



Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

SPECIAL FEATURE -

Meet Alternatives For Girls' 2018 Role Models

Alternatives For Girls prepares to honor three extraordinary women at the annual Role Model Dinner on March 28th.

Alternatives For Girls is proud to honor three women who are true role models at this year's Role Model Dinner: **Alicia Boler Davis**, *Executive Vice President of Global Manufacturing at General Motors*, **Deborah LaBelle**, *Attorney and Writer*, and **Monica L. Martinez**, *Senior Vice President of External Affairs in Michigan and National Director of Hispanic Business Development at Comerica Bank*. This year's dinner will be held on March 28th from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at Cobo Center.

The theme of this year's Role Model Dinner is: Rise Up, City Rose. In a year when we are celebrating the resilience of girls and women everywhere, all three Role Models embody this theme in their respective careers, as well as their personal lives.

After being relocated to Texas for work, Monica faced a series of setbacks that affected both her work and personal life. "We all face challenges in our lives, but it's how we respond to those challenges that makes all the



Monica L. Martinez

difference. I always ask myself what I can learn from a difficult situation. We learn the most when we go through our most difficult of times and that's what makes us more resilient. That's what makes

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When Hope Runs Out:

Brooke Finds Hope at The Crisis Resource Center

Thanks to your support, AFG's Street Outreach and Crisis Resource Center helped Brooke get into treatment and on the road to recovery.

Brooke* walked down the deserted road back to the place she was staying. A silver mini-van pulled alongside of her and the passenger rolled the window down. "Hi! We're from Alternatives For Girls, do you have a minute to chat?" the passenger greeted Brooke, with a smile.

Hesitant, Brooke walked over to the van and listened as the AFG Street Outreach volunteer explained AFG's services and how they could help her get an ID card, give her resources like hygiene items, and even connect her with resources like counseling or a drug treatment center.

Brooke took some information and a pair of gloves from the volunteer, and watched as the van drove away. She wasn't sure what to think. She was addicted to drugs, and often engaging in sex work to get by. Brooke had no self-esteem, no one in the world to turn to, and no hope that things would ever get better. "Could this place really help me?" she wondered.

Because of caring and kind

*Name has been changed to protect her confidentiality.

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us stronger,” Monica explains. Monica has turned the negative into positive by sharing her story with the young women she mentors.

Alicia decided to become an engineer at a young age, but once she got to college, she found that the path wasn’t well paved, “There weren’t a lot of females or African Americans in my classes, so I had to build my confidence and believe I had what it took to succeed. I had to have the belief and tenacity to not give up, even when things [were] tough,” Alicia recalls. Now, Alicia uses her experiences to help other women at General Motors through her resource and leadership support for the GM WOMEN employee resource group.



Alicia Boler Davis

Similarly, Deborah struggled to fit in when she first became a trial lawyer, a typically male dominated field. “Most lawyers in the room were white men. Since I do trial law, I’m in front of juries and they have their own ideas of what a lawyer should be. So I have to work harder to create that bond and identity, as opposed to



Deborah LaBelle

white men who walk into a room and people identify with that because of what they see in TV and movies,” she explains. Deborah also uses her experiences to mentor the students in her office that help work on cases.

It’s our struggles that allow us to truly appreciate our accomplishments. And Alicia, Deborah, and Monica surely have a lot of accomplishments to celebrate. Alicia was the first African-American woman to be a plant manager at a General Motors manufacturing plant. Deborah worked on a case to eliminate custodial abuse against girls and women in detention, which resulted in federal law. Under Monica’s leadership, Comerica Bank has been recognized nationally for its workplace diversity.

Thank you, Alicia, Deborah, and Monica, for your resilience and courage to become who you are meant to be. You are shining examples of what girls and women can accomplish when they work hard and follow their dreams. ✨

Making an Impact

We salute the 2018 Role Model Dinner Sponsors for supporting girls and young women:

Presenting (\$30,000):

DTE Energy Foundation

Diamond (\$25,000):

PVS Chemicals

Platinum (\$10,000):

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supporters like you, it did.

Getting the Support She Needs

It took a few weeks for Brooke to build up the courage, but one day she decided to visit AFG. The assistant in the Crisis Resource Center helped Brooke determine the steps she needed to take to get her ID and helped her pick out some clothes to take with her. "I want to go to rehab, could you help me with that?" Brooke asked the assistant.

The Crisis Resource Center helped find a drug treatment center for Brooke and took her there the day of her intake. Thanks to you - the Crisis Resource Center

was there to help Brooke when her hope had run out. Brooke is in treatment and doing well. Once she completes her treatment, she plans to join AFG's New Choices Program, designed to help women exit sex work through weekly case planning, workshops, and support.

Thank You For Making This Possible!

Without your support and AFG's services, it's hard to imagine where Brooke might be today. Because of your kindness, she is safe, warm, and receiving the support she thought would never come. 

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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Alternatives For Girls named Crain's Best-Managed Nonprofit of 2017

CRAIN'S BEST-MANAGED NONPROFITS

2017 WINNER

ALTERNATIVES FOR GIRLS

In December, Alternatives For Girls was named Crain's Detroit's Best-Managed Nonprofit of 2017.

Your generous support makes a difference for homeless and high-risk girls and young women every day, and we are commit-

ted to continuing to manage your donations for the greatest possible impact.

Thank you for being an important member of AFG's family. We hope you will share in the pride of this award.

For all you do, thank you.

BRIEFING ROOM

Wish List

Your kind gift of one of the items below could help a girl or woman in their time of need:

New bras, socks, and underwear (all sizes)

Feminine hygiene items (pads and tampons)

New towels and wash cloths

Diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes

New double strollers

Non-perishable foods

Bottled water

Thank you for your kindness. If you live near Alternatives For Girls, you can drop off items at 903 West Grand Blvd from 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday through Friday at the front desk. Otherwise, you can mail your donation to: Alternatives For Girls, Attn: Anna Weaver at 903 West Grand Blvd, Detroit MI 48208. *Questions?* Please call 313-361-4000 ext. 230.

Holiday High Tea Raises Crucial Funds

On December 1st, over 100 supporters gathered at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham for Shirley Maddalena's 29th Annual Holiday High Tea. The event has supported Alternatives For Girls for many years, and **this year's event raised more than \$16,000 to support the girls and young women at AFG!**

Guests of the event enjoyed an afternoon tea complete with finger sandwiches, scones, and pastries while taking in the beautiful holiday decor at The Townsend. The event also featured a fabulous silent auction of new and old treasures brought by guests, including floral arrangements, spa services, and much more.

Thank you to Shirley Maddalena, the Tea sponsors, attendees, auction donors, and volunteers for their help in making the event a success and supporting homeless and high-risk girls and young women!

Project Giving Tree Celebrates Girls and Young Women

Each year through Project Giving Tree (PGT), the girls and young women at AFG create a wish list of items they are in need of that year, like clothing, books, toys, and more. Then, the wish lists are sponsored by individuals, groups, and businesses. This year, the generous PGT donors fulfilled over 300 wish lists! "PGT ensures all of AFG's participants are able to enjoy a joyful and festive holiday season," explains Jessica Pate, AFG Volunteer Services and PGT Manager. "It's important that all AFG participants know they are celebrated and cherished by their community." Thank you to all who participated in PGT this year! Throughout December, the girls and young women received these gifts at several holiday parties. A special thanks to the 25 volunteers and the many sponsors who helped make these parties possible!



Alternatives For Girls
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www.AlternativesForGirls.org

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