

Powerful Alternatives

A Newsletter for Supporters of Alternatives For Girls

SPECIAL FEATURE:

Meet Alternatives for Girls' 2020 Role Models

Alternatives For Girls prepares to honor three extraordinary women at the 31st annual Role Model Dinner coming up on Thursday, March 26th

Alternatives For Girls along with our event Co-Chairs, Monica L. Martinez, Comerica Bank and Ronia Kruse, OpTech, are proud to honor three women who are true role models at this year's Role Model Dinner – Laura Chavez, Branch Manager, Flagstar Bank; Denise Ilitch, President, Ilitch Enterprises, LLC; and Palencia Mobley, P.E., Deputy Director/Chief Engineer, Detroit Water and Sewerage Company. This year's event will be held at the Renaissance Center Marriott Hotel on Thursday, March 26 from 5:30pm – 8:30pm.

The theme of this year's event is Inspirational Life Lines: Drawing on Pivotal Events. As we celebrate our 31st annual event, our theme gives credit to the courageous girls and young women who have found AFG through their individual journeys. These young women have put forward the time and effort to changing their lives and signifying the growth and freedom they have achieved. We are proud to have honored these young women and Role Models over the years. We are pleased to announce this year's Role Models.



Laura Chavez, Flagstar Bank

With a childhood that lacked bilingual teachers and foster parents, Laura has long been motivated to help others avoid the same obstacles and setbacks she experienced as a young girl, when Spanish was her only language. Her inspiring story included graduating early in the top five of her Western International High School class and continued at Wayne State University College of Education, with a Bilingual Bicultural specialization. Since then, Laura has dedicated over 15 years to strengthening communities in Detroit, including working with Southwest Solutions, Mexicantown Community Development Corporation and more. Her focus has been distributing health, financial literacy and education resources. Her role at Flagstar Bank has allowed her to advocate for the Hispanic community and create platforms for change.

Denise, born in Tampa and relocated a year later to Detroit with her family, has been integral to Detroit's business and philanthropic communities for over 40 years. As a young girl, Denise's father, always taught the importance of giving back to the community. Most importantly, he always illustrated this in his actions, not just his words. "He truly 'walked the walk.'" Denise founded the Ilitch Charities for Children and established the Denise Ilitch Scholarship at Walsh College for women to complete advanced degrees.

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Denise Ilitch, Ilitch Enterprises, LLC.

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Palencia Mobley, P.E.
Detroit Water and
Sewerage Company

Palencia grew up in Detroit, and lives by the adage that there were so many people along the way who helped me become who I am. "My mom was going to work. From the neighbor across the street who would let me come over in the morning after my parents got divorced so I could walk to the bus stop with her son; and the love and support of family, and other people in my life, this helped me understand the significance of giving back. I've achieved so much, it's of minimal consequence for me to be able to do for and provide support to others." There is a song called "I'm a Possibility" that resonates with Palencia to this day. Palencia had a sense of confidence instilled upon her from a young age thanks to support of her mother. She believes that it is important for girls and women to show who they are

– **"You are fearless, you are strong".**

Thank you, Laura, Denise and Palencia, for your strength, resilience and inspiration. Your pivotal life events serve as wonderful examples of what our girls and young women can accomplish when they have the support and resources available to help them pave their path through life.

We look forward to seeing you at the 31st annual Role Model Dinner on Thursday, March 26th as we honor Laura, Denise and Palencia while supporting and celebrating girls and young women. Tables and tickets are still available and can be purchased online at www.alternativesforgirls.org or by contacting Dawn Barrack, Director of Fund Development at 313.361.4000 ext. 230 or dbarrack@alternativesforgirls.org.



BECAUSE OF YOU...

Peer Educator Spotlight: "I joined AFG because I saw the impact [AFG] had on the community and I wanted to be a part of that, they are helping our young women instead of beating them down like everyone else and I love helping other people". In the beginning, Aniyah had no idea of her incredible ability to influence others and command a room. Since her time with AFG, Aniyah has developed her "power for good" to be a positive impact to influence her peers by spreading awareness of sex trafficking, teen pregnancy, and bullying prevention. "I've learned more about what's happening around us in the community and it has taught me how to identify [dangerous] situations and find a solution". Currently a senior in high school, Aniyah is the basketball team



manager and has been accepted into 10 universities across the country receiving over \$15,000 in combined scholarships. After high school, she plans to attend college to study law or criminal justice to continue her work in the community.



- SPECIAL THANKS - TO OUR 2020 ROLE MODEL DINNER CORPORATE SPONSORS (AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2020)

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SEW GREAT DETROIT

– Sharing their skills during the holiday season!



The months leading up to the holiday rush were especially productive for the Sew Great Detroit seamstresses and knitters. The entire Team was laser-focused on completing several new projects during September and October that would be introduced for the holiday season!

INTRODUCING THE SEW GREAT DETROIT ORIGAMI MARKET BAG!

Our Sew Great Team collaborated and came up with a stylish yet functional fully lined large cotton bag with a convenient inside zippered pocket that would be suitable for both daily use as well as trips to the farmers market.

Our seamstresses enjoyed having the opportunity to take on a new project from start to finish allowing them to hone their skills that included selecting coordinating fabric designs for each bag.

The holiday projects taken on by our seamstresses really fueled their creative process. It didn't take Seamstress, Darzell, long to think of ways she could add design. She hand crafted a canvas bag and thought that a print fabric would be an attractive embellishment but had limited fabric to choose from. She experimented and created an attractive geometric look by making one side diagonal.

As a Christmas gift, Darzell designed an apron for her Aunt. Her Aunt, who works in a salon, wore the apron to work. Her co-workers inquired where she got the beautiful apron and as a result of her sharing that her niece made it, her co-workers placed an order for seven aprons for the salon! Darzell took on this request with the assistance of her sister, Yolanda, and they completed the order over Christmas break. Darzell now feels empowered to look at options to starting her own small business where she can create her own products and market them to the community.



SGD Seamstresses Angel, Sharon and, Darzell with SGD Origami Market Bags

As the holiday season slowed down, the Sew Great Detroit team enjoyed a sewing party where they spent time creating their own items to give as gifts to friends and family members. Yolanda designed and sewed a colorful fully-lined tote bag for her daughter. Sharon, likes the market bags so much, she decided that she would sew a bag to give to her sister for Christmas. And, Angel made a special large bag for her grandmother. The ladies were so pleased with their creations.

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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CEO:

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DEPARTMENTS:

Shelter and Transition to Independent Living: AFG's Shelter Program provides a stable home, counseling, and life skills training to homeless girls and young women ages 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 sex work, 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 and young women ages 7-19 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.

BRIEFING ROOM

Make an Impact!

When you support AFG, you provide life-changing help for girls and young women. Here are ways you can make an impact today:

Winter Wish List: As the weather turns cold, clothing and boots are needed to keep those in need warm. Visit wishlist.alt4girls.org to see the full list of items needed.

Alternatives For Girls appreciates your hygiene donations!

- Soap, lotion, and deodorant
- African American hair products
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Sanitary pads
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Combs, hairbrushes, and shower caps
- Disinfectant wipes
- Pocket tissue

Interested in finding out more about AFG?

Please consider attending one of our upcoming Open House events. AFG's OPEN HOUSE EVENTS are held twice a month as an opportunity for community members to tour our building and find out more about our programs and services; and ways to get involved!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH 10:00^{AM} – 11:00^{AM}

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH 5:30^{PM} – 6:30^{PM}

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST 10:00^{AM} – 11:00^{AM}

MONDAY, APRIL 6TH 5:30^{PM} – 6:30^{PM}

Please RSVP to Jessica (Jess) Pate, Volunteer Services Manager, jpate@alternativesforgirls.org

CREATING A LEGACY....

Many AFG supporters like you tell us "I wish I could do more".
YOU CAN!

Leaving a gift to Alternatives For Girls (AFG) in your will or by beneficiary designation is a great way to invest in the future of the girls and young women we serve and make a lasting gift for our women of tomorrow. To notify us of a legacy gift you have planned, or to discuss the best gift option for you, please contact Dawn Barrack, Director of Fund Development at 313.361.4000 ext. 230 or dbarrack@alternativesforgirls.org.



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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.