

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca news release

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YWCA OF KALAMAZOO ANNOUNCES CALL FOR 2010 YWCA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS

JANUARY 15, 2010

2010 marks the **26th** anniversary of the **YWCA Women of Achievement Awards Celebration**, which will be held on **Thursday, May 13, 2010** at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo Center. The YWCA invites the community to nominate outstanding women who have made enduring contributions to the social, cultural, family, economic, educational, or political well-being of our community. **Deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, February 19, 2010 by 5:00 p.m.** Nomination Forms may be downloaded from the YWCA Website at www.ywcakalamazoo.org (Click on the "Events" tab) or picked up at the YWCA, 353 E. Michigan Avenue. Please call 345-5595 for more information.

The YWCA of Kalamazoo has a rich history of honoring noteworthy area women and their accomplishments. Awardees are selected from nominations from the community. A Selection Committee of individuals from our community will choose the YWCA Women of Achievement Award recipients from the greater Kalamazoo area. The 2010 YWCA Women of Achievement Award Celebration will incorporate the following categories of recognition:

- *YWCA Young Women of Achievement* – Women attending High School and College young women will be selected to receive recognition by their individual educational institutions or volunteer agencies.
- *YWCA Women's Group Achievement Award* – The YWCA of Kalamazoo will select a women's group for their enduring contributions to the community and qualities of character or thought which make them a role model for others.
- *YWCA Women of Achievement* – The Selection Committee will determine the number of women that will be celebrated for their contributions to the community upon review of the nominations received.
- *YWCA Lifetime Woman of Achievement* – The Selection Committee may select a YWCA Lifetime Woman of Achievement recipient, after review of the nominations, which clearly demonstrates a woman's lifelong commitment to the well being of our community.

The nomination form for YWCA Women of Achievement and YWCA Lifetime Women of Achievement suggests a number of areas of accomplishment in which there may be women who deserve recognition. The Selection Committee will make determinations from the nominations that are received as to whether a nominee should be recognized for their overall contributions to the community as a Woman of Achievement. In addition, a YWCA Lifetime Woman of Achievement recipient may be determined from the nominations, to be awarded to a woman who has demonstrated a lifetime of leadership.

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Past YWCA Lifetime Women of Achievement Award recipients have included:

Dr. Martha B. Warfield, 2009
Marjorie Springgate, 2008
Sr. Betty Veenhuis, 2007
Marian G. Klein, 2006
Judy Sarkozy, 2005
Mary L. Tyler, 2004
Eva Ozier, 2003
Barbara James, 2002

Suzanne Todd Shepherd, 2001
Ann Parfet, 2000
Anna Whitten, 1999
Hon. Carolyn H. Williams, 1998
Judith K. Maze, 1997
Dr. Marilyn J. Schlack, 1996
Jo Jacobs, 1995
Beverly A. Moore, 1994
Mary C. Brown, 1993

Caroline R. Ham, 1992
Martha G. Parfet, 1991
Garyl F. Werme, 1990
N. Lorraine Beebe, 1989
Georgia T. Dungy, 1988
Allene W. Dietrich, 1987
Elizabeth Upjohn Mason, 1986
Betty Lee Ongley, 1985

The YWCA of the USA, of which the YWCA of Kalamazoo is a member Association, is the oldest, largest autonomous women's membership organization in the world. Its mission is YWCA Kalamazoo is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA of Kalamazoo, the oldest Association in Michigan, was founded in 1885 and began as a residence service provider to young women who gravitated to the city to work in its factories. Today, the YWCA provides the only shelter and other services specifically designed and operating for victims of domestic violence; the only services of our kind for adult sexual assault survivors, including medical forensic exams in a non-hospital setting and supportive volunteers and counseling; one of very few licensed and nationally accredited child care centers that both offers scholarships and accepts government subsidies; a unique and volunteer-intensive mentoring program for adult and teen women seeking economic self-sufficiency; and services to the community-at-large, focusing on racial justice and women's economic empowerment.

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