

INSPIRE

MARCH 2023



eliminating racism
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ywca

Lubbock

**WOMEN OF
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**



SALUTING THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY DEVOTED TO

Positive Impact

For more than a century, The United Family has embraced Ultimate Service, Superior Performance and Positive Impact as its core values. We are especially moved when we see those values demonstrated by others who have made a difference in our world. On behalf of almost 18,000 Team Members, we proudly salute all Women of Excellence recipients for their countless contributions to the Lubbock community. Thank you for being a shining example to us all.



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Dear Readers

Thank you for joining us and taking a moment to read this letter of welcome. The goal we set every year for the Women of Excellence event is that you will leave inspired by the evening, by the entertainment and certainly by the journey and contributions of the women we honor.

Our chair of this event, Lynn Sanderson, says it succinctly – we don't take the time often enough to celebrate each other. This event is a stake in the sand, a moment to stop and simply congratulate strong women who make things happen. Their stories inspire us and give us the energy and courage to keep going.

In addition to celebrating the 2023 Women of Excellence, we are very excited to use this occasion as the perfect time to launch our new magazine. We chose the title, "iNSPiRe" intentionally as an ongoing connection to the root of all we do at the YWCA. Whether it is an event like Women of Excellence, the daily work we do with children or adults, or when we are simply explaining our work to vendors or donors---our success depends on inspiring those around us to take action or to make a change.

Best selling author John C. Maxwell has a one-minute description of the four times that people change.

When they hurt enough they have to . . .

When they see enough they are inspired to . . .

When they learn enough that they want to . . .

When they receive enough that they are able to . . .

That is the exciting reality of the YWCA. We see people at every stage of change and are honored to be a part of the process. We stand in the gap when people are hurting. We teach – for every age, every stage. We give all we can to remove barriers and help others in ways they didn't think was possible. And, we constantly look for ways to inspire and give people hope.

Our world is complicated, life is messy and perhaps the only thing that's clear is that we need each other and we need to protect and support each other in a safe and joyful way. We hope you will find a message from each of our honorees, read the stories in this magazine, and in the end, feel inspired to do something you've been wanting to do. Use this magazine as your boost of encouragement. Inspire – that's how we promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Glenda Mathis, CFRE
CEO, YWCA Lubbock



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Craig & Ann McDonald



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WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

March 9, 2023
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Lubbock Memorial Civic Center





WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

EMILY WILKINSON

Arts & Culture

Emily Wilkinson is the Director of Public Art for the Texas Tech University System. In this role, she has worked to curate a cohesive collection that is considered to be a standout feature of the university showcasing the work of artists from around the world. In 2020 Fodors Travel named the Texas Tech University System Public Art Collection one of the top ten spectacular outdoor art museums and calls it one of the best public art collections in the nation. Universities from across the country reach out to Emily for her expertise on how to curate, commission, acquire and maintain installations like those at Texas Tech.

Emily has been an integral part of art and education in Lubbock for over two decades with experience at the National Ranching Heritage Center, the Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock Lake Landmark and the Science Spectrum. Her experiences in art education sparked her to develop two innovative programs to support the understanding and appreciation of the Texas Tech collection. The ArTTrek App allows people to take self-guided walking tours of the TTUS Public Art Collection. In addition, she brought in the very popular "TTUS Art Cart Tours", which feature a mini electric bus with large windows and an internal microphone/speaker system, perfect for hosting visitors on driving tours of the collection.

"Art attractions have sometimes been viewed as expensive or elitist. Public art provides an opportunity to make art accessible for all."

Emily serves as a board member for Civic Lubbock and as a councilor-at-large for the Texas Association of Museums Council. In 2015, Emily was recognized as a Top 20 under 40 professional in Lubbock by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. In 2017, she received a Catalyst for the Arts in Lubbock award from the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts.

Emily is currently on track to get her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Texas Tech University. She is married to Justin Burrus; they have two children, Margaux and Maizy.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

LISA STANE

Education

Lisa Stane is the Founder and President of the Lubbock Learning Difference Center (LLDC) and Sharp Academy. This special school offers outreach programs to local educators, parents and interested citizens and provides a customized facility for dyslexia and learning disability services. They offer a full educational diagnostic testing center, as well as tutoring programs, parent advocacy and education trainings for educators. Families come from many states to take advantage of the testing and diagnostics available at LLDC.

The Sharp Academy (named after Coach Marsha Sharp) is an accredited, private, college preparatory school for grades K-12. The school caters to students with dyslexia and other language processing disorders. Seventy-six percent of Sharp Academy graduates have gone on to college and completed their degrees.

The accomplishments of LLDC and Sharp Academy are a reflection of Lisa's dogged determination. She did not start her career as an education specialist. She was drawn into the field as a response to her youngest son's struggles learning to read. He was a bright child and his challenges made no sense to Lisa. With limited local resources to help her understand his needs, she became a fierce student in her own right. With sheer grit and the power of a mother's love, she broke through roadblocks, earning certifications and ultimately creating her own school. She became a passionate, respected advocate for children and families dealing with the frustrations that accompany learning differences.

"If you can't find what you need then just do it yourself."

Lisa is an avid volunteer in her church and an active member of numerous education and professional associations. She is frequently asked to make presentations about dyslexia and has provided data to the Texas Legislature in support of tuition tax credits for students with disabilities.

Lisa Stane is a tough, faithful and determined leader who has accomplished more than most people thought possible. She credits love and prayers as her fuel and strength.





WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

OLIVIA BOGGS

Government

Olivia Boggs started at the Lubbock Police Department (LPD) in 2005 in the patrol division which meant working night and day shifts for the next seven years. Her job was clear: respond to calls to help people when they were at their worst.

Olivia worked her way up with LPD. In 2013 she moved to the Detective Division and began working with domestic and juvenile crimes. Her career centered around crimes that are hard for most of us to even think about: child abuse, sexual assaults of children, trafficking and even death. She has brought justice to countless victims and represented children when no one else could. Her work has been commended by the FBI and she recently joined the FBI as a Task Force Officer working juvenile crimes.

"Don't look at obstacles in a negative way. Instead of 'I can't do' say 'I get to do,' it changes your perspective."

Olivia has numerous certifications ranging from Mental Health Police Officer to Police Negotiator and Crime Scene Officer. From 2018-2021, she was a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team and was called on to respond to high risk situations. She is a dual-language officer which gives her special skills in the field and she is a field training officer. Olivia is frequently called on to provide training for new recruits as well as current police officers. She is especially important as a mentor and guide for new female recruits.

Learning to balance work trauma and still enjoy a healthy family life can be challenging. Olivia credits her husband, also a detective with the LPD, as her source of strength. Together, they have four children, Alexis, Brenden, Mariah and Mattison which also are to be credited. They are troopers when work calls their parents away – even on birthdays and holidays. Volunteer work includes Meals on Wheels and Special Olympics which they often do as a family.

With strength and courage, Olivia Boggs has advanced in a male-dominated field, doing a job that is embedded in trauma and suffering. She is passionate about being a voice for child victims and finding justice to support them.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

TRACI CHEEK

Human Services

Traci Cheek serves as Director of Advancement for Texas Girls & Boys Ranch. Her deep belief in people and commitment to the standards of good donor relations has been at the core of her success as a fundraiser for more than twenty years. She has worked with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and The Children's Home of Lubbock in addition to her current work at the Texas Girls & Boys Ranch. These roles reveal her sincere and caring nature as well as her deep commitment to meeting the needs of children.

Traci is a gifted communicator with a deep belief in the power of community and the ability of good people to do great things. Her biggest challenge is often finding the courage to say "no" because wherever there is a need, she will be "all in" using her skills at building relationships and fostering support.

"We all want the end result, but are we willing to step up and help get there?"

During her time at the Texas Girls & Boys Ranch, she has led successful productions of the annual telethon, gala and golf tournament to raise important operating funds for the Ranch. Her leadership has been instrumental in assuring donors that their giving objectives are followed even in the face of challenges and change.

Traci is deeply committed to the Lubbock community, volunteering many hours of her time. She has served as a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador for 17 years, the Association for Women in Communication, the Exchange Club of Lubbock and the Directors of Volunteers in Agencies. She is a longtime member of the Lubbock Lions Club and is an integral part of the fundraising efforts for the Lions Club Pancake Festival every year. Traci is also an active member and leader in the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Traci was born in Kennewick, Washington, but has lived in Lubbock for most of her life. Traci is married to Billy Cheek and has two children, Justin Cheek and Mandi Cheek along with six beautiful grandchildren.





WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

JESSICA GRAY, MD

Medicine

Jessica Gray moved to Lubbock when she started her undergraduate work as a first generation college student in the Honors College at Texas Tech University. Despite working her way through school, she graduated in three years with a degree in biology and was accepted into medical school at TTUHSC.

She fell naturally into leadership roles and served in the Student Government Association as a Senator and Social Committee Chair. While volunteering at the student-run free medical clinic, she found her love for family medicine. She was part of the highly competitive Family Medicine Accelerated Track Program requiring her to complete a full four-year medical school curriculum in only three years. She then began residency in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at TTUHSC. She served as Chief Resident and was recipient of the Resident of the Year Award as well as the Clinical Teaching Award.

Winning awards is not unusual to someone with such a reputation for leadership and passion. She was recognized by the Chamber of Commerce's Top 20 Under 40 in 2018 and received the UMC Physicians Provider of the Month twice and her clinic was named UMCP Clinic of the Year in 2020. She now serves on the UMCP Provider Council Board. She received the UMC Pillar of Growth Award in 2020 for her extensive work with the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"All professional dreams are possible ..."

As a board-certified physician, Jessica serves on the board of Lubbock Children's Health Clinic and also on the board of March of Dimes West Texas. She is a strong advocate for the health of women and children and is frequently asked to speak on these topics. During the pandemic, she played an instrumental role in the Women's Empowerment Vaccine Campaign. It is easy to understand why Texas Monthly Magazine listed her as a Super Doctor Rising Star in both 2021 and 2022.

Among all the accolades and responsibilities, Jessica lists her roles as wife to Drew and mother to toddler, Harrison, as her most important and most fulfilling.



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

MURVAT MUSA

Professional

Murvat Musa is the CEO of Reese Technology Center, a research and business park established to stimulate economic growth for Lubbock and the surrounding area. She manages 2,000 plus acres of land, a main campus, 72 buildings and 950,000 square feet of space.

In her role, she works hand in hand with the Air Force's Base Realignment and Closure program to assure compliance on the highly complex environmental cleanup and property reuse activities at Reese. At the same time, she supports technology companies like Sandia National Laboratories in their development of transformative wind energy research facilities at the site. Murvat is a principled leader with dedication to smart and prudent stewardship of resources.

"In a time when women are leaving leadership roles in record numbers, it's critical we produce future women public leaders."

She is a frequent guest lecturer on ethics and economic development for Texas Tech University's Certified Public Manager program and former president of the West Texas City Manager's Association. She served as City Manager for the Town of Ransom Canyon and was named Public Servant of the Year by the High Plains Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration in recognition of her work with local governments and regional agencies in support of economic development.

Murvat would be the first to say that her personal priority is "family first". To prove it, she took a break from her career until all of her children were in school. She and her husband Edward have three children – Sarah, Helaina and Jake – who are all in college. While she may have wondered about it, the break did not slow down her strength as a leader. Murvat is a passionate volunteer whose work has served St. Benedict's Chapel, American Red Cross and the Lubbock High School PTA as the Vice President of Student Outreach. Her current goal is to establish a Women in Government chapter for the West Texas region.



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

MEGAN ESTRADA

Social Justice

Megan Estrada began dreaming of her own nonprofit while she worked for Managed Care Center providing drug education for youth and adults. Megan's vision was bigger than education services. Her specific passion was helping teens understand that they can change the path of their lives no matter where they come from or what they have gone through. She speaks from experience.

Megan became a mom at 15 years old, she had a stroke at 16 and was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer at the age of 18. Somewhere she found the strength and resilience she needed. She was determined to change the trajectory of her life.

She returned to school as a first generation college student and recently completed her Master's in Human Services with a specialization in non-profit administration at LCU. She is a certified Community Health Worker and certified as an Associate Prevention Specialist.

When Managed Care closed in Lubbock, Megan put the wheels in motion to bring her dream to life. Working from her garage and kitchen table, Megan took up the daunting task of writing state grants to support the ideas she had for Hub City Outreach. To win a state grant as a fledgling nonprofit is virtually impossible, but she did it. In the face of the pandemic and a fourth cancer diagnosis, Megan just rolled up her sleeves, began implementing her vision and the result has impacted more than 25,000 youth and families in Lubbock and Terry County to date.

"By the grace of God and Him alone, I am able to tell my story in hopes of inspiring others."

Megan serves as the hospitality chair for the American Business Women's Association, she is a member of the Hispanic Association of Women, volunteers with Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains and has worked with the United Way program review for three years.

A strong and determined leader, a fierce advocate for youth and community, Megan Estrada is an unstoppable force for supporting and inspiring others.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

GABRIELLA CONTRERAS

Youth Leadership

Gabriella Contreras is a senior at Lubbock-Cooper High School. She has been called a leader since she was in Kindergarten and a look at her accomplishments reveals why. She serves as historian for the National Technical Honor Society and is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Student Council and UNICEF. She is on the Lady Pirates basketball team and has been on the track team as well. She enjoys sports and supports FCA every Tuesday morning. She is also a Pi Sigma and serves as an aide to assist younger students with algebra. She was honored to serve as the head photographer and coordinator for the yearbook staff and has been awarded the Jon T. Poteat Scholarship and the Presidential Merit Scholarship from Texas Tech University.

The scholarships reflect Gabriella's commitment to her education. During her freshman year of high school, she made a goal for herself, to graduate in the top ten percent of her class. In her junior year she achieved that goal and in May 2023 she will be graduating in the top ten percent of the Lubbock-Cooper class of 500.

Gabriella is also dedicated to helping the Lubbock community. She likes to give back to the organizations that have helped her along the way. She volunteers at her church and has participated in mission trips. She volunteers in her school community and also participates with the South Plains Food Bank. During the summer, she serves at White River Youth Camp helping anywhere she's needed.

"I believe the tougher the goal, the more rewarding the outcome will be once it is accomplished."

After high school, Gabriella plans on pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemistry and applying to dental school with the ultimate goal of becoming an orthodontist. This young lady is on a mission and we are excited to watch her make a difference in the world.





WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

NANETTE DESO

Jane O. Burns Award

Nanette has been actively engaged in banking for 40 years. When she first entered banking, it was a male-dominated field and was a hard place for women to get ahead. But Nanette was determined and with her commitment to customers and her reputation for hard work, she rose through the ranks. She started as a teller for Liberty State Bank while working on her degree in finance at Texas Tech. Subsequently, she served as a case manager for the Resolutions Trust Corporation and an examiner for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas. Later she served as Senior Vice President for Wells Fargo in their Lubbock office and expanded her skill set to become a licensed Texas State Certified Appraiser. She was a Senior Vice President and Commercial Lender at State National Bank before becoming one of the Founding Advisory Directors and Executive Vice President at Lone Star State Bank.

"If someone asks you to do something and you don't think you have the skills yet, do it anyway. Don't fake it until you make it, ask questions, practice it until you make it. Growth is uncomfortable."

Nanette is active in the Lubbock community. She is the current President of the Friends of McAlister Park, former board President of the Early Learning Centers, a graduate of Leadership Lubbock and has served in many roles with United Way. She is current treasurer and former board President of the YWCA. She has served on numerous committees in her history with the organization and has been instrumental in stewarding the financial stability of the YWCA.

Born in Plainview to Glenn and Beverly McDonald, Nanette is married to Mike Deso. They have two children, Mary Fletcher and the late Tom Fletcher as well as a charming 6-year old grandson, Truett.

In all that she does, Nanette brings forth her knowledge, professionalism and sharp wit to show what it means on a daily basis to be a woman of excellence.



CONGRATULATIONS!

**Congratulations to CEO Glenda Mathis
on 15 fabulous years at the YWCA.**

**We are so grateful for all you do
and have done for YWCA Lubbock!**

YWCA Board of Directors



WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE ACADEMY

2020s

Beth Bridges	2022
Sandra Harris	2022
Dina Jeffries	2022
Janice Magness	2022
Melinda Pharies	2022
Dr. Comfort Awotwi Pratt	2022
Lynn Sanderson	2022
Elizabeth Ann Sharp, PhD	2022
Katherine Wells	2022
Ashby Whitaker	2022
Grace Feist	2021
Elizabeth Regner Grigsby	2021
Glenda Grigson	2021
Norma Ritz Johnson	2021
Dr. Patricia Frances Johnson	2021
Stephanie Massengale	2021
Laura Monroe	2021
Dr. Amy Thompson	2021
Katelynn Thompson	2021
Paige Allen	2020
Judge Kara Darnell	2020
Sophie Goforth	2020
Wendy-Adele Humphrey	2020
Latrell Bright Joy	2020
Michelle McCord	2020
Shirley McReynolds	2020
Sellie Shine	2020
Jaime Wheeler	2020

2010s

Brandi Cantrell	2019
Melissa Collier	2019
Terri Duncan	2019
Rebecca Geist	2019
Lisaann Gittner, PhD	2019
Gabriella Ghandour	2019
JoAnn Long, PhD	2019
Melinda Garcia Schalow, MD	2019
Annette Sobel, MD	2019
Karen Thornton	2019
Emilee Acevedo	2018
Jean Caslin	2018
Linda Donahue, PhD	2018
Linda Ferguson	2018

Rebecca (Becky) Garza	2018
Kathy Gilbreath	2018
Shanna Hargrave	2018
Dr. Katharine Hayhoe	2018
Carolyn F. Moore	2018
Lindsay Penrose, PhD	2018
Aliza S. Wong, PhD	2018
Judge Ann-Marie Carruth	2017
Evelyn Davies	2017
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Phebe Ellis-Roach	2017
Kim Flenniken	2017
Candace Bourland Hicks	2017
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Sandi Turner	2016
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Lynda Loyce Dutton	2015
Amy Faris	2015
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Michelle Pantoya, PhD	2015
Michelle Suzanne Staley	2015
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Mimi Zumwalt MD	2015
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Lorrie Lushnat	2014
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Neoka Perez	2013
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*Carolyn Taylor	2013

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Sharon Hyde Bass	2010
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Grace Hernandez	2010
Betsy Goebel Jones, EdD	2010
Judge Nancy M. Koenig	2010
Vickie Russell, LMSW	2010
Jade C. Shank	2010

2000s

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Sally Kipyego	2009
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Kathy Stocco	2007

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Janie Landin Ramirez	2001
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Jane O. Burns, PhD	2001
Lauren Griffin	2001
Pat Maines	2001
Judge Judy Parker	2001
Windy Sitton	2001
Linda Suzan Lazarin Thomas	2001

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Brenda J. Becknell	2000
Brooke Chavez	2000
Shari Dorris Flynn	2000
Jean Bledsoe Knight	2000
Carolyn R. McDougal	2000
Sunanda Mitra, PhD	2000
JoAnn Leavey Shroyer, PhD	2000
Jane Ann Tustin, RN, MSN, CSN	2000

1990s

Elizabeth Valentine Abraham	1999
Beverly Chilton, PhD	1999
Judy Wells Chisholm	1999
Meghan Paige Fleming	1999
Burnis Marie Henderson	1999
Jan Berry Morris	1999
Catherine A. Ronaghan, MD, FACS	1999
*Patsy Landrum Whipple	1999
Reagan Elyse Davis	1998
Diane Brown Earl	1998
Annette Gary, RN, PhD	1998
Caryl E. Heintz, PhD	1998
Leigh Keeney McPhaul	1998
Francina Johanna Proctor	1998
Dorothy Phea-Norville	1998
*Peggy Willis-Aarnio	1998
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Sherry Sancibrian	1997
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Jane O. Burns, PhD	1996
Holli Nicole Douglass	1996
Cassandra L. Henry	1996
Paulina M. Jacobo, JD	1996
Judge Paula Davis Lanehart	1996
Karin Crider McCay	1996
Nancy Jo Patton	1996
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*Betty L. Baker	1995
Louise T. Cummins	1995
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*Norma E. Porres, MD	1995
*Billie Wolfe	1995
*Suzanne Aker	1994

Monica Baca	1994
*Lou Dunn Diekemper	1994
Sheryl Swoopes	1994
*Nelda Thompson	1994
Gwendolyn Titus	1994
*Irene S. Wilson	1994
Jane L. Winer, PhD	1994
*Louise C. Allen	1993
Sylvia Ashby	1993
*Rita P. Harmon	1993
Susan Singer Hendrick, PhD	1993
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Mary Tom Riley O'Bar, EdD	1993
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*Barbara L. Sommerville	1993
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*Marjorie C. Kastman	1992
Carolyn Lanier	1992
*Elizabeth Skidmore Sasser, PhD	1992
Marsha Sharp	1992
*Margaret Talkington	1992
*Mary Grace Umlauf, RN, PhD	1992
*Sister Maureen Van der Zee, CSJ	1992
Melanie Weed Barnes	1991
Michelle Leslie Erickson	1991
Jane F. Goldthorn, MD	1991
Reverend Jo Roberts Mann	1991
*Sylvia Martinez-Flores	1991
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Alicia Boswell	1990
*Glenna Maxey Goodacre	1990
Eileen McAllister Johnson, PhD	1990
Yondell Masten, RNC, PhD	1990
Ethel M. McLeod	1990
Shirley Anne McManigal, PhD	1990
*Palma Lancaster Smiley	1990

1989

Janeen Holmes Gilliam	1989
Elizabeth G. Haley, PhD	1989
Marilyn Jantz Dickey	1989
*Elizabeth Creson Sisco, JD	1989
Teddy L. Langford, RN, PhD	1989
Kamie Ethridge	1989
Yumi Christina Koh	1989

*deceased



treat yourself!



CLAIMING *your space*



Sometimes, the simple idea of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all--- isn't as easy or as automatic as it should be.

from singers to drummers and dancers who often use this genre to express frustrations about inequality, gender gaps and other struggles.

In the 1500's, enslaved West Africans were forced to go to Puerto Rico by the Spaniards. In fact, by 1530, over half of the Spanish territory's population hailed from a broad spectrum of African tribes. Because of their different languages, the slaves naturally gravitated to music as a way to communicate. They called their music and dance, Bomba and it became their source of political and spiritual expression.

With Bomba "you are claiming the space, a physical space with your body," said Hugo Viera Vargas, a professor of Caribbean/Latin America studies and music at New College of Florida. "You're making yourself a presence in society."

Unlike typical music and dance, the bomba dancer sets the rhythm for the musicians rather than the other way around. Musicians follow the dancer's rhythm punctuating every move with a beat. In the early days, men dominated the bomba performance with strong jerks and sharp steps while the women used skirts to make gentle swings and subtle movements. Carided Brenes de Cepeda changed all that. She broke the unspoken rules and used her skirt to make more aggressive moves, raising the hem higher as a sign of rejecting oppression. Now, Bomba boasts a strong female presence

For the YWCA of Lubbock, we believe our mission to stand up for those basic rights starts by listening to those around us, welcoming their traditions and deeply respecting the principle that we all have something unique to bring to the table. Tonight's entertainment shines a spotlight on the rich heritage of Bomba and Puerto Rico by featuring the work of Dr. Ana Maria Tekina-eirú Maynard at the Austin-based Puerto Rican Cultural Center. The purpose of the center is to promote cultural awareness and pride in their history and living traditions through dance, music, community theatre, ancestral fighting arts and Indigenous Taino heritage. If you'd like to know more, www.prfdance.org or join them for Celebrando 2023 Salsa & Heritage Festival, June 11, Austin, Texas. Claim your space.

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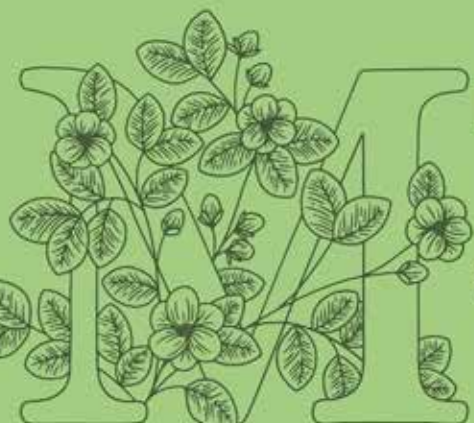
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Make a donation using the QR code below or visit ywcalubbock.org.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Congratulations

EMILY WILKINSON

AND ALL 2023 WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS



Congratulations

to the 2023 YWCA Women of Excellence, including board-certified UMC Family Medicine physician, **JESSICA GRAY, MD!**





WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The month of March is nationally recognized as Women's History Month. Even though it's an all-month celebration, it didn't start out that way.

In 1978, Women's History week was first celebrated by The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in California. It wasn't recognized by Congress until 1981, and the first time Women's History Week was celebrated was the week of March 7th, 1982. In 1987, Congress passed Public Law that declared March as Women's History Month.

During Women's History Month we celebrate contributions made by women, as well as achievements women have made throughout American History. Here at the YWCA of Lubbock we are celebrating those women as well as the women who impact the Lubbock community every day.

FOOD TRUCK FEST

WOMEN-OWNED FOOD TRUCKS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

March is more than just another month for Lubbock business owner, Mia White.

Mia, owner of Yaya's Place, has been a part of the food truck scene for years, allowing her to meet and connect with several other women-owned food trucks. Through food truck events, she realized that she and her counterparts have several things in common. "We are not just bosses, but moms, sisters, wives, mentors and so much more," said White. This inspired her to organize a food truck festival with a simple goal: to give back to other women in our community.

In honor of Women's History Month, Mia has gathered more than 10 women-led food trucks willing to give a portion of their proceeds to the YWCA of Lubbock.

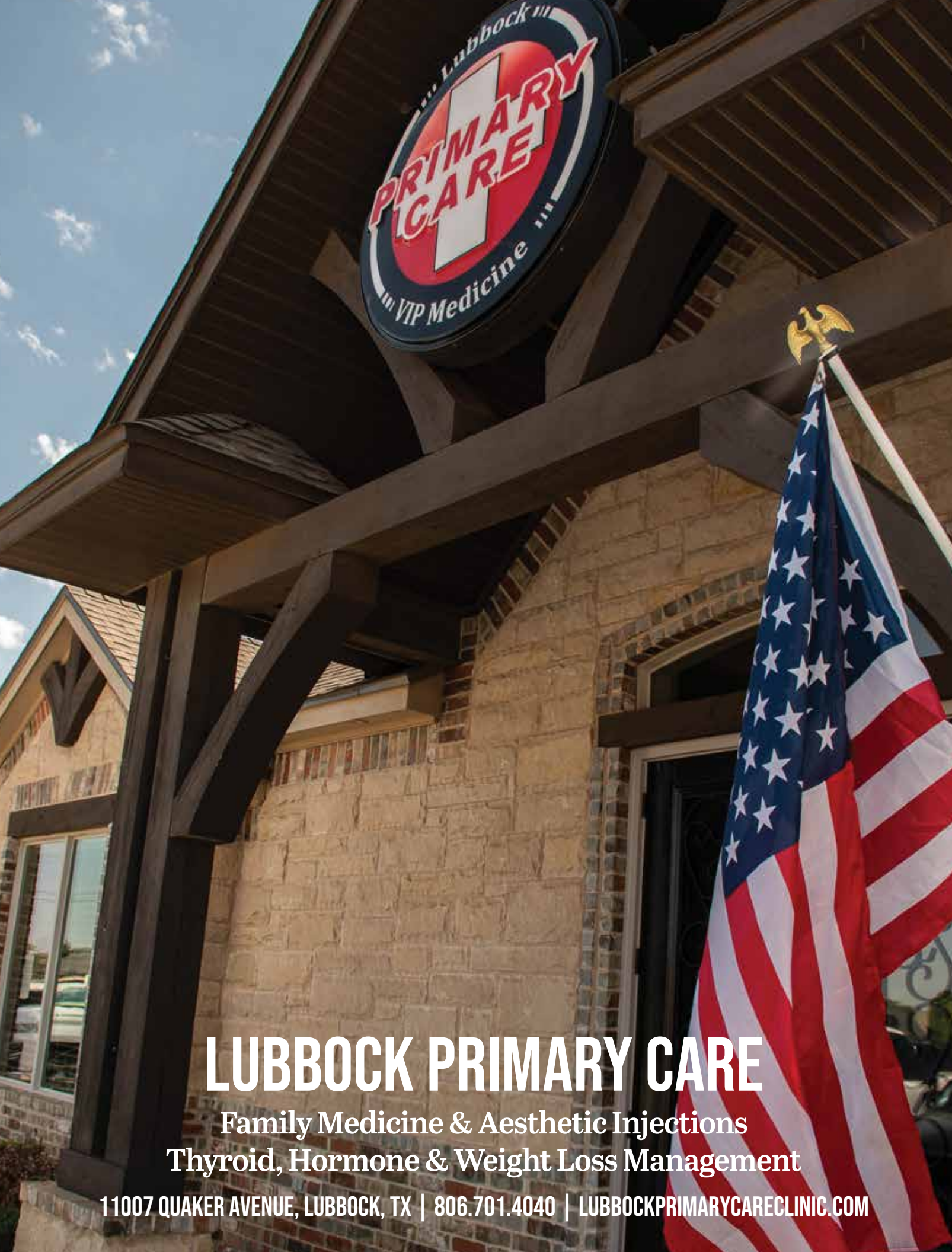
Celebrate Women's History Month with Mia by having lunch with one of the many local food trucks at the YWCA on March 11. This family-friendly event will include face painting, music, and more!



Mia White with her food truck, Yaya's Place.

MARCH 11, 2023
11:00 AM

YWCA on University
6501 University Ave.



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Traci Cheek
RECIPIENT IN HUMAN SERVICES



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INSPIRE

THE SERIES

INSPIRE is a personal growth series dedicated to empowering women on their journey towards self discovery, personal fulfillment and internal growth. Designed to bring together women from diverse backgrounds and across industries, iNSPIRed is an opportunity to learn and connect with like minded peers and mentors. This program aims to uplift, support and assist any woman seeking personal and professional development. At the end of each session, participants walk away feeling iNSPIRed equipped with practical information to pursue the life they envision.

HOW TO DROP THE BALANCING ACT AND GET REAL ABOUT BEING A MOM

With:

Katherine

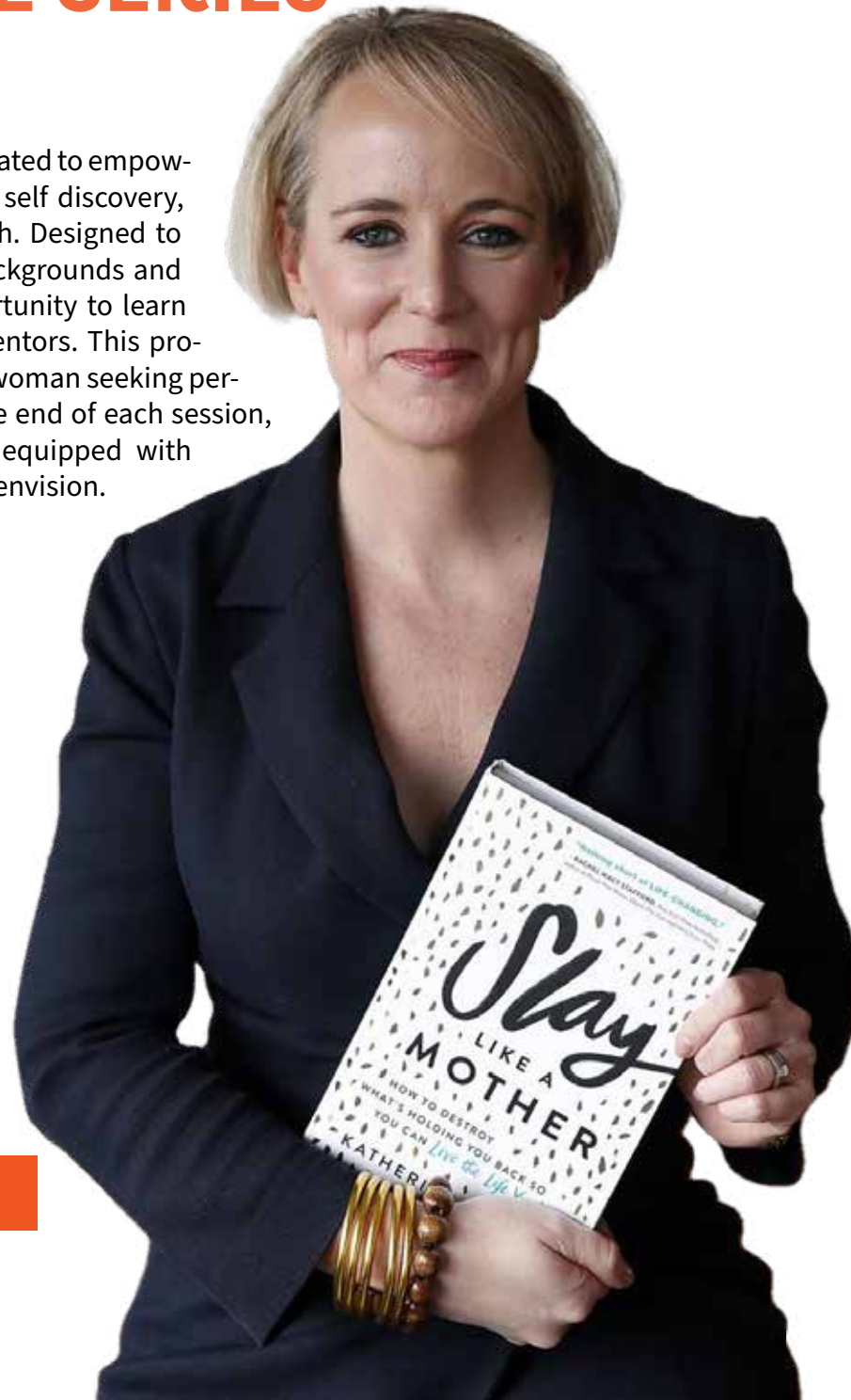
Wintsch

Thursday, April 20, 2023

11:30am - 1:00pm

YWCA on University

Visit ywcalubbock.org to register



Congratulations to the
2023 Women of Excellence!



Lubbock, San Angelo and Abilene

LUBBOCK  TEXAS

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

TO ELIMINATE RACISM

ADVOCACY

There are many issues in our world today and the YWCA is specifically focused on those things that impact children and families. You can always find us on a crusade to support children and education. In particular, we are passionate advocates for the impact of affordable childcare and high quality infant, toddler and preschool programs. We are involved in supporting more access and services for children regardless of their age.

iNSPiRe - the podcast

Watch for this series coming in fall of 2023 and focusing on topics that concern the children and families of our community. We'll focus on research and resources, struggles and strategies, tips to remember and tools you can use. Sharp and focused to help you navigate a jam-packed day. We'll give you good news about coping with the daily grind.

STAND AGAINST RACISM

We take a Stand Against Racism every day by raising awareness about the impact of institutional and structural racism and by building community among those who work for racial justice.

Each year, YWCA Lubbock invites the community to participate in activities and events focused on a myriad of racial justice issues that impact the quality of life for communities of color. Our goal is to rally to make change for communities of color. Our hope is to create a world that sees women, girls, and people of color the way we do. Equal. Powerful. Unstoppable.

TO EMPOWER WOMEN

iNSPiRe - the series

iNSPiRe is a personal growth series dedicated to empowering women on their journey towards self discovery, personal fulfillment and internal growth. Designed to bring together women from diverse backgrounds and across industries, iNSPiRed is an opportunity to learn and connect with like minded peers and mentors. This program aims to uplift, support and assist any woman seeking personal and professional development. At the end of each session, participants walk away feeling iNSPiReD and equipped with practical information to pursue the life they envision.

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

The YWCA of Lubbock proudly counts Women of Excellence as one of its annual projects, recognizing and honoring women in our community who have achieved excellence in their careers or professions and whose contributions to business, industry, organizations and the community are crucial to the success of the same.

Since 1989, Women of Excellence award recipients have been inspiring others in Lubbock not only with their professional achievements but also with the work they do for others. By promoting women as leaders in Lubbock, the YWCA strives to empower women and their families in order to establish strong role models for future generations of young women.

Dr. Comfort Awotwi Pratt
2022 Woman of Excellence



YWCA IS ON A MISSION

TO SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH

PRESCHOOL

Through the focused development of literacy and school readiness, we believe all children deserve the finest care and highest quality education.

The YWCA offers 28 early learning classrooms with the primary focus of preparing children for kindergarten and school readiness.

YWCAre & YWCAmp

YWCAre is a licensed after-school program in collaboration with area elementary schools. Each site offers educational and recreational activities for Pre-K through 5th grade. YWCAre gives working parents a safe, affordable alternative to leaving children home alone.

The YWCAmp summer camp program plays a critical role in assuring that young people have a safe and fun environment to spend the day while parents are at work. By staying actively engaged through the summer, children return to school in the fall ready to learn.

Children in YWCAre and YWCAmp receive a healthy lunch and/or snack every day as a part of the USDA's Food Program.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

CYD, AMEND Together and STRIVE are all YWCA programs serving the youth of Lubbock.

CYD provides mentoring, youth leadership development and post high school readiness.

AMEND Together is a primary prevention initiative dedicated to ending violence against women and girls by engaging men and boys to be a part of the solution.

STRIVE is a free empowerment series for young women aimed at developing self-confidence, digital literacy and workforce skills.

TO BUILD COMMUNITY

GET OUT THE VOTE & WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE

Through Get Out The Vote, YWCA Lubbock is on a mission to register and mobilize voters across Lubbock, engage in candidate forums and empower voters through voter education efforts.

YWCA Lubbock's Week Without Violence, launched in 2022. Each year, during the Week Without Violence, we will work to raise awareness, promote change and enable positive action towards ending violence against women, young women and girls in all their diversity.

PARTNERING

Lubbock is a vibrant place to live and there are many initiatives underway to keep the community growing and thriving across every sector. The YWCA partners with so many quality agencies and individuals who have a vision of equity and inclusion. In our building we have Covenant Health Services which focuses on health education and outreach and works with us to meet the needs of children whether it is dental care or behavioral care and support. We partner with Upbring and Neighborhood House who are dedicated to assisting individuals with diabetes care and supplies. In an arrangement with the City of Lubbock, Neighborhood House also provides support for families needing short-term utility assistance. We know that none of us can do it all alone and we celebrate the opportunity to partner with hundreds of volunteers and agencies across the South Plains. It allows us to offer everything from Autocross and cooking events to Lemonade Day and athletic events and even to life-saving health interventions.



The **mission** of the YWCA is eliminating racism, empowering women & promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.



Congratulations Lisa Stane!

I have been an advisor, contributor, supporter and provider of guidance the past 13 years. This has given me many opportunities to personally see her dedication to excellence. Getting the job done and done well defines Lisa's specialness.

Marsha Sharp, Head Coach Emerita, Texas Tech University

I have seen many examples of Lisa's leadership in education – adults and children that benefit from diagnostic testing; parents desperately seeking the right school for their child; ongoing dyslexia training for the entire staff; helping students navigate the ACT and enroll in and attend classes at Wayland Baptist University; the Experience Dyslexia seminars that stimulate and educate parents; working tirelessly on weekends and after hours – all to further her vision of reaching students who need a school like Sharp Academy. And, last but not least, all of the fundraising that must occur to make all of this possible.

Kathleen Heyd, Office Manager, Sharp Academy, Parent of a Sharp Academy student

The insight, tenacity and drive of this woman to create a learning difference environment is unmatched in this region and is beyond remarkable. Lisa defines the term "Woman of Excellence".

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Seger, Grandparents of a Sharp Academy student

Lisa's passion is that every child deserves to learn to read and thrive in the classroom. Her goal is to teach dyslexic children differently and impart to them that concept plus self advocacy. A very important part of her career has been to teach other teachers, parents and anyone interested, how this can be done and why. Lisa never stops learning, reading and pushing forward, continually seeking better methods and process to provide the best dyslexia services possible.

Dr. & Mrs. John Key



Lubbock Learning Difference Center/Sharp Academy is proud to congratulate our founder and President, Lisa Stane for being honored as a YWCA 2023 Woman of Excellence for Education! It is a privilege to be recognized alongside these amazing women leaders in Lubbock, for her dedication to provide a college prep educational opportunity for students with dyslexia with this one-of-a-kind diagnostic center and private school in Lubbock, Texas.

Sharp Academy Supporters & Staff



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Congratulations

TO THE 2023

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE



Texas Tech Physicians.
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CONTINUED excellence

The almost 300 Women of Excellence we have honored in the last 35 years are not “one hit wonders”, they are women who embody excellence every day of their lives. Here are three women who stood out in 2022.



In November of 2022, Woman of Excellence (2003) Margaret Randle was awarded the Volunteer Center of Lubbock’s Ray J. Diekemper lifetime of service award recognizing her lifetime of service to the Lubbock community.

Margaret impacted the lives of many in her 42 years as an educator in the Lubbock Independent School District - retiring as principal of Ervin Elementary. A tireless volunteer, Margaret has played an active role on the boards of the City of Lubbock, YWCA of Lubbock, Head Start, Ballet Lubbock, Lubbock Partnership Network and South Plains Food Bank. She also shares her time with countless other organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Eta Delta Omega Chapter and the Junior League of Lubbock.



Last year was a big year for Woman of Excellence (2014) Laura Vinson. She was presented with the Spirit of Philanthropy award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Laura also received the 2022 Leadership Lubbock Distinguished Alumni Award from the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

As if that were not enough, Laura chaired the 2022 Lubbock Area United Way Annual Campaign. Under her leadership, the campaign raised almost six million dollars for the Lubbock community.

In addition to all of her community service accolades, Laura is a successful professional. In late November, Laura was promoted to Market President of Prosperity Bank - Lubbock.



Woman of Excellence (2009) Margarita Olivarez received the Rita Harmon Volunteer Service Award during the United Way’s 2022 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition.

Margie – as she is known to many – received the honor for her devotion to community service in Lubbock. For the last 15 years, Margie’s volunteerism has earned her the President’s Volunteer Service Award for volunteering 300 or more hours annually.

Organizations for which Margie actively volunteers include Lubbock Parks & Recreation, Raiders Rojos, HACEMOS, Our Lady of Grace Guadalupanas, Camp Rio Blanco Circle of Friends and Lubbock Latino Chamber of Commerce of the South Plains Board.

The award was presented by Kathy Rollo, Woman of Excellence (2007) and United Way Board Vice Chair.

Congratulations

TO ALL 2023
WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE




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Congratulations



To Murvat Musa, the
2023 YWCA Women
of Excellence Award
recipient in the
Professional category,
and all of this
year's recipients.



finding inspiration

We asked some of the members of the Women of Excellence Academy about their go-to sources for inspiration on days when they find themselves in need of a little pick-me-up?

I try to walk my dog two or three times per day since it is good for her and for me. In fact, my physical therapist told me that he can look at older women and immediately know which ones have walked or engaged in other physical exercise every day. The ones who exercise are much healthier and age with more grace, agility and good health. He challenged me, and I have been walking since that conversation.

I walk a number of long blocks to look at a private lake with a great viewing spot. It is so peaceful and beautiful. When I look at the lake and its surroundings, I feel the presence of God and express my gratitude for the beauty of our world and the many gifts that He has given to me. I enumerate some of my blessings, and suddenly, I feel empowered and excited to walk back home with a sense of joy in my heart. It inspires me to think bigger and bolder about solutions to various challenges, and suddenly, they do not seem overwhelming. My whole attitude is changed by the experience, and I am eager to tackle the next challenge.



Elizabeth "Bess" Haley, PhD
1989 Woman of Excellence



Dr. Cynthia Jumper, MD
2007 Woman of Excellence

A meme printed after Ruth Bader Ginsberg's death stated "I didn't leave you. I passed you the baton! It is your turn now. Get up and fight." That thought inspires me when needed. I also reread "The Man in the Arena" by Theodore Roosevelt when I need to reinforce my path.



Rev. Stephanie Schreiner Nash
2003 Woman of Excellence

I have been a star-gazer my whole life. Peering deeply into the night sky inspires me in two ways simultaneously. On the one hand, studying the universe, makes me feel quite small and makes my current troubles seem even smaller. On the other hand, I am reminded that despite my seeming insignificance, my life and relationships are a gift of immense magnitude. Every breath and heartbeat reflects genius and complexity beyond my comprehension. As inconceivable as it sounds, my life in this vast universe is a rare and exquisite gift.



Councilwoman Latrelle Bright Joy
2020 Woman of Excellence

When I have a day when some "inspiration" is needed, I go for a long walk, a hike or to the gym so that I can think about the day and evaluate the events of the day and what I can do to make it better. I also rely on Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways submit to Him and He will direct your paths.



Brenda J. Becknell
2000 Woman of Excellence

When I am working on a project and need new ideas, I look back at previous successful projects and see if it will spark an idea that I hadn't thought about. I will also google similar projects to see what may have worked other places - then I modify the ideas for what would work in our area.

On the personal inspiration - when I have too much going on and need to just get away from it for a while, I get my iPad and play mahjong or solitaire and completely forget about what's going on. I challenge myself with the games for an hour, then come back to reality and I feel refreshed and ready to get back to tasks at hand!

Congratulations Nanette


for being honored with the
JANE O. BURNS, PhD AWARD
YWCA Women of Excellence 2023



Nanette Deso
Executive Vice President



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why LEMONADE DAY?



Lubbock Lemonade Day, celebrated the first Saturday in May, is one of the most highly anticipated events every spring. People talk about how cute the kids are and how many stands there are and it's just a fun day to live in Lubbock. What makes Lemonade Day so special?

Certainly, kids love it and look forward to it. Parents get involved and often see a whole new side of their children that they never knew was there. The community comes out in force to celebrate the kids and applaud their ingenuity, hard work and creativity.

All of these things play a part in why Lemonade Day is so successful and will launch its eleventh year in Lubbock this May. However, there are many more factors that drive Lemonade Day and explain why the event is so important to the YWCA and our mission in the community.

Thanks to many businesses in Lubbock and our key sponsors at United Supermarkets, Lubbock Land and First United Bank, Lubbock Lemonade Day is a free educational program that introduces young people to entrepreneurship through the experience of owning their own business – a lemonade stand.

Children who participate learn how to start, own and operate a business with important skills like health and safety regulations, customer service, marketing and understanding the bottom line.

At the end of the day, what is their profit? Every child learns very quickly that the money they earn is 100% their money – they get to choose what they will do with it. The program recommends they spend some, (because they work hard) they save some (because you never know when a rainy day will come along) and finally that they share some (because it feels good to give back and help others). The children pick their own charity and most often pick things close to them – like their church or a group supporting a particular disease that has impacted their family or an animal shelter.

United Supermarkets CEO Sidney Hopper, Karsee Mize, Aubree Mize, Lemmy and YWCA Lubbock CEO Glenda Mathis

In 2017, the Gallup organization surveyed parents and teachers to evaluate how Lemonade Day impacted and increased their youth's skills in personal and business areas.

- 88% said participation increased their child's knowledge of financial vocabulary.
- 86% saw an improvement in their child's ability to set financial goals
- 88% said their child had an increased understanding of saving and philanthropy
- 88% believed participation helped their child connect math to the real world
- 88% saw improved communication skills and confidence
- 86% said their child had an increased sense of purpose
- 87% said participation improved their child's sense of personal responsibility.
- 87% believed it improved self-esteem
- 88% said participation helped their child understand the importance of seeing a project through.
- 88% saw a direct correlation between participation in Lemonade Day and an increase in their child's ability to problem solve and be resourceful.

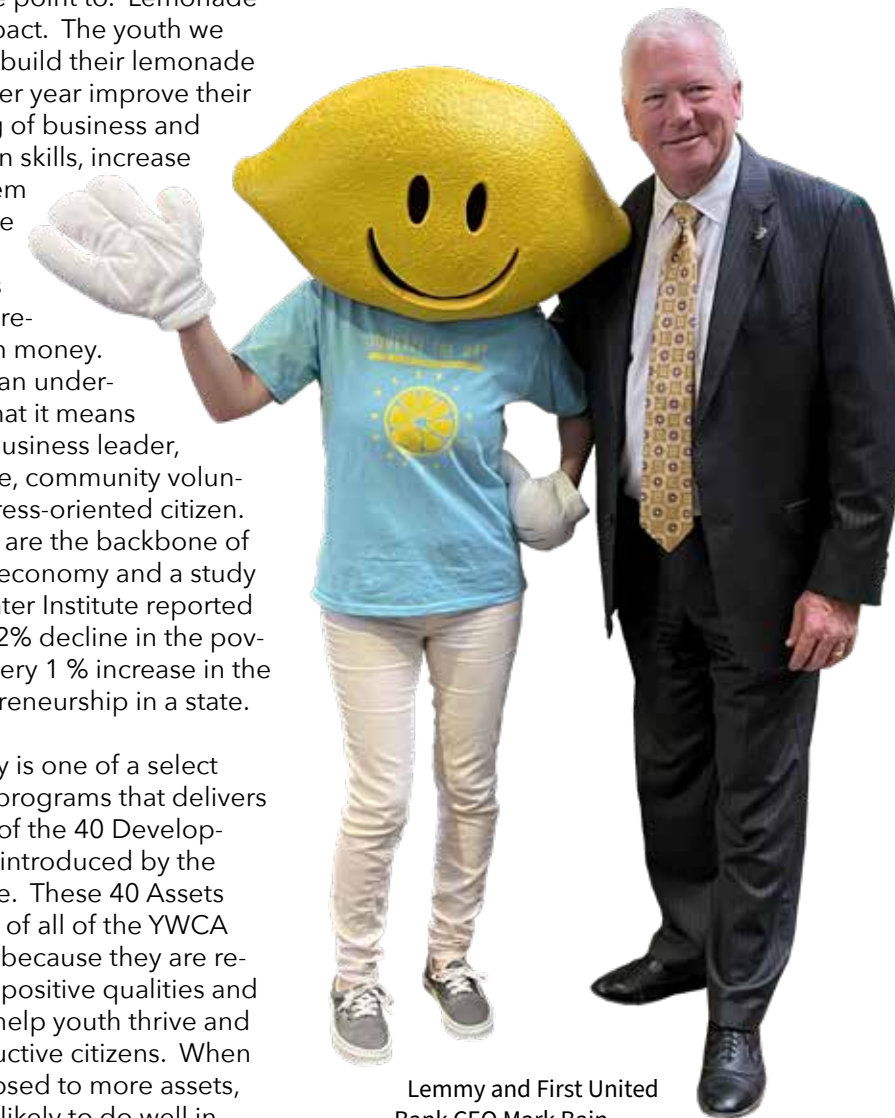
When Gallup surveyed students, 72% of Lemonade Day participants said they plan to start their own business someday compared with 40% among the general youth population.

Sixty-four percent of Lemonade Day participants believe they will invent something that changes the world compared to 29% of the general student surveys.

When asked, 80% of Lemonade Day participants said they could find lots of ways around a problem and the Lemonade Day youth are nearly 8 times as likely to say they are running their own business now.

Ultimately when people ask us, why, Lemonade Day? These are the reasons we point to. Lemonade Day drives impact. The youth we have watched build their lemonade stands year over year improve their understanding of business and communication skills, increase their self-esteem and confidence and discover the power of creating their own money. They develop an understanding of what it means to become a business leader, social advocate, community volunteer and progress-oriented citizen. Entrepreneurs are the backbone of our American economy and a study by the Goldwater Institute reported that there is a 2% decline in the poverty rate for every 1 % increase in the rate on entrepreneurship in a state.

Lemonade Day is one of a select few nonprofit programs that delivers on all aspects of the 40 Developmental Assets introduced by the Search Institute. These 40 Assets are at the core of all of the YWCA programming because they are research-based, positive qualities and supports that help youth thrive and become productive citizens. When youth are exposed to more assets, they are more likely to do well in school and less likely to become victims of high-risk behaviors.



Lemmy and First United Bank CEO Mark Bain

For every 1% increase in entrepreneurship, there is a 2% decrease in poverty.
– Goldwater Institute

If you are sold on Lemonade Day – the way we are – there are three ways you can help us this year.

- Support and encourage a child in your own family to get involved in Lemonade Day.
- On Lemonade Day, buy at least three glasses of lemonade; encouraging young entrepreneurs.
- If you own a business or influence a business, become a "safe" place for youth to set up their stand on Lemonade Day – contact Mandi Cheek at mandi.cheek@ywcalubbock.org.

10 YEARS OF IMPACT IN LUBBOCK	Children Registered	Average Profit	\$164.59	Paid Back an Investor	62%
	40,625	Stands Returning	95%	Donated to a Charity	75%
	Stands Counted	Average Number of Children at Each Stand	3	Saved for Something Special	100%
	6,232				

Tributes

To Emily Ratcliff, a great mentor and friend. Thank you for showing excellence in all that you do. – WestMark

To Linda Gaither, your heart for loving and serving others shows in all that you do. Thank you for teaching us to eat dessert first! – WestMark

To Linda Ferguson, you are a trailblazer and an encourager. Thank you for leading with grace and grit. – WestMark

To Nita Kiesling, your knowledge with wisdom echo through our community. Thank you for blessing so many with your servant heart. – WestMark

Emily Wilkinson, Congratulations on your many artistic endeavors! – Lubbock Arts Alliance

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-Steve & Stephanie Massengale

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Gabby

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OCTOBER 5, 2023



YWCA IS ON A MISSION

OUR VALUES • OUR MISSION

• **OUR PEOPLE** making a difference in our communities

LOVE
We concern ourselves for the well-being of our customers and team
We understand the importance of sacrifice and doing for others
We welcome diversity and seek to find the good in everyone

INTEGRITY
We seek to put others first
We will always seek to reflect ethical standards and do the right thing regardless of circumstances
We understand that we must practice what we preach

STEWARDSHIP
We will always be diligent to the things we have been entrusted
We will ethically utilize and manage all resources and responsibilities we have been provided

SERVE
We understand that nobody in the organization or workplace is more important than the other
We strive to elevate the importance of our customers and leave personal agendas behind, we will put others first

RESULTS
We understand that there are consequences to our actions both positive as well as negative
We will always clearly define our objectives to all stakeholders
Mighty Wash to the Moon

EXCELLENCE
We always seek to make a positive and lasting first impression
We understand the positive effect of consistent performance over time
We demand excellence from ourselves and others

TEAMWORK
We always do whatever it takes
We always work together towards a common vision
We focus on directing individual accomplishments towards organizational objectives

THE HONORARY WALL GETS HONORED



For many years, the Women of Excellence Academy was honored by an art installation that included the addition of a plaque each year with the names of the new honorees. It was housed at The Legacy but over time the piece had begun to show some wear and tear. So, in 2023, the wall received an upgrade. We pulled in the theme of the past along with the signature swirl of the W as a tribute to the tradition's earliest days. Now, the wall can be seen at the Y on University. It is a crisp combination of old and new and gives this honorary piece a beautiful spot where our Academy can be front and center in honor of all they have done for our community and our YWCA.

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Originally proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, the month is used to recognize that we can all play a part in enhancing the lives of children in foster care.

There are over 407,000 children in foster care in the U.S. annually. Only about 34% can be placed with relatives or other close kinship connections. That leaves a huge gap to be filled and provide caring homes for these children. Shirley Babb, our YWCA Director of Communications is a foster care parent of two children under the age of four. The children are siblings and it was important to try to keep them together. "Initially, the thought of becoming a foster parent was scary, but then my perspective changed--- I realized it couldn't be scarier than the reality these children face every day," Shirley told us.

Shane Moran, YWCA Director of Finance is also a foster parent and has since adopted all six of his foster children. As part of his volunteer service, Shane serves as the Vice President of Caleb's Closet, a resource for foster parents in the community.

Shane explained, "When children enter foster care, they often arrive at their new homes with only the clothing on their backs. We provide these children with a new duffel bag or suitcase filled with clothing, basic essentials and other comfort items. This sends them a message that they are valued and cared for by our community."

Every year, over 30,000 children age out of the foster system without a chance at permanence, which means the foster children are reaching the age of eighteen, no longer protected by the state, and out on their own. This means that the youth over the age of eighteen have no familial support, resources, or even job and life skills. These facts have fueled the motivation behind National Foster Care Month and offer all of us the opportunity to get involved and make a difference.



YWCA IS ON A MISSION



PICOSO'S
mexican kitchen

Our purpose is to empower people to reach their God-given potential.

We are a purpose-driven company where 100% of the profits are poured back into our staff through personal development. PMK University is Picoso's personal development program. This program offers classes, books, videos, and online courses. They are available for each of our team members for free. Classes covering topics such as parenting, finance, emotional intelligence, leadership, and life skills.



Our March Community Spotlight is YWCA. We are honored to work with this amazing organization. The menu items we are offering include the Lavender Mint Lemonade, Chili Mango Margarita, Southwest Baby Back Rib Plate, Salmon Plate, and Churros & Ice Cream. \$2 from each item is donated to YWCA.



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