospitals in the Heartside Neighborhood.

A member of the Dominican Sisters, Jarrett has spent her lifetime advocating for others. She previously served as a teacher and administrator for the Diocese of Grand Rapids and as Campus Minister at Michigan State University. She helped establish a multi-parish adult education center in Illinois and traveled to Texas to help set up a women's center for those living on the border.

Jarrett has been the Housing Development Director for Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids since 1998. Today, Dwelling Place owns more than 1,100 apartments and homes throughout West Michigan. During renovation projects, she secures motel rooms and transportation for residents, arranges local artists to display their work when the buildings are complete, and coordinates with local social service organizations to help move the residents in and out of homes. All the while, she is always willing to take a phone call from a resident to answer a question or offer support.

One of the projects Jarrett helped coordinate was Verne Barry Place, which provides affordable housing and support services for more than

100 individuals with disabilities, as well as nine market-rate live/work spaces. Shortly after opening, Verne Barry Place won the national Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award in Washington D.C. for being one of the best affordable rental housing developments in the country.

Jarrett serves on the leadership team of the Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters and has sat on the boards of Heartside Ministries, ACCESS, and Area Center for Ecumenism, as well as a taskforce for effecting racial equality in local housing. A leader in her field, she helps her peers in the housing community learn to write effective grants, including presenting at a housing conference in Lansing.

Beginning in 2007, Jarrett partnered with the YWCA West Central Michigan to develop unique housing solutions for survivors of domestic violence. From remodeled duplexes to transforming a former convent on the west side, Jarrett has helped offer safe, secure housing to women and their children as they begin their new life free from abuse.



"Jarrett believes in the personal dignity of each person and supports the development of women as full human beings with potential to do great things for others. She believes that it is our duty to reach out and help mend that part of the world which is within our reach."

- Nominator Dennis Sturtevant



Sarah Scott

Art Coordinator,
Heartside Gallery and Studio
Nominated by Andy DeBraber

At Heartside Gallery and Studio, there are a number of places you can find Art Coordinator Sarah Scott. Sometimes she will be cleaning brushes, refilling paint supplies, or climbing up on a ladder to hang an artist's new creation on the crowded gallery wall. Or she may be welcoming a new artist, helping another trouble-shoot an issue on the canvas, and giving a media interview to promote an upcoming show. But, above all, Sarah is a friend and inspiration to the artists who are welcomed to the studio, without judgment, to creatively express themselves.

Sarah earned a Bachelor's in Fine Arts from the University of Toledo with majors in photography and printmaking. She worked at the Toledo Museum of Art, running its art supply store, photo gallery, and lab while she exhibited her art in the city. When AmeriCorps brought her to Grand Rapids, she was introduced to Heartside Gallery and Studio, then located in an old basement.

Today, Heartside Gallery and Studio (a division of Heartside Ministries) is a bustling and active open studio and gallery with doors open weekdays at South Division and Weston in downtown Grand Rapids. The no-cost studio sees approximately 60 artists on a regular basis, many of whom are marginalized neighbors suffering from homelessness or a physical or mental illness. Sarah's compassionate response to each artist in her studio is an inspiration to her

colleagues and the 25 volunteers she manages.

"The truth is that everyone has incredible gifts to offer the world," says nominator Andy DeBraber. "Sarah sees those gifts, draws them out, and gives them new means of expression."

In 2011, Sarah traveled to London, England, with two Heartside artists to display and create work in The Museum of Everything. She helped establish a women's group focused on addressing street harassment; the group used art (of course!) that was recently on display for passersby on Division Avenue. When needed, Sarah has even been known to walk artists across the street to help them access the YWCA's services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Sarah also helps coordinate the annual LadyfestGR event, a day-long celebration of women through public workshops and entertainment that support local women's programs.

An artist herself, Sarah uses an old tabletop press to create hand-carved linocuts that make a statement about the world in which she is raising her young daughters. Sarah lives with her partner, Joe, and two daughters in an "old, always-in-progress" home in Grand Rapids.

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY, AND LABOR



Linda Vos-Graham

President,
Vos Glass

Nominated by Norm Brady

Linda, a newly independent college student, wasn't sure she wanted to work for her parents when they began Vos Glass in 1982. But she accepted their offer and spent the next twenty years working in various positions throughout the company, gaining a unique and well-rounded picture of the glass and construction industries. In 2002, Linda became President of the company.

Under Linda's leadership, Vos Glass has doubled in size, a particularly impressive feat given how hard the construction industry was hit by the economic recession. Though Linda is proud to employ more than 50 people, the industry overall is facing a labor shortage, which can have devastating effects on a city's growth. To proactively combat this challenge, Linda brought together three major industry associations to form the Construction Workforce Development Alliance (CWDA). Educating high school guidance counselors, parents, and other influencers, the CWDA shares about the great opportunities available in the growing construction industry. Additionally, 15 full scholarships help students attend a 100-hour core construction training program and land job interviews. As Chair of the Education Committee with the American Subcontractors Association of Michigan, Linda also helped establish an endowed scholarship for design and

construction students at Ferris State University.

While Linda was President of the American Subcontractors Association of Michigan (ASAM), she created the "MCOY" Awards, an event recognizing contractors who exhibit best practices, professionalism, and collaboration within the subcontracting community. This growing event celebrates ethical business practices, a deeply seated passion of Linda's late parents that she is proud to continue.

In 1991, Linda helped co-found the Michigan Glass Association, the only statewide trade association for the glazing industry. Under her leadership, the association spent a decade working to successfully change state insurance laws, lifting restrictions on where consumers can get auto glass replaced.

In 2013, Vos Glass earned Grand Rapids Business Journal's "Top Woman-Owned Business Award" in the \$7-million-plus revenue category. Vos Glass was named one of the country's top ten woman-owned glazing contractors by U.S. Glass Magazine. Linda has been named one of the "50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan" multiple times. Last year, she became one of the first women to be inducted into the Michigan Construction Hall of Fame.

As a board member of the Grand Rapids Children's Museum and chair of the Exhibits and Facilities Committee, Linda spearheaded the creation of a construction exhibit for kids. It's never too early to begin recruiting!

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Kimberly A. Coleman

Executive Director,
Grand Rapids Bar Association
Nominated by Ann M. Cooper

Since 2001, Kimberly Coleman has served as the Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, using her vast and varied professional experience to lead a diverse team of legal professionals and agencies who value the YWCA's efforts to bring about "justice, peace, freedom, and dignity for all."

Kimberly has a rich legacy of tirelessly advocating to strengthen families in Michigan. From 1988-1993, she was the Executive Director of the Single-Parent Family Institute, then led the Lansing YMCA as Executive Director for six years. She was invited to participate on the Governor's Taskforce on Childcare, which eventually led to the development of the Governor's Conference on Employer-Sponsored Childcare. In Lansing, she was also appointed to the Mayor's Taskforce on Child and Family Partnership Program, as well as to the Economic Development Council, of which she was a member for 15 years. She served as Board Chair for both the Governor's Ingham County Department of Human Services and the Ingham County Medical Care Facility.

As President of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Kimberly established the Delta GEMS program, a national initiative strengthening the position of young women of color by providing leadership and mentorship opportunities.

Within the legal community, Kimberly has offered her administrative expertise in various volunteer roles, including the Michigan Association of Bar Executives, the National Association of Bar Executives, the Dispute Resolution Center, and the Legal Assistance Center. Her efforts to make strides against racism have led her to collaborate with the Multiracial Association of Professionals, the Woodrick Institute on Racism, and Varnum's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council. She also donates her time to teach civics education and career development classes (part of Grand Rapids Public School's "3Rs" program) to freshman at Ottawa Hills High school. There, she serves as a liaison with GRPS staff to help the new mentoring program operate successfully.

Kimberly has received recognition for her varied efforts from Gruel, Mills, Nims & Pylman; Beene Garter LLP; Warner, Norcross & Judd LLP; the Detroit chapter of Women in Communications; and the Outstanding Women of the Year Awards from East Lansing Zonta.

Kimberly graduated from the University of Louisville with a master's degree in social work.

PROFESSIONS



Helen V. Brinkman

Senior Asst. Prosecuting Attorney,
Kent County Prosecutor's Office
Nominated by William A. Forsyth

Helen Brinkman has spent her professional career in Kent County's courtrooms, trying some of the most heartbreaking cases of sexual assault against women and children. You might ask her, "How can you do it?" She would answer, "How can I not?" While Helen sees unthinkable tragedy in her line of work, she will be the first to tell you that she also sees unimaginable hope: victims of violence achieving justice and overcoming their darkest hours to find healing.

Helen began in the Kent County Prosecutor's office more than 25 years ago. After two years working in appeals, she moved to the trial division. She quickly worked her way up the ranks and, in 1996, became the office's first-ever female to serve as Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

For generations, the issues of child sexual abuse and sexual assault were taboo topics, well hidden in the shadows. Helen's career has been spent chasing away those shadows, fully dedicated to the work that few others willingly do. As a result, our community's conversation is much different today than it was when she started more than 20 years ago.

In 1991, Grand Rapids Chief of Police William Hagerty asked for Helen's assistance in creating the groundbreaking Children's Assessment Center. Having seen far too many child victims of sexual abuse re-traumatized by the system, Chief Hagerty, Helen,

and their peers worked to create a child-friendly center where victims could go for justice and healing. The Children's Assessment Center provides on-site behavior assessment services, forensic interviews, exams, and therapy. Helen has served on the center's board for more than 20 years.

Knowing firsthand the value of well-collected evidence in a sexual assault trial, she is a strong supporter of the YWCA sexual assault Nurse Examiner Program and consults with other prosecutors' offices considering such a program in their area.

Helen shares her vast knowledge of criminal sexual conduct laws with Kent Intermediate School District teachers who are often on the front-lines of a child disclosing abuse. She has also been a member of the Kent County "Child Death Review Team" since its creation, examining all childhood deaths regardless of criminal charges.

Helen is an active member and Sunday School teacher at Holy Trinity. She has been married to Rob for 33 years, and their daughter, Nicole, recently had a baby girl. Helen is relishing the opportunity to spoil her new granddaughter.

SPORTS, FITNESS, AND WELLNESS



Laura Vander Molen, D.O.
Medical Director,
Health Intervention Services
Nominated by Sylvia Daining

Dr. Laura Vander Molen will admit that she always pictured herself serving as a medical missionary overseas, but she continues to find that the need is just as great here at home.

Since 2001, Laura has been the Medical Director for Health Intervention Services (HIS), a non-profit, faith-based health center in Grand Rapids. HIS focuses specifically on meeting the unique needs of the uninsured and offers a wide range of medical services, including vision, dental, primary care, gynecology, pediatrics, and counseling. The clinic also offers social work case management and interpretation services. A small staff, augmented by a strong corps of medical volunteers, welcomes the nearly 1,000 patients who walk through the doors each month.

Laura is the only physician on staff at HIS and serves as the primary doctor for the patients. She also recruits and provides oversight for the volunteer physicians and nurses at the clinic. She is known for going the extra mile for her patients, making occasional home or hospital visits. She will work to find assistance for a drug-dependent patient or contact the police to help find a patient who has called in a suicidal message. As a medical care provider, Laura is often the first person to whom a victim of domestic violence reaches out. With great care and compassion, she connects her patient to the appropriate

services, such as these at the YWCA West Central Michigan.

While in medical school, Laura helped establish a free clinic in Missouri. Her family spent a year in Peru, providing medical care to children before returning to West Michigan so Laura could serve as Medical Director for HIS.

Laura received her medical degree from Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. She is board-certified in Pediatrics and Internal Medicine. Laura was born and raised in Baltimore and first moved to West Michigan to attend Hope College. She and her husband, Kirk, have four children.

According to her nominator, from the beginning, Laura's vision has been to save the world. Indeed, in our community, one person and one patient at a time, she is doing just that.

JUDY LLOYD STUDENT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

PRESENTED BY THE YWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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 people to follow her lead. She was a role model for us all, the most graceful and respected of leaders. Judy led in a quiet, unassuming way as she connected 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—all to create a community supportive of women and their families that Judy loved so much.

Judy's two decades of influence at the YWCA is immeasurable. She participated on the *Tribute!* Steering and Selection Committees and helped establish and grow the YWCA's Circle of Women Celebration (now Open Circle) exponentially. Judy was a member 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 lay the foundation for fundamental change in the national YWCA. In 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 scholarship 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 this and future 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.



Carla Blinkhorn, YWCA CEO

STUDENT HONOREE

RECIPIENT OF THE JUDY LLOYD STUDENT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP



Claire Salinas

Senior,
Catholic Central High School
Nominated by Monique Salinas

As a rising-star musician, Claire Salinas knows the importance of practice. But the more you get to know her, the more you begin to suspect that many of her accomplishments come to her more naturally than she may let on.

After studying clarinet privately for seven years, Claire was connected with a GVSU professor for even more advanced lessons. For three years in a row, she has qualified to compete in the state finals in both the solo and ensemble categories. Last year, she participated in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, a three-day comprehensive arts showcase that accepts only the top five percent of high school artists in the state. She plays in the GVSU Honors Band and was recently accepted into the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony.

Claire is not only a gifted musician, but a leader as well. This is her second year leading the Catholic Central High School as drum major, a competitive leadership role that is vital to a successful season of competition.

She also spends her time serving as a role model for much younger students. At St. Thomas the Apostle Elementary School, she coaches Science Olympiad, a nationwide hands-on science competition. Claire used to compete in the program herself and now returns to mentor younger students, especially the girls who are often outnumbered in the program. Her supervisor notes, "I

have observed her skill of reaching out to those girls who were in a mostly male event and encouraging them not to be intimidated."

Claire assisted the program director of College for Kids, a summer program through Aquinas College that offers a variety of classes to students in grade school. A role model for the younger children, Claire enjoyed assisting professors and helping the children find their unique skills while working on diverse and challenging projects. She also volunteered with Beyond the Corners, an enrichment program in Eastown to help engage kids in productive activities during the summer months.

In 2010, Claire was an award recipient of the Rosa Parks Sculpture Committee's student essay contest, and she took part in a special Rapid bus ride to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Rosa Park's historic stand.

"I love playing the clarinet and sharing my music with other people," Claire says. She plans to attend GVSU next year to study clarinet and music education.