



Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

SPECIAL FEATURE -

The Best Expression of Ourselves: Meet the 2017 Role Models

Alternatives For Girls prepares to honor three extraordinary women at the annual Role Model Dinner.



Cindy Estrada

A role model is said to have five core values: passion and the ability to inspire, a clear set of values, a commitment to their community,

selflessness and the acceptance of others, and the ability to overcome obstacles. This year Alternatives For Girls is proud to honor three women who embody these core values at the annual Role Model Dinner.

The dinner will be held on March 23rd from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cobo Center. The women who are being honored are Cindy Estrada, Vice President of the UAW; Carol Goss, 2014 Fellow, Advanced Leadership Initiative from Harvard University and former President & CEO of The Skillman Foundation; and Dr. Rosemary Sarri, Professor Emerita

of Social Work at the University of Michigan.

Cindy Estrada is receiving the Professional Role Model Award. Her resume of accomplishments is tremendous. She is the first Latina elected to serve as an International Officer in the UAW. Estrada leads General Motors Independent Parts Supplier, Organizing, and Women’s Departments.

Speaking about receiving this award she said, “The message I want to send the girls and young women is that they deserve a seat at the table and when they are at the table their voice is needed.” Her journey to where she is today was paved by

See 2017 Role Models, continued on page 2

Thanks to you:

Learning to Give Back: MLK Day Service Project

During a visit to Madonna University, 24 young women completed a community-service project to help the homeless and explored career options.

In partnership with Madonna University’s Service-Learning & Civic Engagement program, the young women in AFG’s Prevention Program spent Martin Luther King Jr. day on the Madonna University campus. The goals of their visit were two fold; engage in a meaningful community event for MLK day and to be exposed to college life.

Exploring the Future

During their tour of the campus, the young women learned about careers in the medical field and the need for women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers.

While visiting a chemistry classroom, the chemistry professors and young women had fun acting as



In the Madonna University Chemistry classroom, one young woman volunteers to participate in an experiment.

mad scientists; submerging

See Learning to Give Back, continued on page 3

2017 Role Models, continued from page 1

the supportive people in her life. “I remember being so afraid of things and [my mother] always encouraged me to not let that fear hold me back and was always reminding me that I belonged in the space that I was in.”

“You have to find your passion and work at in the best way you can,” declared Carol Goss. Prior to her time at Harvard, Goss served as president & CEO of The Skillman Foundation. She is currently working on a project to improve the lives of homeless women and children through a project named,



Carol Goss

Warrior Women Against Poverty. “I am a committed Detroit. I think we’re on a renaissance path, I think we are definitely turning around. We have to be intentional about being inclusive and making sure that everybody in every neighborhood is included in the turnaround.” A commitment to the city and her community is why she is being honored with the Community Role Model Award.

Dr. Rosemary Sarri is this year’s recipient of the Champion Role Model Award. She has been involved with AFG since its conception. “I became involved largely through Amy Good (AFG’s CEO), who was a former student. She contacted me about a shelter for girls and young women,



Dr. Rosemary Sarri

and the needs of high risk girls at the time. So, I agreed to help.”

Over the past thirty years, Rosemary has helped AFG in many ways, including being a board member for twenty years.

Throughout her professional and personal life Rosemary has been an outspoken supporter and defender of children. She is a leading expert in the areas of child and family welfare policy and juvenile and criminal justice systems. “My greatest achievement has been the opportunity to work with so many youth and parents here in the U.S, and in many countries of the world.” Rosemary practiced international social work in the Philippines, Korea, Hungary, China, and Ethiopia and continues to help train faculty at schools of social work in China.

The theme of this year’s Role Model Dinner is: Best Expression of Ourselves. All three Role Models have expressed their commitment to: visionary leadership, professional accomplishments, commitment to Detroit, and affirming the principles of the AFG mission. Despite setbacks, they have triumphed over great odds, and became agents of change. ✨

2017 Role Model Dinner Sponsors

Making an Impact

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Learning to Give Back, continued from page 1



During their visit, two young women create a fleece blanket to donate to a local homeless shelter.

balloons in nitrogen gas so that they shrank, splashing nitrogen to the floor and watching it instantly evaporate, holding jars full of mercury to feel the weight, and more.

At the nursing school, they practiced their nursing skills on the man-

nequins; learning how to take their blood pressure, check for a pulse, and even how to speak to a woman in labor.

Inspired to Give

After their tour, the group joined a candle-light vigil in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life. During the vigil, the young women reflected on various quotes from MLK and discussed what the quotes meant to them personally. Finally, the young women made fleece tie-blankets to donate to a local homeless shelter.

You Make This All Possible!

Because of you, girls and young women are able to create dreams for their future and learn the importance of helping others. Thank you for believing in them. 

Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Brings Joy to AFG's Shelter

The group revamps the Activity Room to create a place of rest and relief

This winter, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services transformed the activity room in AFG's Shelter! "The activity room is one of the common areas of our residential shelter programs," explains Tyresha Robinson, Shelter Manager. It is a place for the young women to do homework, play with their children, socialize, and relax.

The group painted the room, hung blinds, added new pieces of art to the walls, cleaned, organized the toys, and much more!

Not only did the group do all of the hard work, but they also covered



the cost of the project! "The impact has been amazing! Residents seem to have a deeper appreciation for the space. The kids seem to utilize the play area even more," shares Tyresha.

Thank you, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services for sponsoring this project and for all of your hard work. It has already made a big impact!

Mission:

Alternatives For Girls' mission is to help homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation, and help them to explore and access the support, resources and opportunities necessary to be safe, to grow strong and to make positive choices in their lives.

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Shelter and Transition to Independent Living:

AFG's Shelter Program provides a stable home, counseling, and life skills training to homeless young women age 15-21 and their children. The goal is to empower them to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

Outreach and Education Services:

AFG's Outreach Program helps teens and women engaged in high-risk activities, such as street-based prostitution, drug use, and gang involvement, to understand the risks of such activities and transition to safe choices and healthy lives.

Community Based Prevention:

AFG's Prevention Program serves girls ages 4-18 who are at risk of pregnancy, gang involvement, abusing drugs or alcohol and school truancy. We engage them through after-school programs, a teen leadership program, and a summer camp.

Powerful Alternatives is a publication of Alternatives For Girls

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For all you do, thank you.

How to Spot and Report Human Trafficking

January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Here are some tips for spotting human trafficking and who to call to report it:

Work Conditions: the person is not free to come and go as they wish, is paid very little, works long or unusual hours, or owes a large debt they are unable to pay off.

Poor Mental Health: the person is fearful, anxious, depressed, or submissive, gets nervous when law enforcement is brought up, or avoids eye contact.

Poor Physical Health: the person lacks medical care, shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, or appears malnourished.

Lack of Control: the person has few personal possessions, is not in control of their money or identification documents (ID or passport).

This list is not exhaustive. For more tips and resources, visit: www.polarisproject.org/

To report suspected human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. Or text HELP to: BeFree (233733).

BRIEFING ROOM

Holiday High Tea Raises Crucial Funds

On December 2nd, over 100 supporters gathered at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham for Shirley Maddalena's 28th Annual Holiday High Tea. The event has supported Alternatives For Girls for many years, and this year's event raised more than \$15,000 to support the girls and young women at AFG!



Guests of the event enjoyed an afternoon tea complete with finger sandwiches, scones, and delicious pastries while taking in beautiful holiday decor at The Townsend. The event also featured a fabulous silent auction of new and old treasures brought by guests. Some items included: a one-night stay at The Townsend Hotel, floral arrangements, jewelry, and much more!

Alternatives For Girls would like to thank Shirley Maddalena, the Tea sponsors, attendees, auction donors, and volunteers for their help in making the event a success.

Project Giving Tree Brings Holiday Cheer

Each year through Project Giving Tree (PGT), the girls and young women at Alternatives For Girls create a wish list of items they are in need of that year, including items such as clothing, winter boots, coats, scarves, and gloves, as well as fun items such as books, jewelry, or toys.

This year, our generous PGT donors fulfilled nearly 250 wish lists, as well as additional items for dozens of families! "Project Giving Tree is an important program because it helps ensure that each and every one of AFG's participants can enjoy a cheerful holiday season," Jenny Clement, AFG Volunteer Services and Project Giving Tree Manager explains.

Alternatives For Girls would like to thank each person who participated in Project Giving Tree this year, as well as the wonderful volunteers who made all of our holiday parties possible!



Alternatives For Girls
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www.AlternativesForGirls.org

At AFG we respect everyone who comes to us for help – and many are working toward a brighter future. So, while their stories are true, names and images may have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.