



Alternatives  
For Girls

*International Women's Day*

# ROLE MODEL

*Celebration*

**March 6, 2025**

The Henry Ford | Dearborn, MI

# Changing Her Story.

Scan to explore inspiring stories showcasing the transformative work happening every day at Alternatives For Girls, thanks to you, our community.

Hope to Home



Journey's Journey



Little Dreamers



Supporting Survivors



The Choices You GROW Through



# Tonight's Celebration.

## Welcome

Rochelle Lento, Board Chair, AFG

Michael Bickers, Executive Vice President and Regional  
President of PNC Bank, Detroit and Southeast Michigan

## Introductory Remarks

Hilary Golston, Anchor and Reporter, Fox 2 Detroit

Tonya C. Adair, President & CEO, AFG

## Role Model Presentation

### **Cindy Eggleton**

Robynn Farkas, Chief Development Officer, AFG

### **Telva McGruder**

Alexandra Korell, Board Member, AFG

### **Genevieve Vang**

Dr. Celia Thomas, Chief Operating Officer, AFG

## Mission Moment

Sandra Ramocan, Director of Outreach and  
Education Services, AFG

## Live Auction & Fund The Mission

Chris Aslanian, Auctioneer

## Closing Remarks

Tonya C. Adair, President & CEO, AFG

Hilary Golston, Anchor and Reporter, Fox 2 Detroit

# A Message from Tonya.

Dear Friends,

I am excited to welcome you to Alternatives For Girls' Annual Role Model Celebration in recognition of International Women's Day 2025. Tonight, as we honor three extraordinary women, we also recognize the power of women and men who stand by us, and how together, we are making an impact that changes lives. *That* is community.

Since 1987, Alternatives For Girls (AFG) has been the lifeline for girls and young women who need it the most - helping those who are at risk or have experienced trauma from homelessness, violence, or exploitation. Our work relies on the belief that every individual, when given the right support and guidance, has the potential to make a positive change not only in their own life, but in the world around them.

The importance of role models cannot be overstated in this journey. They inspire, uplift, and show us that no matter the obstacles we face, greatness is attainable. Role models offer tangible proof that resilience and empowerment are possible. They teach us how to stand tall, to lead with compassion, and to never give up, no matter how difficult the road ahead might seem. By their example, they inspire us to lean on community in times of need.





Tonight's honorees, Cindy, Telva, and Genevieve, exemplify the spirit of Role Models. They've not only overcome their own challenges but have gone on to pave the way for others.

As we gather tonight, let us remember that community is at the heart of this work. It is through our collective efforts that we can continue to break down barriers, build bridges, and create a world where everyone has an opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for being a part of this meaningful evening, and for supporting the girls and women of AFG. Congrats to Cindy, Telva, and Genevieve, for being recognized as our 2025 Role Models.

Together, we are making a lasting impact. Thank you for being part of the AFG community.

Sincerely,

Tonya C. Adair  
President & CEO

# A strong community is built on a solid foundation.

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# Alternatives For Girls

## Our Mission

AFG helps girls and young women experiencing homelessness and other risks avoid violence, early 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 for their lives.

## Board of Directors

Rochelle Lento, Chair

D'Anne Carpenter, Vice Chair

Michele Samuels, Treasurer

Stefanie Worth, Secretary

Craig Carrington | Kate Cherry | Shanna Johnson

Alexandra Korell | Marlene Martel | Christine Moore

Alison Nelson | Van Nguyen | Carolyn Normandin

Janet C. Pinkerton | Angelique Reed | Linda Ross

Mae Smitherman-Smith | Dhivya Srinivasan

Sammye Van Diver

## Our Leadership

Tonya C. Adair, President & CEO

Dr. Celia Thomas, Chief Operating Officer

Robynn Farkas, Chief Development Officer

Jonquil Bertschi, Vice President of Programs

# About our Programs.

## Prevention



We work with at-risk girls in kindergarten through 12th grade from the immediate southwest Detroit community.

Activities and curriculum designed to:

- » Increase self-esteem
- » Build leadership skills
- » Strengthen educational outcomes and college readiness

## Outreach and Education Services



We serve young women engaged in sex work as well as victims/survivors of sex trafficking and domestic violence.

Available 24/7 by phone, web chat, and on-site to assist individuals with:

- » The transition into safer situations
- » Maintaining long-term stability
- » Reconnecting with supportive family members (when possible)

## Shelter/Transitional Living Program



Once a homeless young woman enters our shelter, AFG staff immediately work with her to evaluate her needs and develop an individualized plan with clear goals.

- » Specifically targets 15-21 year old young women, filling an important gap of services in Detroit
- » Licensed to house young children of residents who are 18 years or older
- » The children of residents have access to our Early Childhood Education Center, Little Dreamers.

## Housing Stability



Funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, services are designed to move individuals and young families experiencing homelessness into safe housing with rental, utility assistance, and supportive services. The goal is to:

- » Provide the advocacy and support necessary to maintain stability
- » Avert another crisis once in their own home

# Many Thanks.

*Alternatives For Girls is honored to have **Michael and Barbara Bickers** serve as this year's Role Model Celebration Co-Chairs. We are grateful for their commitment to this special evening and to the young women and girls we serve.*

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## Honorary Event Chairs **Michael and Barbara Bickers**

Michael G. Bickers serves as Executive Vice President and Regional President of PNC Bank, Detroit and Southeast Michigan. Before stepping into this role in March 2022, he led PNC's Retail Bank as Midwest Territory Manager, overseeing branch networks and partner teams across the region. His commitment to community investment and economic empowerment aligns seamlessly with AFG's vision for a brighter future.





## Emcee Hilary Golston

Hilary Golston is a 7-time Emmy winner and the 2024 winner of the Emmy for best daily news reports in Michigan, marking the second time Golston has nabbed this competitive award. She is the 2023 winner of the Associated Press Best Reporter/Anchor in Michigan Award. She returned to her hometown of Detroit after working in newsrooms across the country. She co-anchors FOX 2 News Weekend Evenings.

### Auction Committee

Ericia Bartels, Co-Chair

Anne Beck, Co-Chair

Charlotte Bradley | Sue Merritt | Adrienne Penney

Jacqueline Rondeau | Nicole Scott | Allisen Willhoft

Kemi Ogundipe

### Nomination Committee

Tonya Adair, Co-Chair

Linda Ross, Co-Chair

Shanna Johnson | Alexandra Korell | Brandy Mason

Janet Pinkerton | Angelique Reed

### Special Thanks

Lauren Primeau, Videographer

# ROLE MODELS.

*In recognition of International Women's Day, we celebrate the achievements of extraordinary women in our shared community and the accomplishments of the girls and young women we serve.*

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## **Cindy Eggleton**

Cindy Eggleton is a changemaker dedicated to ensuring children and families have what they need to thrive. As the Co-Founder and CEO of Brilliant Detroit, she has transformed the lives of over 22,000 children and caregivers, partnering with 200+ organizations across Detroit. Cindy's commitment to population-level change and her tireless work have earned her multiple accolades, including Crain's 2018 Notable Women in Nonprofits. Her unwavering dedication to Detroit's future makes her an inspiring role model for all.

**To view all past AFG Role Models, scan here:**



## Telva McGruder

Telva McGruder leads the transformation of General Motors' manufacturing toward automation and digitalization as Executive Director of Global Body Manufacturing Engineering. She has held key leadership roles within GM, including Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, advocating for a more inclusive culture. A passionate supporter of STEM education for girls and women, Telva is deeply committed to empowering future leaders and continues to champion diversity and equity in every aspect of her work.



## Genevieve Vang

Genevieve Vang's story of resilience and generosity is nothing short of inspiring. A refugee from Laos, Genevieve co-founded Bangkok Tiger, Wayne County's first Thai restaurant, and later opened Bangkok 96 Restaurant in Dearborn and Bangkok 96 Street Food in Detroit. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she launched initiatives like Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen for Good to provide meals to those in need. As a successful entrepreneur, she's also the founder of Clean Planet Cuisine and Thai Feast, all while empowering her community and inspiring others through her culinary expertise and philanthropy.



# Join our AFG COMMUNITY.



AFG relies on support from our community to help bring quality, life-changing programs to the girls and young women who need it the most. We are committed to empowering those we serve throughout the agency by providing programs and resources that value each person served.



## Advocate

Open the door to conversations that highlight AFG's mission and amplify its impact.



## Connect

Follow AFG on social media. Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram: @alternativiesforgirls



## Donate

Philanthropy supports AFG's mission and is vital to our success.



## Host an Event

Whether a small dinner or a speaking engagement, gatherings help spread AFG's message.



## Introductions

Build relationships and foster partnerships that advance AFG's mission.



## Volunteer

AFG offers many volunteer opportunities throughout the year for individuals and groups.







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Michele & Paul Samuels  
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## **BRONZE** \$1,500

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HAP CareSource  
Linda Ross  
Michigan First Credit Union  
Michigan Medicine  
O'Brien Construction

PrimeStaff Services  
SMART  
Vibe Credit Union  
Vinewood Wealth Advisors,  
Jeffrey Cohen  
Warner Norcross + Judd

*\*List complete as of 2/21/25*

*In loving memory of*



# Tracy Reneé Lewis-Anderson and baby Ashton

Together, tonight, we can break the silence and bring a  
voice to domestic violence.

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▲ DELTA  
**100**  
YEARS



# SOLIDARITY IN SERVICE

## Partnering with Alternatives For Girls

National Food Group is proud to support Alternatives for Girls and their mission to help women and girls build safe, strong futures through critical resources, workforce development, and unwavering commitment. Learn more about Project Serve at [NFGProjectSERVE.com](http://NFGProjectSERVE.com)



# A

# Excellence is the **ONLY** Alternative.

As a woman-owned company, Argent celebrates **Alternatives For Girls** and all the extraordinary work you do for the community!



The Dykema Women's Business Initiative is proud to support Alternatives For Girls and the 2025 Role Model Celebration



[www.dykema.com](http://www.dykema.com)

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**Doetsch**  
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is honored to support  
**Alternatives For Girls**  
and the community they  
champion each day.

## Congratulations, Telva McGruder!

From trailblazing the way for Girl Scouts to leading in GM and championing STEM for future leaders, your role model status is well-deserved. Keep shining!



girl scouts  
of southeastern  
michigan

[www.gssem.org](http://www.gssem.org)

Henry Ford Health is pleased to support **Alternatives For Girls Role Model Celebration** and applaud their mission to provide high-risk girls, and young women access to the resources and opportunities necessary to be safe, grow strong and to make positive choices in their lives.

**HENRY FORD HEALTH**

### GIVING BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY

The Home Depot is a proud sponsor of Alternatives For Girls as they honor the accomplishments of the role models who have helped girls and young women construct brighter futures.



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Jones Day is proud to support Alternatives For Girls in its mission to help girls and young women find safety, stability, and opportunities to thrive.

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**Piston Group is a proud Sapphire Sponsor of Alternatives For Girls,** and its mission to meet girls and women where they are to provide the support, resources and opportunities to be safe, grow strong and to make positive choices in their lives.



**PISTON GROUP**



THE  
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**On this International Women's Day, The Kresge Foundation celebrates Alternative For Girls, a regional leader who provides vital services for women and girls. We value our partnership and wish to congratulate your nonprofit on your achievements and impact.**



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[skillman.org/peoplepowered](http://skillman.org/peoplepowered)



## The Tish Family

Thanks to the AFG Prevention Program for all that you do to inspire, enrich and support the young women of Southwest Detroit like participating in the Girls on The Run empowerment program!

*-Coach and AFG Mentor Susan Tish*

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# It's never too early to make the holidays bright!

There is always a need for items throughout the year. You can visit our **WISH LIST** or participate in our annual holiday program, **PROJECT GIVING TREE.**

Visit our website to learn more.  
[www.alternativesforgirls.org](http://www.alternativesforgirls.org)



# Alternatives For Girls

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