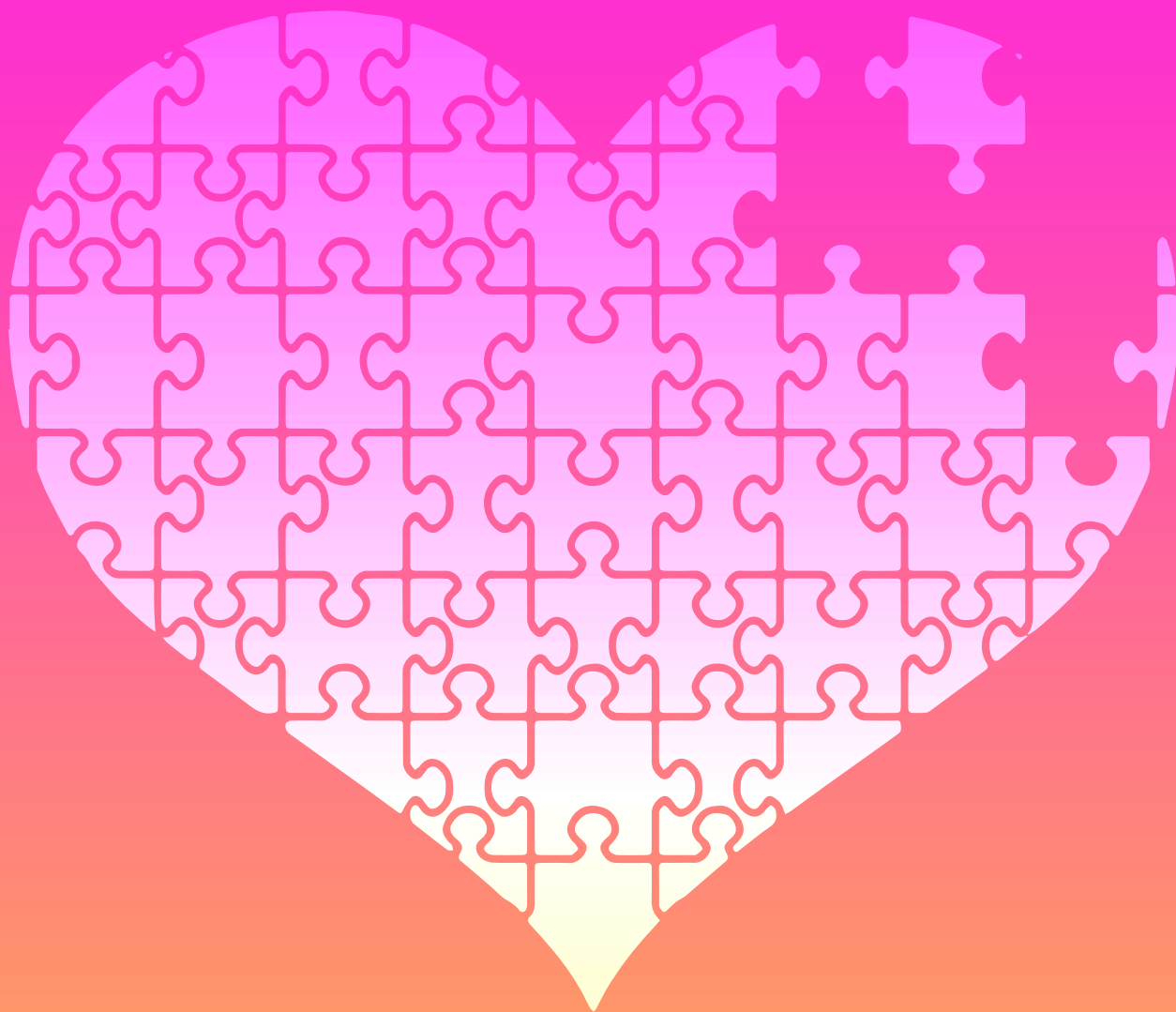


Finding Essential Connections



Alternatives For Girls' Role Model Celebration | Wednesday, March 31, 2021



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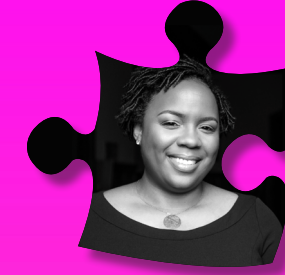
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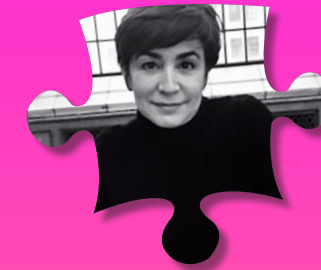
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ALTERNATIVES FOR GIRLS' ROLE MODEL CELEBRATION | HONORING THE 2021 AFG ROLE MODELS



RACHEAL ALLEN
Founding COO, Marygrove Conservancy



MARIFER CALLEJA
Program Manager, DTE Energy



AGNES HAGERTY
Attorney, Trinity Health



LISA LUDWINSKI
Head Baker and Founder, Sister Pie



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ROLE MODEL CELEBRATION COMMITTEES

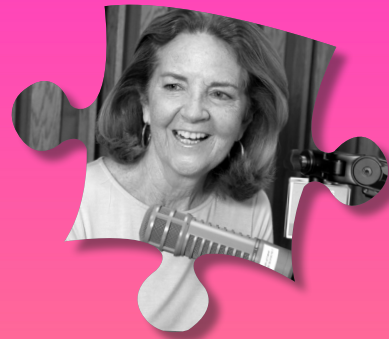
SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Jim Maier
- Ana Mirzoyan
- Lisa Fisher
- Chris Stesney-Ridenour
- Cassandra Gilliam
- Dale Henderson
- Carolyn Normandin
- Amy Lawrence
- Marissa Graziano
- Kyla Carlsen
- Linda Ross

AUCTION COMMITTEE

- Kyla Carlsen
- Hana Chung
- Alex Korell
- Sue Merritt
- Carolyn Normandin
- Charles Raab
- Courtney Young

OUR 2021 ROLE MODEL CELEBRATION HONORARY CHAIR:



ANNE DOYLE

Anne Doyle is a global speaker, author, journalist, business executive, podcast host, former elected official and lifetime change agent who has been on the front lines of women's progress for nearly five decades. She is the author of *POWERING UP! How America's Women Achievers Become Leaders* and the host of two podcasts: "POWER UP WOMEN!" and the "Game Changers" podcast of the International Women's Forum. She began her career as a trailblazing TV news and sports broadcaster in the 1970's and 1980's and was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame for her national leadership role in opening sports locker rooms to women journalists.



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**ALTERNATIVES
FOR GIRLS**

Program

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Amy L. Good

AFG Chief Executive Officer

Anne Doyle, Power Up Women! The Podcast
2021 Role Model Celebration Honorary Chair

Christine Moore

Chair, AFG Board of Directors

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

With Chris Aslanian

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Racheal Allen

Presented by: Yazmine Alexander, AFG Outreach and Education Services

Lisa Ludwinski

Presented by: Marisol Leon, AFG Prevention

Marifer Calleja

Presented by: Lizbeth Bahena, AFG Prevention

Agnes Hagerty

Presented by: Brionne Davis, AFG Outreach and Education Services

TESTIMONIAL

Lauren Sowell, New Choices Program

Introduction by Sandra Ramocan, Director of AFG Outreach and Education Services

FUND THE MISSION

Chris Aslanian

CLOSING REMARKS

Amy L. Good

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and their mission to support our homeless and high-risk girls and young women in Metro Detroit to help them to explore and access the support, resources, and opportunities necessary to be safe, grow strong and make positive choices.

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AFG WELCOMES OUR 2021 ROLE MODEL CELEBRATION EMCEE:



CHRIS ASLANIAN

Christopher Aslanian has been providing exceptional auction services since 1991 and has raised millions for nonprofits and other charitable organizations. Christopher has spent thousands of hours behind the microphone as a voice-over artist, emcee and auctioneer, making him a consummate professional. Christopher prides himself on his stage presence that guarantees to make an event entertaining and successful. Previously based in Michigan, Christopher now resides in San Diego with his children.

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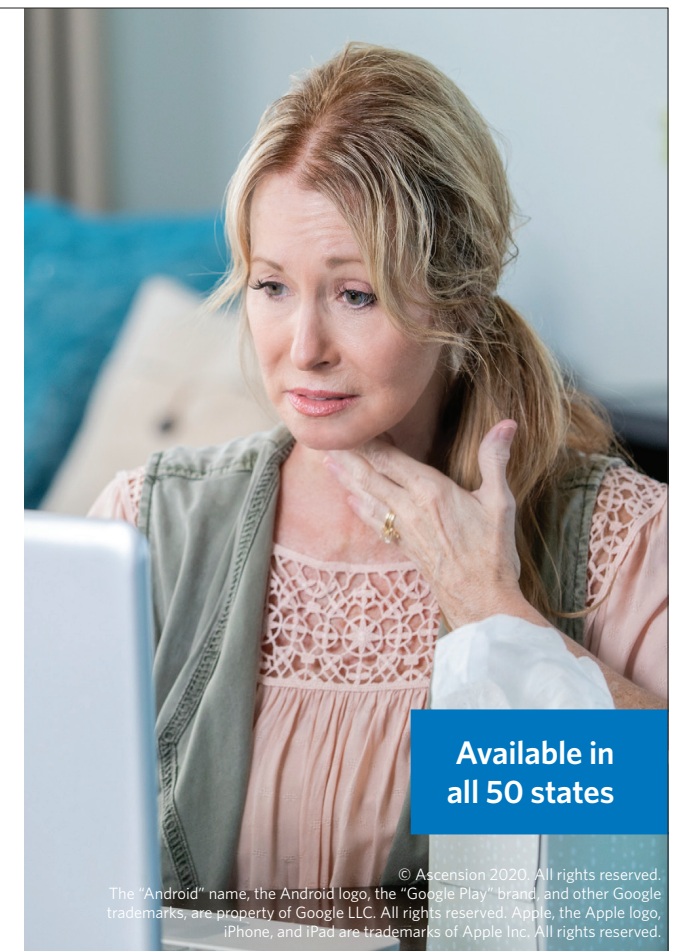
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Message from the CEO

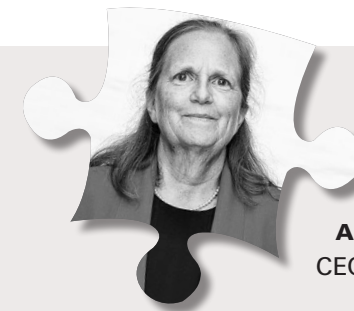
DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome. Thank you for supporting Alternatives For Girls' 32nd Annual Role Model Celebration—special pandemic edition! We so appreciate your joining in this virtual way, as we stay safe yet still respond effectively to the urgent needs of the girls and young women we serve during this difficult year.

Tonight's theme, "Finding Essential Connections," is core to AFG's mission; the girls and women we serve thrive through the relationships they create and nurture. "Finding Essential Connections" has allowed us all to survive this pandemic; we still need to be connected to one another and can do so, despite the physical distancing we've needed to overcome. We are all reminded of the profound necessities of connections, even when they don't come easily.

We gather to celebrate not only four extraordinary Role Models but also the thousands of girls, and young women AFG has served this year who have overcome onerous obstacles to finding connections, sometimes despite lifetimes of experiences that have undermined their sense of trust in others. Many have journeyed from terrible situations, such as homelessness, violence in their communities, or exploitation. They have been courageous enough to reach out for help, rebuild family ties, and build connections with those who will support their positive aspirations. Buoyed by new and renewed relationships, they reach their goals, being the first in their families to attend college, forging a path toward a fulfilling and sustaining career, owning their own homes, becoming leaders in their communities.

Your support continues to be crucial to their success. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit homeless and high-risk girls and young women particularly hard; those without a safe and stable place to stay, without access to safe transportation, health care, even PPE, and those with long histories of chronically stressed immune systems suffer from exacerbated exposure to this dangerous virus. AFG's shelter, crisis resource center, outreach, and all of our programs provide a lifeline. Last year, 171 homeless girls, young women, and their children were served in our housing and aftercare programs, on their way from crisis and isolation to building a strong future. AFG's prevention program served 405 girls and their family members, primarily virtually but also through countless home visits and deliveries of everything from food to laptop computers and hot spots, helping them stay safe, focused on their education, and supported on their path to becoming leaders in their schools and



AMANDA L. GOOD
CEO, Alternatives For Girls

neighborhoods. Our outreach department reached over 2,000 young and adult women at risk in many ways, as sex trafficking continued throughout the pandemic, going even more "underground." AFG's casework staff and peer leaders helped those facing sexual exploitation or caught up in perilous behavior to access the resources and support needed to make positive choices.

Without you, none of this would be possible.

Over 32 years, we've had the pleasure of honoring over 75 exceptional women at our annual Role Model Dinner. Tonight we add to that history with four truly extraordinary role models. We're proud to honor:

Racheal Allen – Founding Chief Operating Officer, Marygrove Conservancy

Marifer Calleja – Program Manager, DTE Energy

Agnes Hagerty – Attorney, Trinity Health

Lisa Ludwinski – Head Baker and Owner, Sister Pie

They are dedicated, courageous and have demonstrated that our setbacks only make us stronger. They have followed their dreams and built powerful connections that cascade in wonderful ways. They have been champions in their communities and supported those who needed a helping hand. Each of them inspires the girls and young women at AFG, and tonight they continue to serve as concrete examples of the power of leadership, hard work, and giving back.

On behalf of Alternatives For Girls' board of directors and staff, thank you for joining us to celebrate the achievements of our 2021 Role Models, and of all the girls and women whom AFG proudly serves. Your support makes all the difference. Thank you.

With my deepest gratitude,

Amy L. Good, CEO

2021 AFG Board of Directors

Christine Moore, Chair – Executive V.P. & General Auditor, Comerica Bank

Chris Stesney-Ridenour, Vice Chair – Stez Consulting

Nu Tran, Treasurer – Financial Advisor, TruVista Wealth Advisory

Kate Cherry, Secretary – Development Director, Detroit Future City

D’Anne Carpenter – Retired from Trinity Health

Chekenya Goodwin, Student and Community Volunteer

Jeriel Heard – Director; Jail Population Management, Wayne County Sheriff

Rochelle Lento – Member, Dykema

Marlene Martel – General Counsel, Ford Motor Credit Company

Ann Nicholson – Community Volunteer

Carolyn Normandin – Regional Director, ADL

Linda Ross – Executive V.P. & Chief Legal Officer, Trinity Health

Michele Samuels – SVP General Auditor & Compliance Officer, BCBS of MI

Tania Thomas – Student and Community Volunteer

Sammye Van Diver – Retired from Health Alliance Plan

Stefanie Worth – Director of Operations & Outreach,

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Michigan Chapter, Inc.

CHAIRS EMERITI

Michelle Crockett, Miller Canfield

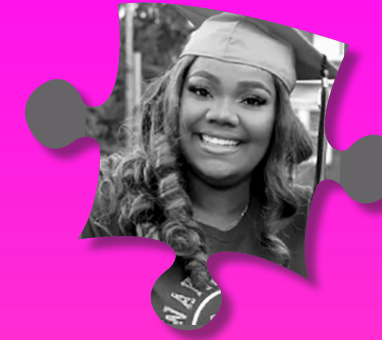
Agnes Hagerty, Trinity Health

Joya Harris-Sherron, Leo Burnett

Catharine LaMont, First American Title

Shirley Stancato, New Detroit, Inc.

IN MEMORIAM



CASEY WILLIS

Casey Willis was a member of AFG’s Board of Directors, a former Peer Educator in our Outreach and Educations Services Program, and a Wayne State University student. Casey was a victim of a shooting on Detroit’s eastside the morning of Saturday, December 26, 2020. Casey wrote these words for a speech this past fall, as she prepared to speak on behalf of AFG:

“Since I’ve been involved with AFG, I’ve met a lot of amazing people who taught me a lot about being a young woman, loving myself in my own skin, and managing my time. I’ve also been able to become a wonderful leader for my peers and help with doing the challenging work that is done at AFG.”

Casey was beloved and respected; her contributions and presence were greatly valued by her fellow peer educators, board members, and by all who had the privilege of working with her at AFG.

AFG has established a fund to honor Casey’s legacy and support other AFG girls and women who share Casey’s aspirations and extraordinary determination to continue their education. The “Fund to Support AFG College-Bound Girls and Women” will provide a broad range of financial assistance for AFG participants who are either in their senior year in high school or their first year in college, such as paying for books, transportation, testing fees, even limited living expenses—to help AFG’s college-bound participants to overcome any obstacle in their path toward their higher education. Assistance from this fund will be determined by AFG’s casework and management staff in response to participants’ needs and will be aligned with participants’ efforts. Casey lives on through her example, her words, and her love for others.

AVL



MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE, ONE GIRL AT A TIME.

Alternatives For Girls – your unwavering dedication to changing girls’ lives inspires us all.

Thank you, 2021 Role Models, for investing in these girls’ futures and empowering each one to become her best.

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HONORING THE 2021 ROLE MODELS



RACHEAL ALLEN

Founding COO, Marygrove Conservancy

Racheal Allen serves as the founding chief operations officer for the Marygrove Conservancy, a non-profit organization that manages operations and stewards the 53-acre Marygrove College campus in northwest Detroit as a resource for high-quality uses in the community. Racheal oversees the Conservancy’s Prenatal to 20th Grade partnerships; campus operations; external engagement; and program development, including the Community Impact Incubator, a year-long personal and professional development program for Black leaders.

Prior to her work with the Marygrove Conservancy, she led the Downtown Detroit Ambassador Program, a cleaning and hospitality program in Detroit’s Business Improvement Zone that specializes in providing supportive employment for disadvantaged workers. She also served as the senior director of Operations and Finance for the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan.

A serial entrepreneur and small business advocate, Racheal serves as an operations strategist and consultant, specializing in supporting the startup ecosystem. She believes entrepreneurship is a pathway out of poverty and creates content to help entrepreneurs build operational capacity.

Rachael is a member of Impact100 Metro Detroit, 2020 graduate of Leadership Detroit XLI, 2020 Michigan Chronicle Woman of Excellence, 2020 Crain’s Detroit 40 under 40 awardee and 2020 recipient of the Detroit NAACP Branch’s Great Expectations Award.

She lives in Farmington Hills with her husband and five children.

HONORING THE 2021 ROLE MODELS



LISA LUDWINSKI

Head Baker and Founder, Sister Pie

Lisa Ludwinski grew up in Milford, Michigan, then studied theatre arts at Kalamazoo College before moving away to Brooklyn, New York. While there, pursuing her dreams of directing, the vibrant food culture of New York was a natural distraction that resulted in a low-budget cooking show called "Funny Side Up". Lisa filmed the series in the many tiny apartment kitchens she inhabited over the course of her six-year stay.

In 2012, she moved back to Michigan with dreams of opening a bakery with a big-hearted mission: make delicious food and treat the community well. Lisa launched Sister Pie out of her parent's Milford kitchen in 2012.

In 2015, the bakery doors opened in Detroit's West Village. Lisa now lives a few blocks away from Sister Pie with her pitbull, Ruby.



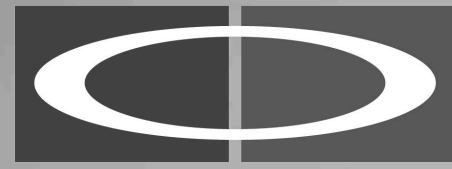
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We applaud Alternatives For Girls on their mission to help homeless and high-risk girls and young women through their Shelter, Prevention and Outreach programs.



HONORING THE 2021 ROLE MODELS



MARIFER CALLEJA

Program Manager, DTE Energy



Marifer Calleja serves as program manager in Public Affairs at DTE Energy, where she leads outreach efforts to the Hispanic population of metro Detroit. In her role, she works as a liaison with community stakeholders on topics such as environmental leadership, energy reliability, safety, affordability, and corporate responsibility.



Her professional experience ranges from corporate and governmental sectors to volunteering on nonprofit boards. Marifer's expertise in change leadership and communications uplifts the voice of the multicultural customer—a voice she appreciates because of her own bicultural and bilingual upbringing.

Building on DTE's commitment to the Hispanic culture, Marifer convened artists and service agencies to host a virtual gala in celebration of Cinco de Mayo, as the traditional parade was cancelled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was one of DTE's virtual events in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

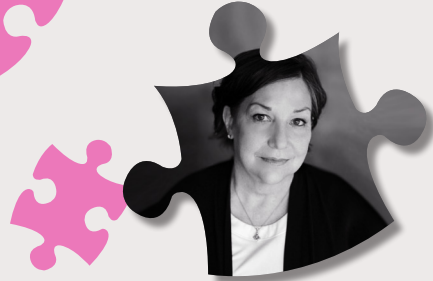
This virtual event followed the success of "Soccer Fiesta" which attracted hundreds of families to Detroit's Patton Park in the fall of 2019. During the event, children joined workshops led by Mexican professional soccer players, while parents received information about DTE. To celebrate her efforts, Marifer received a Sarah Sheridan award, which honors DTE Energy employees changing the lives of customers and communities. In 2018, DTE received the Community Service Award from the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its outreach outcomes.

Marifer describes herself as a lifelong learner. She is pursuing an MBA and is interested in expanding her knowledge in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion. She has a master's degree in creativity and change leadership from SUNY Buffalo, and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Her greatest joy is being the mother of her daughter, Henrietta Martha.



HONORING THE 2021 ROLE MODELS



AGNES HAGERTY
Attorney, Trinity Health

Agnes Hagerty is an attorney who specializes in health care law. She worked at Trinity Health or its predecessor organizations from 1985 until 2016, when she retired as deputy general counsel. She continues to work on special projects for Trinity, one of the largest nonprofit health care delivery systems in the nation, serving diverse communities in 22 states at hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinical locations and senior residences. Her primary responsibilities at Trinity focused on transactions, including acquisitions, divestitures and joint ventures, finance matters, corporate structures and governance.

Agnes shares Trinity's commitment to honor the sacredness and dignity of every person and to stand with and serve those who are most vulnerable. This is perfectly aligned with the mission of Alternatives For Girls, where Agnes has been involved for more than 30 years, serving on the board, board committees and as board chair. She has given tirelessly and generously to AFG financially, through fundraising efforts, pro bono legal services, mentoring and board governance education projects. Her many contributions and leadership on behalf of AFG are exemplary.

Agnes also served on a voluntary basis as the co-chair of the State Bar of Michigan Nonprofit Corporations Committee, responsible for revising and updating Michigan's Nonprofit Corporation Act. She has been recognized as an In-House Leader in the Law by Michigan Lawyers Weekly, by Crain's Detroit Business 40 under 40 and as a fellow by the State Bar of Michigan Health Care Law Section. Agnes grew up in Detroit and has a bachelor's degree in economics, a master's degree in business and a law degree, all from the University of Detroit Mercy.

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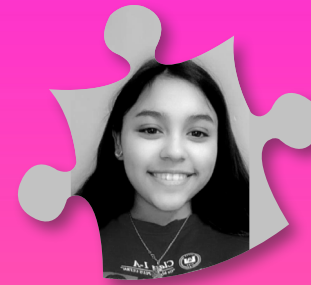
Alex Korell	GameTime	Ochre Bakery
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Beau Bien Fine Foods	Grey Ghost	Pie Sci Pizza
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Canine to Five	King and Green Dot Stables)	Renegades
Carmen Harlan	James Gates	Rochelle Lento
Carolyn Normandin	Jan Dale	Salt Hats
Cercan Tile	Jim Schwyn and Francoise	Sew Great Detroit
Chemistry Salon	Colpron-Schwyn	Sharon McAuliffe
Cherry Republic	Joanne Costello	Shields Pizza
Chris Stesney-Ridenour	Kamp Night Co	Shorts Brewing
Citizen Yoga	Karen Ross	Sister Pie
City Bird	Katie Bleavins	Stefanie Worth
Cold Truth Soft Serve	Kendra Scott	Steven Johnson
College for Creative Studies	Leon and Lulu	Sue Wierzbicki
D'Anne Carpenter	Linda Ross	Supino Pizza
Detroit Bikes	Linda Yellin	Susan Fox
Detroit City Football Club	Little Black Box	Susan McDermott
Detroit Experience Factory	Love Travels Imports	The Detroit Tigers
Detroit Grooming	Macy's Somerset Collection	The Ford House
Detroit Historical Society	Market Fresh	The Home Edit
Detroit Institute of Arts	Marlene Martel	The Original Pancake House
Detroit Pistons	Massage Care	The Royce Detroit
Detroit Red Wings	Meadow Brook Theatre	Toledo Zoo
Detroit Zoological Society	Mejishi Martial Arts	Tracy Thomas
DTE Energy	Melissa Dettloff	Two James Distillery
Eastern Market Brewing Co.	Message Care	Vera Bradley
Elayne Gross Photography	Michele Samuels	VIP Table
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Meet our 2021 AFG Presenters



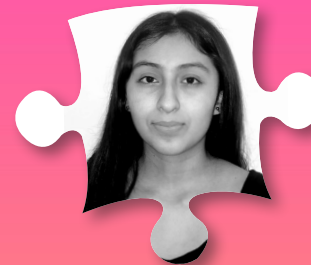
YAZMINE ALEXANDER AFG Outreach and Education Services

Yazmine Alexander is a 17-year-old senior at the Detroit School of Arts, where she majors in dance. Yazmine has been dancing since the age of four and says it is a way for her to express herself and her feelings. Yazmine performs regularly with Smiley the Hip Hop Clown and goes by 'Hip Hop Yazzy.' She is currently a Peer Educator in the Outreach and Education Services department, which was her very first job. She has been accepted to Central Michigan University, AMDA (College of Performing Arts) in Los Angeles, and Wayne State University. Yazmine is currently undecided on where she will attend in the fall. She plans to major in dance and study business, with aspirations of opening a dance studio and nail salon.



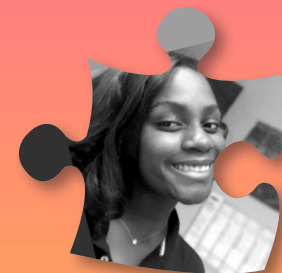
MARISOL LEON AFG Prevention

Marisol Leon is a hopeful 15-year-old high school freshman who takes every opportunity with passion and joy. "Every opportunity has gotten many people where they are now; you only live once after all," she said. She was skeptical about after-school programs until she found out about Alternatives For Girls. Through AFG, she's learned a lot about herself and the opportunity to see herself better as a person. She looks forward to participating more with AFG.



LIZBETH BAHENA AFG Prevention

Lizbeth Bahena is a junior at Cesar Chavez Academy High School. She has been a participant at Alternatives For Girls After-School Program since she was in the fourth grade. After she graduates high school, she plans to go to college. Lizbeth wants to be a crime scene investigator. In her spare time, she enjoys baking and nail design.



BRIONNE DAVIS AFG Outreach and Education Services

Brionne Davis is a senior at the Detroit School of Arts. She is currently awaiting acceptance into her top school choice – Ohio State University – with hopes to attend in the fall. Brionne is currently undecided on a major, however, she's very inquisitive about the variety of majors and programs at OSU. She is a Peer Educator in OES at Alternatives For Girls, and currently works on the production of a kids' television show, Mr. E in the D. Brionne has dreams of being a creative businesswoman, who also gives back to her community.

Programs

PREVENTION

AFG's Prevention Program serves girls aged 10-19 who are at risk of pregnancy, gang involvement, abusing drugs or alcohol, and school truancy. Finding self-esteem, improving a grade-point average, rejecting drugs and alcohol, pregnancy prevention, connecting with a mentor, discovering untapped talents — these are some of the experiences girls have when they take part in AFG's Prevention Programming (which includes our Afterschool and Summer Rise-N-Shine Programs) as well as through our Asset Building Program that spans several years. All programs help to build character on a foundation of positive choices.

SHELTER AND HOUSING SERVICES

New ideas, new paths, and new people emerge from the AFG Shelter. It is a place where homeless girls and young women (15-21 years) who have faced tremendous obstacles and have found themselves without a home or a family to provide for them learn to discover abilities and callings that lead them toward meaningful careers and productive lives. It all begins with finishing diplomas and advancing toward degrees, developing a strong work ethic, becoming good mothers (for those who are pregnant or parenting), acquiring financial literacy, learning cooperation and respect for others, and the growth of self-esteem. Participants redefine themselves and reshape their futures.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SERVICES

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

AFG Outreach serves as a lifeline to many young and adult women seeking to remove themselves from situations and activities that threaten their well-being, futures, and lives. Staff and volunteers encounter girls and women on the streets, in all seasons, during daylight and after dark, and provide them with harm-reduction kits, referrals, and direct services — all links to life-saving and support services. Street outreach efforts offer safe alternatives and compassion for those involved in sex work or are victims of human trafficking, creating hope that tomorrow will be better.

Peer Education is a youth leadership program that trains at-risk youth to reach out to other at-risk youth in the community. The teams focus on healthy relationships, HIV, homelessness, internet bullying, and positive life choices.

Program Highlights

AFG PREVENTION PROGRAM:

Last year:

- For the 20th year in a row, 100% of the high school seniors in the AFG Prevention Program graduated from high school.
- 73% of participants in the Asset-Building Project increased their GPA and/or maintained a 3.0 or higher GPA. The Average GPA this year was 3.39.
- Rise N' Shine, though virtual, positively impacted 52 girls. Girls had a safe space to learn new concepts, including those related to math, science, engineering and the arts.
- 100% of Youth Leaders completed their virtual leadership training through Grow Detroit Young Talent and Connect Detroit.

AFG HOUSING:

Last year:

- AFG's Shelter provided 7,532 nights of care to 171 homeless women and their children.
- 100% of youth in Aftercare remained in safe and stable housing.
- A total of 48 adult women and men were served through AFG's Rapid Rehousing Program.
- 80% of the youth served by Rapid Rehousing were from AFG's Transition to Independent Living Program.

AFG OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SERVICES PROGRAM:

Last year:

- 3,936 street outreach contacts, despite street outreach being suspended from March – August due to COVID-19.
- 100% of youth avoided teen pregnancies
- 100% of Peer Educators learned at least one new skill and all who were seniors graduated.
- 100% of New Choices participants (of six months or more) made significant progress toward their goals.
- AFG assisted 39 individuals through the STOP Domestic Violence Program
- The Crisis Resource Center provided 3,120 hours of crisis intervention and other essential services.
- Sew Great Detroit reports that 100% of participants learned a new sewing technique and 83% have remained in the program for more than six months.

TESTIMONIAL SPEAKER:



LAUREN SOWELL

Lauren Sowell was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. During the ages of 14-18, Lauren became a victim of sex trafficking and drug addiction. At the age of 18, Lauren graduated from Henry Ford High School with a full scholarship to any college of her choice and later regained her identity. In 2014, Lauren founded her ministry of outreach called The Unseen Generation (T.U.G.). T.U.G. focuses on her testimony and triumphs over sex trafficking, addiction, and living with AIDS. Currently, Lauren is a phenomenal mother and a resident specialist at Detroit Rescue Mission. She is an advocate for teens in silence, author of *Walking in my Purpose and Destiny*, dancer, mentor, and motivational speaker.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Congratulations, Marifer Calleja, for being honored by Alternatives for Girls as a 2021 Role Model Honoree. Marifer embodies our commitment to be a force for good in our communities and we're proud to call her one of our own.



AFG ROLE MODELS 2020-1991

2020

LAURA CHAVEZ is a Branch Manager for Flagstar Bank in Downtown Detroit. Ms. Chavez has dedicated over 15 years of her life to strengthening the City of Detroit communities by providing resources about health, financial literacy, and education. Ms. Chavez has worked with various groups, including Southwest Solutions, the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation, and Henry Ford Health System, by providing free workshops and volunteering her time. Since joining Flagstar, Ms. Chavez has been given the freedom to engage in community development as part of her role. There, she has the opportunity to bring awareness to issues in the Hispanic community and create platforms for change.

Ms. Chavez is active on the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, participating in monthly events on behalf of the company. Ms. Chavez is also on the board of the Detroit Chapter of Prospanica, a national Hispanic professional organization. Ms. Chavez serves as a member of WAY Academy, where she was honored to be the keynote speaker for their 2019 graduating class.

DENISE ILITCH, ESQ. has been an integral part of Detroit's business and philanthropic communities for over 40 years as a dedicated business leader, a devoted community servant, a supporter of many charitable causes, and a tireless advocate for women and children. Ms. Ilitch is an owner of Ilitch Family Companies. She is also president of Ilitch Enterprises, LLC.

Ms. Ilitch currently serves as Regent on the University of Michigan Board of Regents and is Chair of the Board. Ms. Ilitch also serves as a trustee for the Skillman Foundation. A strong supporter of continuing education, she established the Denise D. Ilitch Endowed Scholarship through the U of M Alumni Association LEAD Scholars Program and the Denise Ilitch Scholarship at Walsh College to help young women earn their advanced degrees. Ms. Ilitch earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her Law Degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Ms. Ilitch has served on the Boards of several civic, business, professional, charitable, and civil rights organizations, including serving as co-chair for the 2009 Detroit crisis turnaround team and the Detroit Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Branch NAACP. Among her numerous awards and commendations are the B'nai B'rith International Great American Traditions Award and the Clara Barton Award from the American Red Cross.

PALENCIA MOBLEY, P.E. was appointed as the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department by Mayor, Mike Duggan and approved by the Board of Water Commissioners in January 2016. In her role, Ms. Mobley oversees all departmental operations, including engineering, capital construction, field services maintenance and repair, meter operations, fleet, and facilities. In addition, Ms. Mobley is also responsible for the implementation of the department's green infrastructure program and the City of Detroit's first post-construction storm water ordinance.

Ms. Mobley is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and Wayne State University with a Master of Science in Civil and Environment Engineering. In 2006, Ms. Mobley became one of the youngest minority women to attain licensure as a Professional Engineer in the State of Michigan. In July 2018, Ms. Mobley was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to the Michigan Infrastructure Council, a state-led board responsible for the implementation and asset management strategy for infrastructure for the next 30 years. Ms. Mobley has been recognized by Crain's Detroit Business as a notable woman in STEM (2019) and is a Crain's Detroit Business 40 Under 40 Award recipient (September 2019). Ms. Mobley also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Sinai Grace Guild Community Development Corporation.

2019

DR. ALTHEA SIMPSON has been involved in teaching and training youth and adults for more than 30 years. Dr. Simpson graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1986 and the Syracuse University College of Law in 1989, earned a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in 2006 and 2009, respectively. Dr. Simpson, a licensed attorney and minister, utilizes her diverse educational background to develop curriculum, training materials, and workshops for various religious and community service organizations. Dr. Simpson, a firm believer in education's power and necessity, currently serves as the Director of Discipleship for Franklin Community Church in Franklin, Michigan. Dr. Simpson and the Franklin congregation are committed to serving our community through numerous outreach efforts, including supporting Cass Community Social Services, Baldwin Center, and Alternatives For Girls. (Honored in 2019)

LASHINDA STAIR is a 24-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department; she has held the rank of Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Inspector, and Deputy Chief. In March 2014, under the leadership of Chief James E. Craig, Deputy Chief Stair made history when she became the first member of the Detroit Police Department to be appointed to the rank of 1st Assistant Chief. Ms. Stair is a graduate of the Detroit Regional Chamber's 39th Leadership Detroit Class, the F.B.I National Executive Institute (FBINEIA), and the Senior Management Institute of Police (SMIP). Ms. Stair is also a graduate of the Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command.

Ms. Stair is a member of the Michigan Chapter of the International Women's Forum, Wayne State Alumni Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Ms. Stair was named by FORBES Magazine one of the 2017 "Forty over Forty Women to Watch." In 2019, she was named Role Model of the Year by Alternatives for Girls (AFG) and received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Boy Scouts of America's Workforce Development Exploring Program. In 2020, Ms. Stair was featured in i. Detroit, a photographic project which tells the stories and ancestral DNA of 100 extraordinary Detroiters. Ms. Stair is a loving wife and devoted mother of two phenomenal children.

LINDA TALIAFERRO is the Vice President of Global Quality for Meritor, Inc. Ms. Taliaferro, who has led Meritor's Global Quality organization since November 2014, has more than 30 years of experience working with statistical data as a strategist who focuses on quality management and operational excellence. Ms. Taliaferro's STEM education has been key to her leadership in quality, supply chain development, and environmental and health and safety excellence for leading manufacturers. Ms. Taliaferro is also very involved in the community working on programs that inspire and promote women and girls to expand their STEM careers. Ms. Taliaferro founded The TEE, (The Extra Effort), a career advisor to women seeking senior leadership positions within corporate America. Helping them change the trajectory of their careers. Flip the script. Driving more women seated at the table. Ms. Taliaferro has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. Ms. Taliaferro holds a certification as a Six Sigma Greenbelt and is proficient in German.

2018

ALICIA BOLER DAVIS serves as Executive Vice President, Global Manufacturing at General Motors. Ms. Davis began her GM career in 1994 as a manufacturing engineer at the Midsize/Luxury Car Division in Warren, Michigan. She has held many positions of increasing responsibility in manufacturing, engineering, and product development during her career. When working at Arlington Assembly in Texas, Ms. Davis became the first African-American woman to manage a GM vehicle manufacturing plant. Ms. Davis' professional honors include the 2018 Black Engineer of the Year award and the Automotive News 2017 All-Star in Manufacturing title. In 2013, Fortune magazine named Ms. Davis one of the ten most powerful women in the automotive industry.

DEBORAH LABELLE Deborah LaBelle is an attorney, professor, writer, and advocate who focuses on the application of human rights for marginalized communities. Ms. LaBelle has been lead counsel in over a dozen class actions that have successfully challenged policies affecting the treatment of incarcerated men, women, and juveniles and their families. Ms. LaBelle is a Senior Soros Justice Fellow and the first American recognized by Human Rights Watch as a Human Rights Monitor. In addition to her private practice, she is director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative. Ms. LaBelle is a recipient of Michigan's State Bar Champion of Justice Award, recognized as one of Michigan's top lawyers, and received the National Trial Lawyer of the Year Award from the Public Interest Foundation (2008) and National Lawyer Guild's Law for the People Award (2008). Ms. LaBelle received the Wade Hampton McCree Jr. Award for the advancement of social justice presented by the Federal Bar (2009) and the Susan B. Anthony Award from the University of Michigan (2010).

MONICA L. MARTINEZ is Senior Vice President of External Affairs for Comerica Bank. Ms. Martinez manages the corporate contributions function for the Michigan market and oversees all aspects of the bank's involvement in Hispanic Business Development nationally. Ms. Martinez oversees charitable contributions budgets and all corporate philanthropic giving, including day-to-day program management of Comerica's charitable foundation and sponsorship programs in the state of Michigan. In the capacity of National Hispanic Business Developer, Ms. Martinez serves as the liaison for the bank within the Hispanic community, directing Comerica's Hispanic business and community outreach in the bank's primary markets in Texas, Arizona, California, Florida, and Michigan.

2017

CINDY ESTRADA is the International Union and UAW Vice President and leads the General Motors Independent Parts Supplier, Organizing, and Women's departments. Ms. Estrada is currently the lead negotiator for Fiat Chrysler workers. Ms. Estrada, a longtime union organizer, is the first Latina elected to serve as an International Officer in the UAW. In 1999, she spearheaded the successful campaign to organize Spanish-speaking workers at Mexican Industries in Southwest Detroit. In 2000, she was appointed to the UAW International Staff, led the union's National Organizing Department in 2008, and was elected Vice President in 2010. Ms. Estrada's contract negotiations have impacted thousands of workers at Dana, Johnson Controls, Lear, Magna International Automotive Components (IAC), Faurecia, the State of Michigan, and more. Ms. Estrada earned a degree in education from the University of Michigan.

AFG ROLE MODELS 2020–1991

2017 (continued)

CAROL GOSS served as president & CEO of The Skillman Foundation, an independent foundation focused on improving children’s lives in metropolitan Detroit. After 15 years at Skillman, in 2014, she became a fellow in the Advanced Leadership Initiative program at Harvard University. Ms. Goss is currently working with Warrior Women Against Poverty, a coalition of African American women fighting impoverishment. Ms. Goss also counts nearly 20 years of experience in child welfare, family services, and youth development in Detroit and Oakland, California. A native Detroiter, Ms. Goss has a BA in sociology and an MSW from the University of Michigan. Ms. Goss currently serves on the boards of Detroit Children’s Fund, Planned Parenthood of Michigan, Board Source, Safe Routes to Schools, the National Partnership, and Samaritas. Crain’s Detroit Business cited her as one of Southeast Michigan’s Most Influential Women.

DR. ROSEMARY SARRI is a leading expert in child and family welfare policy and juvenile and criminal justice systems. Dr. Sarri joined the University of Michigan School of Social Work in 1959 and was promoted to professor in 1966. Dr. Sarri served as head of the doctoral program, admissions, and the social welfare administration program. Dr. Sarri was named Professor Emerita of Social Work in 1993, and the Rosemary Sarri Scholarship was established in her name. Dr. Sarri serves as a faculty associate and senior research professor emerita at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research. Dr. Sarri’s international social work is extensive, and her honors include a Fulbright Senior Scholarship, NASW Presidential Award for Research, and the University of Michigan Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award, among others.

2016

DENISE BROOKS-WILLIAMS is the President and CEO of Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital. Ms. Brooks-Williams holds a Master of Health Services Administration Degree from the University of Michigan. Ms. Brooks-Williams started her career as a management fellow at Mercy Hospital in Detroit. Ms. Brooks-Williams has served as president of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) and is active in several community organizations, including United Way and Lighthouse of Oakland County. Among many honors is the University of Michigan Five Under Ten alumni award and the Michigan Chronicle 2010 Women of Excellence Award. After being honored at the Role Model Dinner, Ms. Brooks-Williams was selected as one of Crain’s 100 Most Influential Women.

RAQUEL CASTAÑEDA–LÓPEZ is a southwest Detroit native and the first Latina elected to Detroit City Council in 2013. Inspired by her mentors and peers at Alternatives For Girls, Ms. Castañeda–López earned a Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Michigan. While working as an advisor at Wayne State, she helped underrepresented students fulfill their education dreams and established supportive service programs for minority students. Ms. Castañeda–López’s city council work has strengthened ties between local government, business, and community. Also a Fellow with the Center for Progressive Leaders, she has received several awards for promoting cultural awareness.

JANET MCAULIFFE is a community volunteer and has volunteered at Alternatives For Girls since 2010. Ms. McAuliffe assisted with and expanded summer gardening workshops at AFG. In 2014, she collaborated with staff and volunteers to launch Sew Great Detroit, an AFG social enterprise program. Ms. McAuliffe retired after 26 years at Merck & Co. Inc., was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing at Mercy College of Detroit and at Monroe Community College, a pediatric nurse at William Beaumont Hospital and Children’s Hospital of Michigan, and holds a Master of Science Degree in Nursing and an Associate Degree in Landscape Design.

2015

SUSAN KELLY is an internationally recognized expert on child welfare issues. Previous to retiring, Ms. Kelly was a Senior Executive Fellow with Casey Family Programs Systems Improvement Division, a Senior Associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy in Washington, D.C., and the Director of the Division of Community Supportive Services at the Michigan Department of Human Services. As a founding member of the International Initiative for Children, Youth and Families, Ms. Kelly has been on the planning committees for seminars on youth policy and child protection all over the world. Before joining the state government, Ms. Kelly worked at the University of Michigan as an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology and Religion and the University Counseling Services. Ms. Kelly holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Religious Education from the Catholic University of America.

KRISTA MCCLURE is an Executive Assistant at Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. Ms. McClure was formerly the Executive Assistant to the CEO of Excellent Schools Detroit and an executive assistant to the CEO of Detroit Achievement Academy. Ms. McClure also worked as a paraprofessional at Stewart Performance Academy and a behavior interventionist. Ms. McClure is a Core Committee Member of the African American 490 Challenge (aa490challenge) and Detroit Rotary. Ms. McClure has also been involved in community service since her early teens, including volunteer work at Gleaners Food Bank, Vista Maria, and many more. At an especially vulnerable time in her life, Ms. McClure was a resident of AFG’s shelter. Today, as a mother of two, a respected professional, community activist, and gardener, she is truly a success story.

VIVIAN PICKARD is President & CEO of the Pickard Group and former president of the General Motors Foundation. Ms. Pickard is an accomplished Fortune 500 executive with expertise in corporate and community relations, marketing, strategic planning, public policy, health care, and philanthropy. Ms. Pickard’s depth of knowledge in developing strategy and overseeing giving efforts in education, health, human services, environment, and community development led to General Motors’ philanthropic leadership recognition on a national and international level. Ms. Pickard serves as a board member of Fifth Third Bank-Eastern Michigan. Ms. Pickard has been instrumental in helping to develop strategic initiatives for improving the organization’s bottom line. Ms. Pickard earned her Master’s in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor’s degree from Ferris State University. Ms. Pickard also received an honorary doctorate from Ferris State University. Ms. Pickard is widely known and well respected for her leadership; her accomplishments have been acknowledged by the many awards and recognitions she has received throughout her career.

2014

AMYRE MAKUPSON is known as one of television’s most respected and active anchors and broadcast executives. Ms. Makupson served as Public Affairs Manager for UPN50 and CBS62 as well as a news anchor for the UPN50 “Ten O’Clock News” and CBS “News at Eleven.” She earned six Emmy awards for Best News Anchor, Best Interview/ Discussion program, and Best Commentary four times during her broadcast career. Ms. Makupson received a total of 22 nominations in all. Ms. Makupson serves on the board of directors for several community organizations and volunteers as a teacher’s aide at McDowell Elementary School in Detroit.

ANDRA RUSH, a Native American woman, is the founder and chairperson of the Rush Group family of companies, including Rush Trucking and Dakkota Integrated Systems. This consortium of manufacturing, trucking, assembly, and distribution is one of the largest Native American-owned businesses in the USA. Ms. Rush serves numerous organizations on boards and commissions. Governor Rick Snyder appointed her to serve as trustee for Michigan’s Children’s Trust Fund. In January 2014, Ms. Rush was invited to attend the State of the Union Address as a guest of First Lady Michelle Obama. President Obama highlighted her work as an example of job creation and business ingenuity.

2013

MARY ELLEN GUREWITZ has been a lawyer for more than 40 years. Ms. Gurewitz is currently Of Counsel to Sachs Waldman’s firm and concentrates on union-side labor law and political and election law. She represents a wide variety of unions in both the public and private sectors. Ms. Gurewitz has been a leader in voter protection efforts. She serves on the Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. Ms. Gurewitz has been a leader in establishing and directing a new social justice organization, Detroit Jews for Justice.

PATRICIA MARYLAND, PH, is the Executive Vice President, Ascension, and President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension Healthcare. Dr. Maryland previously served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of metro-Detroit based St. John Providence Health System and the Ascension Health Ministry Market Leader for the Michigan Region. After more than 30 years in the health care industry, Dr. Maryland has a reputation for inspiring and leading transformational change. While at St. Vincent, Dr. Maryland served as Chair of the Citizens’ Health Care Working Group, a group mandated by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. Dr. Maryland has published several papers, is involved with various community associations, and sits on numerous boards.

TRINA R. SHANKS, PH.D., is currently a Harold R. Johnson Collegiate Professor and Director of Community Engagement at the University of Michigan School of Social Work and founding director of the Center for Family & Community Well-Being. Dr. Shanks’ research interests include the impact of poverty and wealth on child well-being; asset-building policy and practice across the life cycle, and community and economic development. Dr. Shanks is one of three national co-leads for the Social Work Grand Challenge: Reduce Extreme Economic Inequality. Dr. Shanks served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador and earned a Master’s degree in Comparative Social Research from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Dr. Shanks also completed a two-year appointment with the Michigan Governor’s Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity. Dr. Shanks’ most notable accomplishments include her initiation of a family mentoring program and the introduction of Individual Development Accounts to public housing residents.

REGINA SHARMA is Associate Director of Philanthropy and Senior Major Gifts Officer for the Wayne State University College of Nursing and Managing Partner of Sharma Analytics, a data and technology firm where she consults with foundations and nonprofits. Ms. Sharma is a proud WSU alum with a BA in Public Relations. Ms. Sharma holds a Master’s in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. Ms. Sharma has served at United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, and the Detroit Regional Chamber. Before joining WSU, she was a Development Officer for the Detroit Public Schools Foundation, raising funds to benefit Detroit students’ programs. Ms. Sharma is a graduate of Leadership Detroit Class XXXIII and a recipient of the Michigan Governors Service Award and the Spirit of Detroit Award.

2012

CAROLYN LETT is Roeper School’s Diversity and Community Programs Coordinator and has served the school for 18 years. Ms. Lett is chair of the Roeper School “All School Diversity Committee,” the advisor for the middle/upper school Student Diversity Committee, and stewards inclusivity in all areas of the school’s programs. Ms. Lett is also involved in local and national diversity work, serving as Chair of the AIMS Southeastern Michigan Diversity Committee and as a member of the NAIS “Call to Action” Committee.

KRISTINA MARSHALL was a student in the inaugural Winning Futures high school mentoring class in 1994. After graduating from college, Ms. Marshall joined the team in 1998. Since then, Ms. Marshall has made Winning Futures her life’s mission, leading the development of Winning Futures into a nationally recognized and award-winning expert in empowering high school students to succeed. Today, Ms. Marshall is the president and chief executive officer. Recognizing that many high school students struggle with challenges, ranging from poverty to lack of support, and leave school lacking skills companies want in their employees, Ms. Marshall worked with her team to develop Workforce Prep – a new, cutting-edge experiential four-year program that includes in-class mentoring, life skill development, goal setting, job readiness training, and career exploration. Ms. Marshall speaks nationally and inspires audiences about the future of work, developing the next workforce, non-profit networking and sales, and empowering youth through life skills programs. Ms. Marshall has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Michigan Technological University and a Master of Education from Oakland University.

FAYE NELSON currently serves as Michigan Director of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Before joining the Kellogg Foundation, Ms. Nelson served as the 2018 Sojourner Truth Fellow at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she taught a graduate level course on place making and public space development in urban communities. Before joining University of Michigan’s faculty, Ms. Nelson served as Vice President of DTE Energy (NYSE: DTE); additionally, she was Board Chair and President of the DTE Energy Foundation.

Ms. Nelson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Mercy College of Detroit and a law degree from the University Of Detroit School Of Law. Ms. Nelson is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and a Life Member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference. Ms. Nelson is also a member of the Detroit Athletic Club, the Economic Club of Detroit, and the International Women’s Forum-Michigan where she serves as co-chair of the 2020 IWF World Leadership Conference in Detroit, Michigan.

Ms. Nelson is the recipient of numerous awards including Crain’s Detroit Business’ 100 Most Influential Women in Michigan - 2016, the Walsh College Jeffery Barry Education Excellence & Community Service Award, and the Damon J. Keith 24th Annual Soul and Spirit Humanitarian Award.

2011

VALERIE NEWMAN, JD, has been an attorney with the State Appellate Defender Office for over 20 years. Throughout Ms. Newman’s career, she has advocated for women’s rights and the professional development of women. In 2011, Ms. Newman argued the case of Lafler v Cooper before the United States Supreme Court. In 2012, the Court ruled in her client’s favor in a 5–4 decision. The New York Times heralded the decision as to the most important right to counsel case since Gideon v Wainwright while legal rights groups and scholars alike cite it as one of the most important Supreme Court Term cases. Ms. Newman has received many honors, including the 2013 Champion of Justice award from the State Bar and being named a top lawyer in the United States in 2012. Ms. Newman also created the Culinary Challenge, an event that raises funds for several nonprofits that support girls each year, including Alternatives For Girls.

ANN NICHOLSON has been active in programs supporting educational activities since she moved to Michigan in 1972. Ms. Nicholson has tutored children in after-school programs and helped adults improve their reading skills. Ms. Nicholson’s family hosted many exchange students from all over the world, and she coordinated the AFS Student Exchange Program in her community for ten years. Ms. Nicholson served on the Board of Japhet School for five years and as a Trustee for Oakland University for sixteen years. Currently, she is a member of the Board of Visitors of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute at Wayne State and the Young Woman’s Home Association as well as a member of the Board of Alternatives For Girls. Other interests include The League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. Ms. Nicholson grew up in Everett, Washington, is married with four children and ten grandchildren.

2010

JOCELYN K. ALLEN is the Co-Founder and CEO of the Allen Lewis Agency. Previously, Ms. Allen was the President and CEO of Wing Divas and the Director of Cross-brand Communications at General Motors. Ms. Allen has been recognized for her professional achievements by The National Association of Black Journalists (Patricia L. Tobin Media Professional Award 2017), the Allen Miller Foundation (Multicultural Humanitarian Award), and the National Diversity Opportunity Council (the inaugural Michigan Chronicle Women of Excellence Award and the Urban Wheel Awards Minority Executive of the Year 2009).

CHRISTIANNE SIMS is the director of Fusion, the Young Professional Organization of the Detroit Regional Chamber. Ms. Sims founded Urbanize(D), a communications and talent engagement consultancy, and is the project manager for the Emerging Leaders Roundtable for the BING Institute. Ms. Sims appeared on the 2009 Diversity Champion Honor Roll of the Race Relations & Diversity Task Force and was a member of Crain’s 20 in their 20s Class of 2010.

SUSAN P. STEIGERWALT, MD, has practiced medicine in metro Detroit her entire career, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to women, African-Americans, and the city. Dr. Steigerwalt and her partners established a state-of-the-art medical clinic on Detroit’s east side, renovating an abandoned building. Dr. Steigerwalt is currently a nephrologist in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Beaumont Hospital-Farmington Hills and Beaumont Hospital-Grosse Pointe. Dr. Steigerwalt regularly speaks and publishes on hypertension and kidney disease, conditions prevalent in the community she serves.

2009

KAREN LOVE has worked for numerous print publications, including two decades with the Michigan Chronicle and a career in community connections focused on the elderly in Midtown Detroit. In 2013, Ms. Love founded her firm, KarYzma Media Consulting Inc., specializing in black media, and has embarked on the second stage of her career as the community connections coordinator for Greater Midtown. There, Ms. Love interacts with seniors by creating and maintaining activities that improve their quality of life. Before embarking on this journey, Ms. Love was the COO at the Michigan Chronicle from 1989-2013 and was responsible for local and national advertising sales and acted as the liaison to other national African American newspapers and related organizations. At the age of 65, Ms. Love decided that she was ready for a change and returned to college, earning a degree in sociology at Eastern Michigan University and a master’s degree in gerontology from the University of Southern California. Ms. Love has been honored with numerous awards, including the Chicago Tribune Black Achiever Award and the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries 2008 Unsung Hero Award.

MARLA TAPPER YOUNG, co-owner and Customer Relations Manager of Tapper’s Diamonds and Fine Jewelry, created and led the “Dress for a Dream” campaign in 2004, which made gently used evening dresses available for high school girls across metropolitan Detroit to enable them to attend their senior proms. Ms. Tapper Young leads Tapper’s annual Coat Drive and has been a mentor to young women through Jewish Family Services.

2008

LINDA FORTE retired from her position at Comerica after 42 years developing the company’s corporate-wide diversity, philanthropy, and community involvement strategy and programming. Under Ms. Forte’s leadership, Comerica has been recognized for outstanding leadership in diversity, including national awards from Diversity Inc., Hispanic Business, and Black Enterprise magazines. In 2011, Ms. Forte was appointed as a commissioner for the Detroit Sewage and Water Department, and in 2016, she was recognized in Black Enterprises’ “Top Executives in Diversity.”

MINNIE PEARCE became a Title I Consultant at Detroit Public Schools in 2011. Previously, Ms. Pearce served as a parliamentarian and national trainer for the Parent Institute of the National Coalition of ESEA Title 1 Parents, Inc. that provides for supplementary academic assistance to economically and educationally disadvantaged children.

RHONDA WALKER has been helping Detroiters get motivated and ready for the day with her incredible energy, enthusiasm, impeccable style, and passion for her hometown for the past 22 years. A confessed morning person, this award-winning talented and versatile journalist starts her day at 2:00 am to co-anchor the weekday morning newscast at WDIV-Local 4 News. A position she’s held since 2003. But for those of you who only know Rhonda Walker the Anchor Person, there is so much more.

Over the past 8 years Ms. Walker has been recognized by her peers, and received awards and honors from over 50 different community, corporate, and professional organizations. Ms. Walker is also the founder and president of the Rhonda Walker Foundation, now in its 18th year (2021). Born in Detroit and raised in Lansing, Ms. Walker holds a degree in Communications from Michigan State University.

2007

CARMEN HARLAN recently retired from her position as a senior news anchor at WDIV Local 4 after a career that spanned 38 years. Ms. Harlan was honored for her stellar professional achievements and exemplary commitment to causes that address children’s needs, among them: Sparky Anderson’s CATCH, the Karmanos Foundation, Operation ABLE, The Children’s Center, and Alternatives For Girls. As a co-anchor, Ms. Harlan helped make “Local First News at 11” the number one rated news program in Detroit. Ms. Harlan is currently collaborating with New York-based designer and fashion consultant PingPong Khumwan of Maison Khoomwan to create a clothing line unique to Detroit.

AFG ROLE MODELS 2020–1991

2007 (continued)

FRANCINE PARKER, a health care executive, is known nationally for the role she played developing and leading the United Auto Workers (UAW) Retiree Medical Benefits Trust. Before joining the trust, Ms. Parker spent nearly three decades at the Health Alliance Plan (HAP) of Michigan. Ms. Parker joined as one of HAP’s 14 original employees and worked her way up, spending the last five years of her tenure as president and CEO.

Ms. Parker has also held leadership roles with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the Henry Ford Health System.

Ms. Parker, now retired, is a trustee of several employer-funded Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Associations–Dana Incorporated, Daimler Trucks North America, Mack Trucks, Inc., and Automotive Component Carrier, Inc. Ms. Parker is also a member of the board of directors of the Alliance for Health Policy in Washington, DC, and Siena Heights University, her alma mater. In 2019, Ms. Parker was recognized as a Newsmaker of the Year by Crain’s Detroit Business.

ALICE G. THOMPSON has been CEO of Black Family Development since 1994. As CEO, Ms. Thompson expanded its programs and services to encompass a comprehensive family and youth services continuum. Under her leadership, the organization has provided an array of positive youth development services to thousands of youth. Ms. Thompson is a graduate of Leadership Detroit Class of XXV and is very active in professional, educational, community, and faith-based initiatives. Ms. Thompson holds several appointments from Governor Jennifer Granholm and serves on several non-profit Boards, including the Wayne State University Board of Visitors.

2006

NETTIE SEABROOKS rose to her position as Executive Advisor to the Director of the Detroit Institute of Arts in 2008, powered by her passion for learning. Previously, Ms. Seabrooks spent 31 years at General Motors Corporation, where she was the first African American woman executive. Blazing new trails for women in public service, Ms. Seabrooks served as the first woman Deputy Mayor, Chief of Staff, and Chief Operating Officer for the city of Detroit during the administration of Mayor Dennis Archer. Ms. Seabrooks retired from the DIA in 2013 and is now a consultant to the Manoogian Foundation and serves on the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy board.

DENISE STARR currently serves as the City of Detroit’s Human Resources Director. Formerly, Ms. Starr was chief administrative officer for Compuware Corporation. Ms. Starr is passionate about people, projects, and her profession. A graduate of the University of Detroit-Mercy, Ms. Starr has become a respected leader in facilities management and administration.

KIM TRENT is a stand-out leader in every endeavor she attempts, and she is often praised for the vision, passion, and distinction she brings to the metro Detroit organizations she runs, supports, and serves. Ms. Trent is currently serving a seven-year term on the Board of Governors for Wayne State University. She was appointed as director of the southeast Michigan office of Governor Jennifer Granholm, and she also served as a regional manager for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, communications director for U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, and as a reporter for The Detroit News, the Michigan Chronicle, and The Toledo Blade.

2005

JUDITH ELLIS started as a volunteer with the First Step Western Wayne County Project on Domestic Violence more than 20 years ago, eventually earning her current position as the executive director. Under Ms. Ellis’ leadership, First Step grew from a small grassroots agency with one building and a 20-bed, short-term shelter to a multi-site, multi-service organization serving more than 30 communities and close to 7,000 clients a year.

MAHA FREIJ is the Executive Director at ACCESS and is a leading visionary in the Arab American community regarding philanthropy and building strong institutions to strengthen its voice in American civil society. Ms. Freij currently serves on the Detroit Future City Board, and is a community board member of Wayne Health (previously called Wayne State University Physician Group). Ms. Freij’s prior board memberships and affiliations include United Palestinian Appeal; One D Initiative – Champions Council; the Mosaic Youth Theatre; Leadership Detroit Class of XXXV; University of Michigan - Dearborn’s Citizens Advisory Committee; ACLU-Michigan; and the Independent Sector Advisory Group on Nonprofit Effectiveness. Ms. Freij is a graduate of the Hebrew University with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and economics. Ms. Freij is credited as the first Arab/Palestinian woman to earn a CPA license in Israel in 1989 – the same year she immigrated to the United States.

ROCHELLE RILEY is the Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit. Ms. Riley formerly was a nationally syndicated columnist for the Detroit Free Press in Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Riley was an advocate in her column for improved race relations, literacy, community building, and children. Ms. Riley has appeared on NPR, MSNBC, CNN, and FOX2. Ms. Riley has worked as an editor or reporter at The Washington Post, The Dallas Morning News, the Dallas Times Herald, and The (Louisville) Courier-Journal. In Louisville, Ms. Riley was deputy managing editor, 1992–96, associate editor and columnist, 1996–2000; and from 2000 to 2019, she was a Detroit Free Press columnist. In 1985, when Ms. Riley was with The Dallas Morning News, she founded the DFW/ABC Urban Journalism Workshop to train minority youth to be journalists. Ms. Riley attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she majored in journalism and English. In 2008, Ms. Riley completed a Knight-Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan.

2004

GLENDA D. PRICE, PH.D., Since April 1, 2016 Dr. Price has been fully retired and serves as a volunteer on several boards in the city. Dr. Price’s focus is on programs related to education, the arts, and health care. While retired Dr. Price has served as the Interim President of the Michigan Colleges Foundation from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2008 and she has been engaged in volunteer activities with numerous non-profit organizations. Dr. Price currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Science Center, member of the Executive Committee for the board of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, member of the boards of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Marygrove Conservancy. Dr. Price is a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and an alumna member of the Detroit Chapter of The Links, Inc.

From October 2012 to April 2016, Dr. Price served as the president of the Detroit Public Schools Foundation. Prior to this position, Dr. Price served as the president of Marygrove College from 1998 to 2006. Dr. Price was the College’s seventh president and the first African-American to hold this position; she retired from the presidency in June 2006. Dr. Price is a native of Pennsylvania where she attended Temple University. Dr. Price earned a bachelor’s degree in medical technology, a master’s degree in educational media and a Ph.D. in educational psychology. In addition, Dr. Price furthered her education in the Management Development Program and New Presidents’ Institutes at Harvard University.

SHIRLEY R. STANCATO is president & CEO of the New Detroit, Inc., southeastern Michigan’s leadership coalition devoted solely to race relations, serving as an essential forum for discussion, advocacy, and identifying issues, and providing solutions to promote racial equity in the region. Before New Detroit, Ms. Stancato enjoyed a long career with what is now Chase Bank. A lifelong Detroiter, Ms. Stancato earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Wayne State University.

2003

CLAIRE J. ROBERTS, SIOR, has been a commercial real estate broker representing landlords and tenants for over 20 years. In 2014, Ms. Roberts transitioned to investment sales, specializing in the sale of office and industrial buildings throughout the country. Throughout her career, Ms. Roberts has been actively involved in the Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Network. CREW Network exists to influence the commercial real estate industry’s success by advancing the achievements of women. Ms. Roberts served on the CREW Detroit Board of Directors for three years, the MNCREW Board of Directors for six years, serving as Chapter President in 2014. Ms. Roberts has received the SIOR (specialist industrial and office realtor) designation and currently serves on the MN Chapter Board of Directors.

BRENDA ROSENBERG serves as an example of the positive effects of change. As a high-powered fashion executive for 20 years, Ms. Rosenberg influenced international style. Ms. Rosenberg’s current mission is to create peace between individuals and groups that are in conflict. Ms. Rosenberg serves as an advisor to the FBI’s Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (MCAC), Advocates Leaders to build Police and Community Trust (ALPACT), appears on Sheriff Bouchard’s (SAC) Special Advisory Council for Oakland County, and is the Jewish liaison to Interfaith Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan.

2002

THE HON. JUNE BLACKWELL-HATCHER became the first woman in history to sit in the Estates Division of the Wayne County Probate Court and one of only two African American female judges in Michigan to preside over an Estate docket. Judge Blackwell-Hatcher has served as President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and has been a member of the National College of Probate Judges, the Michigan Probate Judges Association, the Greater Wayne County Chapter of Links, Inc., and the Wayne County Probate Bar Association.

THE LATE MARILYN MALIN strived to develop ways to help workers connect with jobs. Ms. Malin co-owned Staff Solutions, Inc., a temporary employment firm with a system of delivering employees to job sites in the tri-county area via bus and van.

2001

NANETTE LEE REYNOLDS, ED.D., has worked with three governors to further the course of civil rights in Michigan. Dr. Reynolds was appointed director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights in 1993. Dr. Reynolds also was a representative on the King Center National Holiday Advisory Committee and served on the Michigan Commission on Genetic Privacy and Progress.

JOANNE START is Managing Director-Michigan Market, BPI group, a global human resource consulting and executive coaching firm based in Paris, France. Ms. Start is active in the International Women’s Forum, the Detroit Economic Club, Inforum-Michigan, and the Michigan Women’s Foundation’s Power of 100 Women.

2000

MAUREEN A. FAY, O.P., PH.D., worked to improve education as President of the University of Detroit Mercy and as a member of the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan. As the first female president of a Jesuit university, Dr. Fay serves as a role model and mentor to other women who have become the “first” in various educational leadership roles. Dr. Fay’s honors include a spot on CRAIN’s list of most influential women in Detroit, as well as awards from the Salvation Army and the National Conference for Humanity and Justice.

PAMELA RODGERS built her successful business, Rodgers Chevrolet, Inc. of Woodhaven, Michigan, on customer satisfaction. Ms. Rodgers started her career with Ford Motor Company as a financial analyst, then ran a General Motors dealership in Flat Rock. Ms. Rodgers believes in community involvement and has served on the GM Women Dealers Advisory Board and the boards of New Detroit, the Detroit Black Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, the Merrill Palmer Institute, and Alternatives For Girls among others.

1999

JULIE FISHER CUMMINGS, Founder of Lovelight Foundation, strives to enhance the quality of life for underprivileged children, women, and families. In addition to Ms. Fisher-Cummings work at the Lovelight Foundation, Ms. Fisher Cummings serves as the Vice-Chair of the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation and teaches child policy at the University of Miami. Ms. Fisher-Cummings is a former trustee of Children’s Hospital of Michigan and current president of the Washington D.C.-based National Association for Children of Alcoholics.

THE HON. DENISE PAGE HOOD, JD, administers the law and strives for justice as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. Nominated by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the Senate in 1994, Judge Hood became the first African American judge in 13 years to join the Eastern District of Michigan bench.

GAIL PERRY-MASON of Detroit, Michigan, has come a long way, from foster care to caring for others. Detroiter Ms. Perry-Mason is well known in the securities industry. Ms. Perry-Mason has climbed the corporate ladder from receptionist to First Vice President of Investments of Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. The Women’s Informal Network elected her as one of Detroit’s Most Influential Women in the Financial Industry in 1999. Ms. Perry-Mason is a sought-after speaker for many corporations, agencies, labor unions, religious groups, non-profit organizations, youth organizations, women’s groups, and schools. Ms. Perry-Mason founded and directed the original Money Camp for Teens and the first Youth Investment that is incorporated in the United States. Now Money Matters for Youth has instructed youth and has mentored young women that are now professionals in the financial industry. Ms. Perry-Mason book “Girl, Make Your Money Grow”: became a number one seller.

1998

MARILYN FRENCH HUBBARD, PH.D., advocates for the empowerment of women in many different facets of life. Dr. Hubbard is the author of the business book “Sisters Are Cashing In: How Every Woman Can Make Her Financial Dreams Come True” and has served on various boards. Dr. Hubbard is the founder of the National Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs, Inc., and is the founding vice president of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), Michigan Chapter. Dr. Hubbard has also served in several corporate and federal leadership roles through Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton.

ANN H. HOAG is a retired senior director of leadership programs for the Detroit Regional Chamber. Ms. Hoag led Leadership Detroit, the Leadership Policy Conference, the chamber’s diversity initiatives, and headed the Mackinac Conference. Ms. Hoag has served on the executive committee of Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit and has been a board member of the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation.

1997

ALEXA CANADY, M.D., retired as chief neurosurgeon of Children’s Hospital of Michigan and vice chair of neurosurgery at Wayne State University. In 1981, Dr. Canady became the first female and the first African American neurosurgeon.

ROBERTA SANDERS recently retired from her position as the CEO of New Center Community Health System. Ms. Sanders managed a \$9.5-million budget and directed the treatment of thousands of mentally ill clients. In the 32 years, she was employed with the NCCHS, Ms. Sanders served the community of Detroit and worked for inclusion and understanding.

1996

VERNICE D. ANTHONY is currently the interim CEO of Focus: HOPE, a Detroit-based civil and human rights organization. Throughout her career, Ms. Anthony developed and worked with collaborative models to improve health care access, quality and cost. Ms. Anthony has been President and CEO of the Greater Detroit Area Health Council, senior vice president of Corporate Affairs and Community Health at St. John Health, and served as director of the Michigan Department of Public Health.

MARY KRAMER is a seasoned expert with more than 25 years of reporting and management experience. Ms. Kramer joined Crain’s Detroit Business in 1989, and in 1990 was named Associate Publisher. In May 1994, Ms. Kramer was named a Vice President of Crain Communications Inc, and in May 2005, she was named Publisher, responsible for sales, circulation, and editorial operations of Crain’s Detroit Business. In 2012, Ms. Kramer was named Group Publisher at Crain Communications, supervising Crain’s Cleveland Business and Detroit. Today, she is active in many Detroit-area business and civic organizations, including several supporting at-risk girls and education. Ms. Kramer is a trustee of both the Skillman Foundation in Detroit and Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in the Grand Rapids area. Mr. Kramer was also the first woman to be elected president of the historic Detroit Athletic Club.

1995

GUADALUPE G. LARA, LMSW, dedicated 27 years advocating for families at Children’s Hospital of Michigan until she retired in 2006 to care for her ailing mother in Texas. Ms. Lara work as the director of the Consortium of Hispanic Agencies, where she works with the six-member agencies to advocate on behalf of Hispanic issues at the local and state level. Previous to this most recent position, Ms. Lara held a variety of leadership positions and is a motivational speaker who has been recognized for her work on inclusion by over 45 organizations. Ms. Lara has been invited to present her work in the United States, Norway, Australia, Mexico, and Canada. Five different Michigan governors have named Ms. Lara to lead boards and commissions based on her advocacy on behalf of the underserved.

ANGELA B. WILSON was executive assistant to former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer. Ms. Wilson served as a board member of the American Friends Service Committee and the Michigan Metropolitan Girl Scouts Council.

1994

NANCY J. DIEHL’S legal career in the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office spanned 28 years. At the time of her retirement, Ms. Diehl was Chief of the Trial Division, overseeing general trials, child and family abuse, homicide, auto theft, major drugs, and victim services. Ms. Diehl’s work as founder and director of the Child Abuse Unit and the expanded Child and Family Abuse Bureau gained state and national attention as a model program of the team approach of prosecutor and advocate vertically handling abuse cases in the criminal justice system. Ms. Diehl is the co-author of four booklets pertaining to children and the legal system: *It is good to tell the truth, Kids go to court, Kids and secrets, and Sometimes it is sad to be at home, What is a kid to do about domestic violence?*

REV. JOANN WATSON is the Associate Pastor of West Side Unity Church and Host of the Radio/TV show: “Wake Up Detroit” featured on Comcast Channel 91 via Watkins TV Broadcasting and 910 AM Radio Superstation. Previously, Reverend Watson served as a Detroit City Council Member and the president and CEO of JoAnn Watson Systems, Incorporated. Reverend Watson has concentrated her energies on promoting social and economic justice. Reverend Watson is devoted to combatting racism, countering sexism, and promoting peace, justice, and freedom. Reverend Watson’s commitment to her community is extensive as she is founding President of the National Association of Black Talk Show Hosts, serves on the Advisory Board for American Girl, is a Consultant to Pathways to College, and is a member of The Detroit Council of Elders and The National Black Council of Elders.

1993

HELEN B. LOVE continues to build on her professional experience, personal interests, and community ties since retiring from Ford Motor Company as Community Relations Director. Committed to building the health, wellness, and long-term care literacy of Detroit residents, Ms. Love produces the Detroit Area Agency on Aging’s weekly radio show. This “encore career” builds on Ms. Love’s years of experience in local television production and service on numerous non-profit boards.

1992

THE HON. VESTA SVENSON is a former judge of the 36th District Court. Judge Svenson was rated best judge in the tri-county area by a group of her peers in 1991. Judge Svenson is a member of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan and continues to serve as a visiting judge in various courts.

1991

THE LATE MILDRED JEFFREY was a lifelong campaigner for social justice and civil rights. In the 1940s, Ms. Jeffrey joined the NAACP and embraced the labor movement to organize textile workers across the county. Ms. Jeffrey had a long and celebrated career with the United Auto Workers, ultimately serving as director of its Consumer Affairs Department from 1968 until her retirement. In 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Ms. Jeffrey the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

THANK YOU, 2021 AFG ROLE MODELS

Here's to the whole AFG family



THE AFG MISSION Founded in 1987, Alternatives For Girls (AFG) helps homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation; and helps them 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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