

25th
ANNIVERSARY

TRIBUTE!

The YWCA Salutes Women

November 13, 2002

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Ambassador Ballroom

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel



2002 PROGRAM

WELCOME

Cheryl Edwards, Chairperson
Board of Directors
YWCA of Grand Rapids

Kevin Kabat, President/CEO
Fifth Third Bank

Peggy Bishop, Chairperson
YWCA TRIBUTE! 2002 Steering
Committee

INVOCATION

Rev. Diane Maodush-Pitzer
WITNESS

LUNCHEON

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Cheryl Edwards

Peggy Bishop

ADVOCACY



LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY

Teacher

Grand Rapids Public Schools

Lupe Ramos-Montigny is a dynamic leader and role model known locally and throughout the state for her passion, vision and leadership in her work with the Grand Rapids Public Schools, the Michigan Education Association and the Democratic Party. A 24-year veteran teacher with Grand Rapids Public Schools, Lupe was born in Texas and as a young girl, traveled with her family to Michigan and Indiana for migrant work. In fact, Lupe's first assignment with GRPS was as a Migrant Education teacher. Currently, she teaches Social Studies and Language Arts at Westwood Middle School, where she strives to cultivate and provide role models for her students through classroom visits, presentations and field trips. In January 2002, she organized a classroom project through GRPS to celebrate the contributions local African-American leaders have made in the Grand Rapids area. The project resulted in the creation of a book, which is now used in the Social Studies curriculum. Lupe was the catalyst in 1998 for the formation of the Michigan Democratic Hispanic/Latino Caucus, which identifies and prepares Hispanic candidates to run for office and organizes voter registration drives. She's been involved in the Kent County Democratic Executive Board since 1992, as a delegate or officer of the Michigan Democratic Party since 1992, and has organized Hispanic voter registration drives since 1995. Lupe is the first Hispanic ever elected from Kent County to serve on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Education Association and the first Hispanic teacher to be elected as Chair of the MEA Kent County Political Action Committee, which serves 7,300 teachers and support staff. Dedicated to the rights and upward mobility of minority communities, she's also been involved in numerous organizations, including Girl Scouts Hispanic Center of West Michigan, Van Andel Museum Foundation, Coalition for Representative Government and Weaving Ethnicity, an organization she helped found to promote racial balance and gender equity. *Nominated by A. Edward Sosa.*

ARTS



NORMA BRINK

Actor/Theatre Advocate

One attraction of living in Grand Rapids is the high quality of live theatre. This is due, in part, to the work of Norma Brink, considered by many to be the “Grande Dame” of local theatre. Norma has been involved in all of the major theatre companies in Grand Rapids, both as a performer, director and volunteer for more than 50 years and remains active today. In fact, 2002 marks the 50th anniversary of Circle Theatre, which owes its start to Norma Brink, co-founder of the organization in 1952 with her husband, Ted and Sydney Spayde. She’s continued to nurture and grow this theatre as an actor, director, board member, volunteer and for many years, as business manager. Norma recently marked this anniversary with a one-woman show, “*I’m Still Here*,” which was attended and celebrated by a full and appreciative house. At Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Norma has performed in over 50 shows and served for years on its Board of Directors. She also received its key honor, the “James Mitchell Award” for her contributions. At the same time she nurtured the Civic and Circle Theatres, Norma also served on the Board of Directors of the Actors’ Theatre for its entire 22-year history. Her most obvious work, however, has been on the stage, where she’s played most of the strong, powerful women’s roles written for the contemporary theatre -- from Martha in *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* to Mama Rose in *Gypsy*. Most recently, she was nominated and won a GRAND AWARD for her work with Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids’ production of *Remember My Name* and was nominated for a Grand Award for her role in Civic Theatre’s *Arsenic and Old Lace* and Actors’ Theatre production of *Three Tall Women*. She also received the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids’ highly acclaimed Art Award in 1985 for her lifetime achievements in the arts. *Nominated by Penelope Notter.*

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY & LABOR



KIMBERLY HORN

President/CEO

Priority Health

Kimberly Horn, President and Chief Executive Officer of Priority Health, is a key driver in her company's success and its rise as West Michigan's leading health plan provider. Since her appointment to the organization in 1996, Kim has been instrumental in establishing the company's organizational-wide strategic planning, as well as its expansion into Muskegon and Traverse City. Her focus and strength lies in customer satisfaction and, under her leadership, the organization has consistently received provider and member satisfaction marks 10 to 20 percent above the national average. Her mission is simple: to provide families with access to excellent and affordable health care. Kim also influences Priority Health's commitment to be a good neighbor in the communities it serves. It works closely with several organizations, including Heart of West Michigan United Way and the Children's Miracle Network. One organization to which Kim lends her personal focus is the Michigan Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Alliance. Through Kim's and Priority Health's involvement in the Grand Rapids Golf for SIDS, the event raised over \$62,000 in 2002. Kim encourages volunteerism and supports employees who want to give their time and talents to a worthy cause. In fact, PH-Gives, a Priority Health employee-operated committee, raised money for outside nonprofit organizations through jeans day, bake sales, pizza lunches, cookouts, raffles and auctions. Kim, husband Mike and their two daughters are very active in school, church and the community. Kim is active with the Economic Club Board, the Children's Miracle Network Campaign Cabinet, Heart of West Michigan United Way Campaign Cabinet and Boy Scouts. She also serves on Davenport University's Academic Council and the Junior Achievement Board. *Nominated by Amy Larson.*

COMMUNITY SERVICE



DEB BAILEY

Director of Corporate Communications
Steelcase Inc.

Few names in Grand Rapids are more synonymous with volunteerism and leadership than Deb Bailey. She is one of those rare individuals who can grasp a problem and turn immediately to creating a workable solution. Deb has impacted literally thousands of lives in our community through her involvement and leadership with dozens of local nonprofits. To name just a few, she has been active with Aquinas College, Grand Rapids Junior Achievement, Leadership Grand Rapids, Junior League, the Nokomis Foundation, Catholic Social Services, Families for International Children, and the YWCA of Grand Rapids. In recent years, her passion became her mission... to bring a Gilda's Club to West Michigan. Along with Twink Frey and Susan Smith, Deb recognized that a critical need was not being filled, specifically services to people living with cancer and their families. She helped lead a grassroots effort and a capital campaign that raised just under \$3 million during the organization's critical start-up phase, and has served as its President for the last five years. Deb's dream became a reality when Gilda's Club opened in February, 2001. Professionally and personally, Deb has blazed a trail for women in the workplace, living her commitment to diversity and the empowerment of women.
Nominated by Leann Arkema.

PROFESSIONS



DALE ANN IVERSON

Founder

JustMediation PLC

Justice: a simple, profound word. Dale Ann Iverson is committed to justice for all in her profession, community and state. A local attorney, Dale Ann is passionate about practicing law as a true counselor with integrity, compassion and commitment to fairness. For 19 years, she has served the Grand Rapids Bar Association and has just concluded her term as President, only the third female president in the Bar's 100-year history. Dale Ann helped GRBA support its most ambitious community project, the Legal Assistance Center in the new Courthouse. The Center helps those seeking a lawyer, and provides free access to legal information and other community resources. Dale Ann is a steadfast advocate of alternative dispute resolution, particularly mediation, as a means to develop respect among people in conflict and empower them to craft solutions that address critical needs. She's active in making ADR available statewide, serving on the Michigan Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Task Force and as Chair of the State Bar's ADR Section. Intertwined with her vision of justice is her commitment to diversity. Dale Ann helped develop collaboration among local law firms and the Floyd Skinner Bar Association to create the GRBA Clerkship Program, providing job opportunities to minority law students. She was an initial member of the GRBA's Diversity Committee, working with GVSU to study the hiring, promotion and retention of women lawyers and lawyers of color locally, and developing the Diversity Strategic Plan. Dale Ann was the first woman partner at Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge. This summer she launched her own firm, JustMediation PLC. Previously a trial lawyer, she now exclusively offers dispute resolution and collaboration services including mediation, group facilitation, dispute systems design and collaboration planning and risk assessment. Personally, Dale Ann has served in leadership roles with the Grand Rapids Ballet and Urban Institute of Contemporary Art, serves on the boards of the Woodrick Institute and Dispute Resolution Center and Co-chairs the Children's Summer Opera Workshop. *Nominated by Aileen Leipprandt.*

SPORTS, FITNESS & WELLNESS



DIANE MADSEN

President

Communities for Equity

When Diane Madsen's oldest daughter Katie, now 22, was in 8th grade, Diane took her to a high school girls' basketball game, as Katie planned to play for Northview High School. When they entered the gym, several things became apparent. There were no cheerleaders, no printed programs, no concession stand - nothing but the game itself resembled a boys' basketball game. Diane began asking questions of administrators and soon found herself on the district's Gender Equity Committee. This led her, along with Jay Roberts-Eveland, to form Communities for Equity, a Grand Rapids based group that advocates for female athletes in Michigan. After a lengthy process at the federal level which was decided last year, CFE successfully sued the Michigan High School Athletic Association for Title IX violations, which in part involved placing girls' seasons at disadvantageous times of the year. In the process, Diane has become a valuable resource in the state on the issue of gender equity. As CFE President, she's testified before Michigan legislative education committees on gender equity in athletics and has been a member of the Michigan Blue Ribbon Panel in Gender Equity in Athletics. Diane has presented workshops on Title IX for the Michigan Education Association and has addressed the Grand Rapids Women's Bar Association, American Association of University Women, Grand Rapids Community Gender Equity Conference, Partners in Public Education, Public Education Network in Washington, DC and classes at Grand Valley State University, Aquinas College and Western Michigan University. A chemistry teacher at East Kentwood High School, Diane is a proponent of life-long learning, and holds a Master's Degree in Community College Education. She is a member of the Northview Education Foundation, has volunteered with the Booster Club and coordinated and coached rocket basketball and softball for Northview Community Education. *Nominated by Laurie Kuna.*

STUDENT



PRECIOUS THREATS

Senior

Creston High School

According to her high school counselor, Precious Threats is “a special person who is a shining light of what is good about young people.” Precious, a senior at Creston High School, has a resume of community service, school accomplishments, activities, recognition and awards that is longer than that of most adults twice her age. During her high school career, Precious has been an outstanding academic student, with membership in the Polar Bear Club, which honors students for good citizenship, the National Honor Society and the honor roll. She maintains her outstanding 3.69 GPA while taking college preparatory classes, and has served as Treasurer and member of Creston’s Student Council for four years. Precious has also been an active athlete, competing on the school’s volleyball, track and tennis teams. Precious has served on the Mayor’s Youth Council, as a household maintenance aide for a disabled woman, as a volunteer for several elementary schools’ carnivals, field days and graduations, as a mathematics tutor for 9th graders, as organizer of a school/community blood drives and as a computer skills trainer for physically challenged students at her school. But Precious doesn’t stop there; however, she helps feed the homeless at Christmas and volunteers for senior citizens’ dinners at Thanksgiving. She has donated food for adopt-a-family and school supplies to local elementary schools. Precious has participated in the Upward Bound Math/Science Program at Western Michigan University, the Upward Bound Michigan Student Leadership Summit, the National Mayor’s Youth Council conference in Boston and in the city-wide Black History Program. Precious has also received numerous awards, including Grand Rapids Public School’s Loretta Ortt Award for exemplary service in school and community, WXMI’s Unsung Hero Award, Outstanding Minority Junior Awards from Grand Rapids Community College, Western MI University, Michigan State and Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Upward Bound Student of the Year and Who’s Who Among American High School Students. *Nominated by Paul Stuart.*