

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca press release

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YWCA Honors Five Outstanding Chicago Women Leaders at 36th Annual Event

Chicago, IL (July 29, 2008) - YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is proud to announce its 2008 recipients of the Leader Luncheon *Outstanding Women of Achievement Awards*. The YWCA Leader Luncheon, one of Chicago's most prestigious salutes to outstanding women and the YWCA's largest annual fundraiser, will honor five women leaders for their contributions in a variety of fields, including business, racial justice and arts and culture. Honorees will be presented with their awards at noon on Thursday, October 23 at the Hilton Chicago. This year's recipients are as follows:

Business—Mary Dillon

As McDonald's executive vice president and global chief marketing officer, Mary Dillon leads the company's worldwide marketing efforts and global brand strategy. Her accomplishments include the formation of the company's first Global Moms Advisory Panel and innovation in the area of children's well-being. Dillon earned a bachelor of science degree in marketing and Asian Studies from the University of Illinois. She has been a board member of Housing Opportunities for Women and a volunteer for the United Way. In 2006, Dillon was named to the *Wall Street Journal's* "Top 50 Women to Watch" list and in 2007, she was appointed to the board of directors of Target Corporation. Dillon is also a triathlete and mother of four.

Racial Justice—Lufunmilayo (Funmi) Olopade

Dr. Funmi Olopade serves as the Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics at the University of Chicago. As a hematologist and oncologist, she specializes in cancer risk assessment, early detection and treatment of breast cancer. Olopade received her medical degree with distinction from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. She completed her postdoctoral training at the University of Chicago and was appointed to the faculty in 1991. Olopade is now the university's director of the Center for Clinical Cancer Genetics and Global Health. Olopade is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the *James S. McDonnell Foundation Scholar Award*, the *Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award* and a *2005 MacArthur Fellowship Grant*.

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Promise Award—Chinwe Onyeagoro

Chinwe Onyeagoro is a managing partner of O-H Community Partners (OHcp), a strategy consulting firm that provides services to nonprofits, foundations and government agencies. Prior to co-founding OHcp, she worked as an investment analyst overseeing the Pritzker Realty Group's \$3 billion worth of real estate assets. Onyeagoro graduated magna cum laude with a joint bachelor's of arts degree in economics and east Asian studies from Harvard University. Onyeagoro is a board member of the Cara Program and the Young Women's Leadership Charter School. Onyeagoro also serves as an active volunteer for Women On Call, an online resource for grassroots organizations, and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce's "Future Founders" program, an entrepreneurship development program for Chicago Public Schools students.

Community Leadership—Lori Healey

Lori Healey currently serves as chief of staff for Mayor Daley. She previously held positions as commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development, vice chair of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board of Commissioners and executive director of the Federation of Women Contractors. Healey also implemented the Grocery Expo to encourage grocery providers to locate in underserved areas of the city. Her memberships include: the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Architectural Foundation, the Economic Club of Chicago and the Urban Land Institute. She has served on the boards of directors for the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Women in Government Relations, the Women's Business Development Center and the Metropolitan Planning Council.

Arts & Culture—Alpana Singh

Alpana Singh is an author, TV host, as well as one of only 121 master sommeliers in the world. She is the host of the Emmy Award-winning restaurant review television show, *Check, Please!* In 2006, Singh published her first book, *Alpana Pours: About Being a Woman, Loving Wine, and Having Great Relationships*. Singh currently serves as the director of wine and spirits for Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc. Her duties include wine education, training and purchasing for the restaurant group. Singh has been featured in numerous publications, including *Newsweek*, *Food & Wine*, *Wine Spectator*, *Chicago Tribune* and the *New York Times*. Singh's awards include being named "Best Sommelier in America" by *Wine and Spirits Magazine* and *Bon Appetit's* "Wine and Spirits Professional of the Year."

This year marks the 36th anniversary of the YWCA Leader Luncheon. The event has previously recognized more than 200 women for their outstanding career, civic and social justice achievements. Tickets for the 2008 Leader Luncheon are \$200 each. The Hilton Chicago is located at 720 South Michigan Ave. To purchase tickets or request more information about this event, contact Ed Swanstrom at 312.762.2757 or Edward.swanstrom@ywcachicago.org.

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About the YWCA: *Our mission to eliminate racism and empower women is actualized through a large breadth of programs and services. Regardless of race or economic status, the YWCA provides women with the support and tools they need to transform their lives, be confident in their choices and raise healthy families. Our core programmatic areas include: Early Childhood Services, Sexual Violence and Support Services, Economic Empowerment Services and our Center for Racial Justice and Activism. The YWCA serves over 138,000 women, children and families annually through these programs. And while our services are broad and varied, they are linked by a common thread—our dedication to promoting racial justice and personal empowerment across everything we do.*