

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca news release

YWCA of Kalamazoo Michigan
353 E. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

T: 269-345-5595
F: 269-345-8230
www.ywcakalamazoo.org

YWCA OF KALAMAZOO ANNOUNCES CALL FOR 2012 YWCA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS

JANUARY 13, 2012

2012 marks the **28th** anniversary of the **YWCA Women of Achievement Awards Celebration**, which will be held on **Thursday, May 17, 2012** at the Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Road. 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 17, 2012 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 beginning January 13th. 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 YWCA is seeking community nominations in the following categories:

- *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.

Additionally, the 2012 YWCA Women of Achievement Award Celebration will also 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.

-more-

Past YWCA Lifetime Women of Achievement Award recipients have included:

Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran, 2011	Barbara James, 2002	Mary C. Brown, 1993
Pat Coles-Chalmers, 2010	Suzanne Todd Shepherd, 2001	Caroline R. Ham, 1992
Dr. Martha B. Warfield, 2009	Ann Parfet, 2000	Martha G. Parfet, 1991
Marjorie Springgate, 2008	Anna Whitten, 1999	Garyl F. Werme, 1990
Sr. Betty Veenhuis, 2007	Hon. Carolyn H. Williams, 1998	N. Lorraine Beebe, 1989
Marian G. Klein, 2006	Judith K. Maze, 1997	Georgia T. Dungy, 1988
Judy Sarkozy, 2005	Dr. Marilyn J. Schlack, 1996	Allene W. Dietrich, 1987
Mary L. Tyler, 2004	Jo Jacobs, 1995	Elizabeth Upjohn Mason, 1986
Eva Ozier, 2003	Beverly A. Moore, 1994	Betty Lee Ongley, 1985

2011 YWCA Women of Achievement Award recipients:

Mary A. Doud
Mikell Thurston Griffith
Patti Huiskamp
Sylvia C. Pahl
Earlie M. Washington, Ph.D.

About the YWCA

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. 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, crisis intervention services and an array of post crisis shelter supportive housing options specifically designed and operating for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children; the only services of our kind for adult sexual assault survivors, including medical forensic exams in a non-hospital setting, supportive volunteers and counseling; one of very few licensed and nationally accredited child care centers that both offers tuition assistance 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.

###

Contact Information

Jennifer A. Shoub, CEO
T: 269-345-5595
jashoub@ywcakalamazoo.org