

# Powerful Alternatives



A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

SPECIAL FEATURE -

## Meet Alternatives For Girls' 2019 Role Models

*Alternatives For Girls prepares to honor three extraordinary women at the annual Role Model Dinner on March 27th.*

Alternatives For Girls is proud to honor three women who are true role models at this year's Role Model Dinner: **Dr. Althea Simpson**, *Director of Discipleship at Franklin Community Church*; **Lashinda Stair**, *First Assistant Chief of Police at Detroit Police Department*; and **Linda Taliaferro**, *Vice President of Global Quality at Meritor, Inc.* This year's dinner will be held on March 27th from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at MGM Grand Detroit.

The theme of this year's event is: *Deep Discovery: Revealing Rare Strength*. As we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Role Model Dinner, this theme is a tremendous reflection of the resiliency of the girls and young women in AFG's programs, the Role Models we are proud to have honored over the years, and this year's three new Role Models.

From a young age, Linda faced many challenges in her personal



Linda Taliaferro

life, as well as her career. She faced bullying as a child, sexual harassment very early in her career, and overcoming assumptions her colleagues had of her

[See 2019 Role Models, continued on page 2](#)

Thanks to your kindness:

## At the Crisis Resource Center, Hope Shines Because of You

*This winter, girls and women in crisis found support and resources when they had no where else to turn.*

During this cold and extreme winter, AFG's Crisis Resource saw an increase of girls and women needing support. Because of you, the center was able to give warm coats, hats, gloves, and scarfs to everyone who visited.

The Crisis Resource Center connects girls, young women, and families with needed services, such as shelter, health care,

counseling and much more. The center not only offers a 24/7 resource line, but also a walk-in center located at Alternatives For Girls.

Recently, a woman who regularly visits the center decided she was ready to enter a drug rehab facility. The Crisis Resource Center staff helped her find a place to go, and once she arrived she called to



thank them for supporting her.

You make this all possible! Because of you, hundreds of girls and women have a place to turn when they need it most. Thank you!



## 2019 Role Models, continued from page 1

as one of few African American women in the manufacturing world. Linda worked hard to overcome those assumptions, “I never walked into the room with a chip on my shoulder. I would build relationships and perform, and it would become a non-issue, if it ever was one. I never let my essence be a road block for me. I worked hard to make sure there weren’t any road blocks. When people thought of me, they thought of the work I did, not that I was the black girl,” she explains.

Linda used her knowledge and experience to create a career advisory service that assists women in changing the trajectory of their careers within corporate America.



*Dr. Althea Simpson*

When Althea decided to seminary, in the midst of her thriving law career, she faced challenges trying to balance her life. “Balancing work with family, your community, and your commitments and finding the time to be both passionate and present, has always been difficult. It’s one

thing to be there, it’s another to be present, in all places. We have to realize that quality of life demands balance. For me it’s a constant struggle,” Althea shares.

Althea continues to practice balance as she teaches children and adults at Franklin Community Church and in the community, leads outreach efforts to increase awareness of human trafficking in the community, and acts as a Litigation Project Attorney for Clark Hill PLC and a Legal Instructor for the Detroit Police Department.



*Lashinda Stair*

Growing up with a teenage mother in Chicago, and then Detroit, Lashinda often felt people already assumed to know how her story would end. “My mother was my biggest inspiration. She was very inspiration, worked hard, supported the family, and made me feel like I could do anything I wanted to do. My first college degree was for my mom, so that she could say that I was the first in our family to graduate from college,” Lashinda reflects.

## Making an Impact

*We salute the 2019  
Role Model Dinner  
sponsors for supporting  
girls and young women:*

### **Diamond (\$25,000):**

DTE Energy Foundation  
PVS Chemicals

### **Platinum (\$10,000):**

Ford Motor Company Fund  
The Suburban Collection

### **Gold (\$5,000):**

AVL  
Beaumont Hospital  
Anne and David Knill  
Piston Group  
The Rush Group

### **Silver (\$3,000):**

Argent Tape and Label, Inc.  
Comerica Bank  
Health Alliance Plan  
Hodges Subaru  
Home Depot  
Mercedes-Benz Financial  
Services  
Meritor, Inc.  
Metro West Chapter of Credit  
Unions  
Faye Nelson  
Pam Rodgers  
Ruby and Associates  
The Skillman Foundation  
Special D Events  
Trinity Health  
Willis Towers Watson

### **Design Sponsor:**

Union AdWorks

### **Media Sponsor:**

Hour Detroit


## 2019 Role Models, continued from page 2

Having overcome many obstacles, Lashinda now works to support and mentor young people, especially on the issues of peer pressure, low self-esteem, and bullying.

It's our struggles that allow us to truly appreciate our accomplishments. And Althea, Lashinda, and Linda surely have a lot of accomplishments to celebrate. Althea has earned a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry and has had her doctoral dissertation published, Lashinda has rose to the highest ranking female police officer in the Detroit Police Department, and Linda has helped many women succeed in their careers, get promoted, and win awards,

through her business, The TEE – The Extra Effort.

Thank you, Althea, Lashinda, and Linda, for your strength, resilience, and courage. You serve as shining examples of what girls and women can accomplish when they have the support they need to follow their dreams.


We look forward to seeing you at the Role Model Dinner on March 27th as we honor Linda, Althea, and Lashinda and support and celebrate girls and young women. Tickets are still on sale and can be purchased at [www.alternativesforgirls.org](http://www.alternativesforgirls.org) or by calling Taylor Gawlik at 313-361-4000 ext. 273. 

## AFG's Sew Great Detroit partners with Ruben and Isabel Toledo for DIA exhibit

**A**FG's social enterprise, Sew Great Detroit, collaborated with artists Ruben and Isabel Toledo to create a collection of handmade limited-edition tote bags to compliment the artists' new Detroit Institute of Arts exhibition, "Ruben & Isabel Toledo: Labor of Love."

The Sew Great Detroit seamstresses sewed 75 of their signature tote bags for the collaboration, which Ruben Toledo then hand painted to compliment the exhibition. The hand painted bags are already sold out, but special screen printed totes are currently for sale in the Detroit Institute of Arts store.



The women of Sew Great Detroit (pictured above) are so excited to partner with the Toledo's and are honored to be featured in a DIA exhibit. They can't wait to bring their children, grandchildren, friends and family to the exhibit and share this success with them. The exhibit runs until July 7, so be sure to check it out soon! 

### 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.

### Board of Directors:

Linda Ross, *Chair* (Trinity Health)  
Christine Moore, *Vice Chair*  
(Comerica Bank)  
D'Anne Carpenter, *Secretary*  
(Trinity Health)  
Laurie Horvath, *Treasurer* (Baker Tilly)  
Kate Cherry (City Connect Detroit)  
Lois Cohn  
Michelle Crockett (Miller Canfield)  
Shannica Joseph (Youth Board Member)  
Katherine Kjolhede  
Rochelle Lento (Dykema)  
Ann Nicholson  
Carolyn Normandin  
(Anti-Defamation League)  
Pam Rodgers  
Christine Stesney-Ridenour  
(Beaumont Hospital)  
Janet Thompson (Parkside Credit Union)  
Nu Tran (Ford Motor Company)  
Sammie Van Diver (Health Alliance Plan)  
Stefanie Worth  
(Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit)

### CEO:

Amanda (Amy) Good

### Departments:

#### 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

Alexandria Armstrong, *Editor*  
903 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208  
Phone: (313) 361-4000  
Crisis Line: 888-AFG-3919  
[www.AlternativesForGirls.org](http://www.AlternativesForGirls.org)  
[amarmstrong@alternativesforgirls.org](mailto:amarmstrong@alternativesforgirls.org)



# 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:*

Home cleaning supplies

New bras (extra small and extra-large sizes)

New underwear (extra small and extra-large sizes)

Non-perishable snacks (mini pretzel bags, fruit snacks, juice boxes, fruit cups, etc.)

Diapers (all sizes)

New bed linens (crib, toddler, twin, and queen sizes)

*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 - Friday at the front desk. Otherwise, you can mail your donation to: Alternatives For Girls, Attn: Taylor Gawlik at 903 West Grand Blvd, Detroit MI 48208. *Questions?* Please call 313-361-4000 ext. 273.

### Holiday High Tea Raises Crucial Funds

On November 30th, over 130 supporters gathered at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham for Shirley Maddalena's 30th Annual Holiday High Tea. The event has supported Alternatives For Girls for many years, and **this year's event raised \$22,000 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.

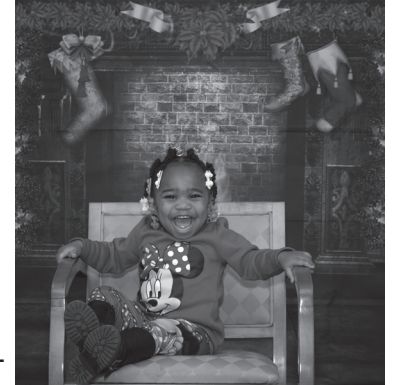
Thank you to Shirley Maddalena, the Tea sponsors, attendees, auction donors, and volunteers for their help in making the event a success and supporting homeless and high-risk girls and young women!

### 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 sponsored over 400 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 for supporting girls and women this holiday season!



Alternatives For Girls  
© 1998 Alternatives For Girls

903 West Grand Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48208

**Phone:** 313-361-4000  
**Fax:** 313-361-8938  
**Crisis Line:** 888-AFG-3919

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube:  
Search "Alternatives For Girls"

[www.AlternativesForGirls.org](http://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.