

INSPIRE

MARCH 2026



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Lubbock







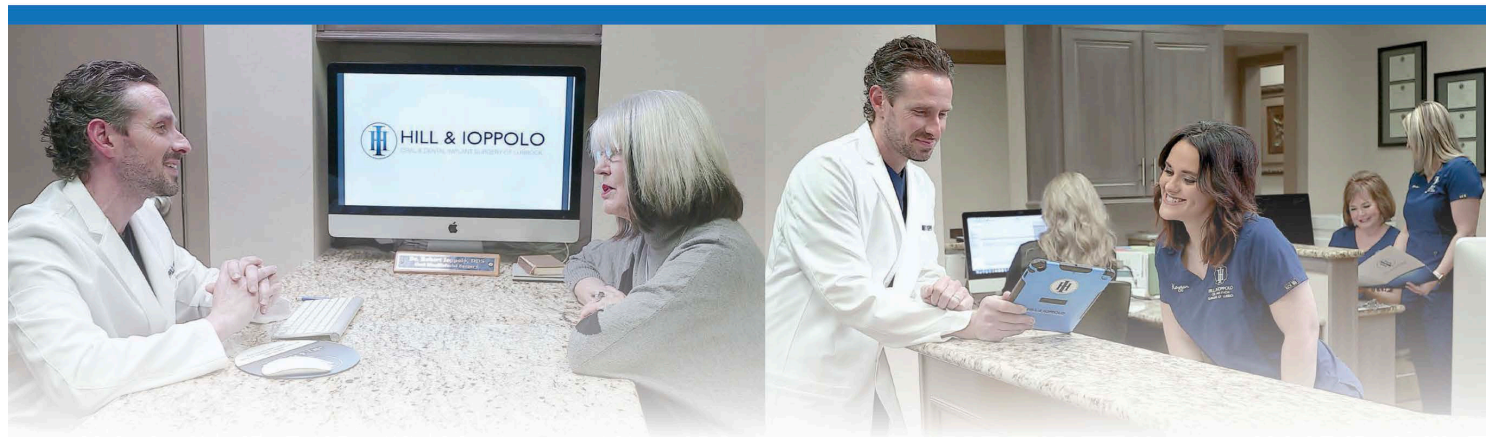
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A letter from the Women of Excellence Committee Chair

Lynn Sanderson

Welcome to the 38th Annual YWCA Women of Excellence Award Celebration.

Today, we gather to recognize and celebrate women who are determined, accomplished, and deeply passionate about what they do. These are women who make a difference - in their professions, in their homes, and throughout our community. Their leadership, resilience and dedication inspire progress and possibility for us all.

Your presence here this evening shows your support and belief in who they are and in the impact they continue to make. It is through encouragement and shared celebration that we strengthen the bonds within our community.

The mission of the YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Together, as a united community, we uphold these values and ensure their continued success.

This event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, the dedication of our YWCA staff, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and the commitment of the Women of Excellence Committee. We are deeply grateful for each of you.

We believe that when women support other women, we all become stronger, greater, and more empowered to create lasting change.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating excellence.

Past Women of Excellence Committee Chairs

1989	<i>Jeannie Patterson</i>	2003	<i>Leigh McPhaul</i>	2017	<i>Redina Franklin</i>
1990	<i>Donna Armstrong</i>	2004	<i>Mary Nell Strong*</i>	2018	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1991	<i>Marlene Hernandez Melendez</i>	2005	<i>Melisa Roberts</i>	2019	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1992	<i>Carol Mckelvy McWhorter</i>	2006	<i>Cathy Allen</i>	2020	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1993	<i>Janet Baucum</i>	2007	<i>Nanette Deso</i>	2021	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1994	<i>Linda Mayes</i>	2008	<i>Gail Spivey</i>	2022	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1995	<i>Karen Worley</i>	2009	<i>Gail Spivey</i>	2023	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1996	<i>Virginia M. Sowell, Ph.D.*</i>	2010	<i>Gail Spivey</i>	2024	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1997	<i>Marie Meyer</i>	2011	<i>Juanita Mendoza</i>	2025	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1998	<i>Lynn McClendon</i>	2012	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>	2026	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>
1999	<i>Kay Brown</i>	2013	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>		
2000	<i>Paulina Jacobo, J.D.</i>	2014	<i>Lynn Sanderson</i>		
2001	<i>Claudette Culp</i>	2015	<i>Redina Franklin</i>		
2002	<i>Lynne Duncan</i>	2016	<i>Redina Franklin</i>		

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MARKETING TEAM

Glenda Mathis, Chief Executive Officer
Callie Bryant, Marketing Director
Lauren Bates, Graphic Designer

PHOTOGRAPHY

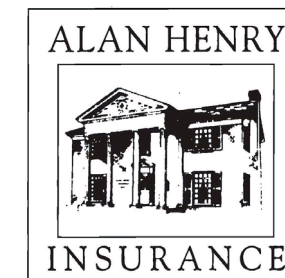
Mark Umstot Photography,
YWCA Marketing Staff

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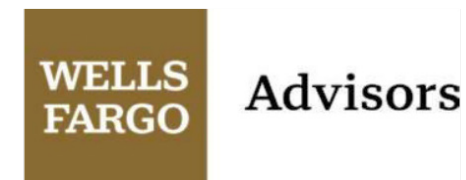
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W O M E N O F



E X C E L L E N C E

ywca

Meet the 2026 Women of Excellence Committee! This is a passionate group of women committed to lifting one another and celebrating the strength, leadership, and impact of women in our community. Through months of collaboration and shared purpose, these volunteers work to create an event that honors achievement while fostering connection, encouragement, and inspiration. Their efforts reflect a deep belief that when women support women, communities grow stronger. From thoughtful planning to meaningful details, this committee is the heart behind an experience that empowers, uplifts, and champions excellence in every woman.

Front Row:

- Nancy Sharp
- Redina Franklin
- Lynn Sanderson (Event Chair)
- Margaret Randle

Back Row

- Lory Ioppolo
- Glenda Mathis
- Esther Pena
- Karen Worley
- Kerri Schoonvelt
- Hannah Fish
- Linda Greenstreet
- Callie Bryant

Not Pictured

- D'Juana McPherson
- Emily Culver
- Emily Ratcliff
- Gail Spivey



PHOTO BY
MARK
UMSTOT



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

Amanda Key-Braster

Amanda Key-Braster is a name synonymous with resilience, artistry, and purpose. An accomplished soprano, Amanda has performed internationally and built a distinguished career in opera, bringing her talent to stages across Europe, the United States, and beyond. A proud Lubbock native, she earned her bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and her master's degree from the Conservatory of Amsterdam. Among the many remarkable venues she has graced, performing at the historic Smetana Hall in Prague remains a career highlight.

Amanda's journey, however, is marked not only by artistic excellence but by extraordinary perseverance. During an opera rehearsal in Amsterdam, a serious accident resulted in a traumatic brain injury that abruptly ended her European opera career and temporarily took away her ability to sing, speak, and even drive. Through intensive rehabilitation, unwavering determination, and faith, Amanda slowly reclaimed her voice and returned to the stage.

From this life-altering experience, Amanda found renewed purpose. She is the Founder and President of Hope in Song, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing comfort, healing, and inspiration through music. Alongside an orchestral ensemble, Amanda shares hymns and spirituals with churches, concert halls, hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons, using music as a means of restoring hope to those facing adversity.

Amanda's influence extends beyond the stage. She balances her professional life with deep intentionality, prioritizing healing, family, and service. In her downtime, she embraces creativity in new forms and has recently found joy in baking. As she affectionately describes it, she is in her "sourdough era," delighting in bread, cinnamon rolls, and pancakes alike.

When asked what advice she would offer young women today, Amanda's message is clear and unwavering: never allow anyone else to define your worth or limit your dreams. Her own story is proof that passion, faith, and perseverance can transform even the most painful setbacks into powerful platforms for impact.

Underlying her every accomplishment is a woman deeply grounded in faith and purpose. Amanda shares her favorite scripture John 16:33 "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world." Through Hope in Song and her continued artistry, Amanda Key-Braster embodies what it means to lead with courage, compassion, and unwavering hope.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

CICELY ALEXANDER

Cicely Alexander's story is rooted in Lubbock, Texas, where her commitment to education and community has shaped a career defined by courage, purpose, and results. Her work reflects a deep belief that public education is not simply a system to be managed, but a promise to be honored. That belief has guided her through more than twenty-five years of service as an educator and leader, always focused on creating opportunity for students and families who need it most.

When asked what has sustained her work across decades of change, Cicely often points not to individual achievement, but to collective effort. She believes progress is built through trust, shared responsibility, and the willingness to listen and learn together.

Cicely's leadership came into sharp focus in 2016 when she accepted the role of principal at Alderson Elementary, a campus facing significant challenges and labeled "Improvement Required". While many viewed the position as a professional risk, Cicely saw a responsibility to her community. With her husband's family rooted in the neighborhood for generations, she understood the weight of what was at stake. Under her leadership, Alderson Elementary achieved a historic transformation, moving from an F rating to a B on the Texas Education Agency accountability scale in just two years, the highest rate of improvement in the district's history.

Today, Cicely serves as Executive Principal of the Lubbock Partnership Network, a collaborative effort between Lubbock Independent School District and community partners dedicated to strengthening schools and expanding student success. In this role, she supports multiple campuses, mentors school leaders, guides instructional and budgetary decisions, and helps bridge the gap between schools and the communities they serve.

Cicely remains a lifelong learner and champion for growth, completing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Texas Tech University. Her commitment to learning and leadership has shaped a legacy written in classrooms, school hallways, and student advocacy. As one colleague so perfectly stated, "Cicely leads with both strength and heart. She makes people believe in what is possible." Ultimately, her legacy is not measured only by what she has achieved, but by the confidence and belief she inspires in others every day.





WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

KATHLEEN BURRELL

Kathleen Burrell stands out as a high achiever with exceptional integrity, work ethic, and servant minded leadership. Letters of recommendation consistently describe her as “humble, genuine, intelligent, sensible, hardworking, organized, and perceptive.” Kathleen doesn’t simply complete tasks—she serves with purpose, exceeds expectations, and pursues excellence without seeking personal recognition.

Covenant Health System CEO Walt Cathey notes, “Kathleen is one of the most humble and hardworking people with whom I have worked. Her only objective is to do as good a job as she can and make sure all the needs of our team are taken care of.”

A lifelong learner, Kathleen earned her undergraduate degree in English and communications from Baylor University before moving to Lubbock to complete both a Doctor of Jurisprudence and a Master of Public Administration. She was recognized as one of the top 100 MPA students in the nation and later became a trained mediator and certified project manager. Her leadership potential has been widely acknowledged—she was selected as one of 40 top executives nationwide for the Providence Health System and named to the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce “20 Under 40” in 2014.

Her leadership extends deeply into the nonprofit community. She has served as Executive Director of the South Plains Chapter of Texas CPAs, President of the Lubbock Symphony Guild, and is slated to become President of the National Charity League Lubbock chapter. She is also Chair Elect for the Lubbock Area United Way. Her volunteer involvement spans organizations such as Ballet Lubbock, CASA of the South Plains, the YWCA, Junior League, and the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. Kathleen credits her professional growth to the opportunities, networks, and experiences these organizations have given her.

Outside of work, Kathleen treasures time caring for her family’s ranch in Leon County, owned since 1870. The ranch connects her deeply to her heritage. She and her husband, Eric, have two daughters—Harper (18) and Elizabeth (15)—and Kathleen attributes much of her success to their constant support.

Kathleen Burrell’s career is defined not only by achievement, but by character. Her thoughtful leadership and deep commitment to service continue to shape and strengthen the Lubbock community.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

PAIGE FLETCHER

Paige Fletcher built her career the way West Texas builds character, steadily, without fanfare, shaped by responsibility and the quiet understanding that what you do when no one is watching still matters.

When she joined the Lubbock Police Department in January 2003, she entered a profession that asks for vigilance and restraint in equal measure. Colleagues recall her early years as disciplined and methodical. In investigative assignments, she was known for documentation that left no question unanswered and no detail unattended. One fellow officer once remarked privately, “When Paige works a case, she treats every photograph and every report like it may be the one that matters most.”

Over time, Fletcher rose through the ranks, becoming a lieutenant whose leadership reflects the same steadiness that marked her early service. In 2024, she reached a milestone that resonated across the department and the city. She became the first woman in LPD history to attend and graduate from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Her leadership extends far beyond rank or title. Colleagues describe her as clear-eyed and steady under pressure. As one peer shared, “She leads with strength, but she also listens. People know she will hold the line, and they know she cares.” That balance, firmness grounded in humanity, is the foundation of enduring leadership.

Yet her strength did not begin in a command office. Long before promotions or recognition, she learned patience, discipline, and trust in the wide-open spaces of West Texas, riding horses beneath an endless sky. The quiet partnership between rider and horse demands the same calm authority and earned confidence that now define her professional leadership. Whether in the saddle or in uniform, Fletcher leads as she always has: measured, attentive, and grounded.

Paige Fletcher’s story is not defined by a single moment or headline. It is defined by years of disciplined work, by leadership cultivated through experience, and by a commitment to doing the job with integrity long after the ceremony ends. In a profession where consistency saves lives and integrity sustains confidence, that kind of legacy matters.



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

SARAH WAKEFIELD

Sarah Wakefield did not choose Lubbock by accident. When a friend once asked why she would come to West Texas, she answered simply, “Because this is where I can make the biggest difference.” It was not a career calculation. It was conviction.

As Chair of Psychiatry and Director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, she helped redefine what rural mental health care could be. She played a central role in bringing the Relational Health Center at Covenant Children’s to life, shaping not only the model of care but the physical design of the space itself. Bright group rooms, welcoming spaces, quiet corners where children can feel safe and seen, every detail reflects the same compassion she brings into the clinic. The degrees and titles tell only part of her story.

At home, she is Sarah. A wife to Noah and mother to three boys, Eli, Mac, and Sam. Her days may begin in hospital corridors and end around the dinner table. She finds restoration outdoors, hiking or camping with her family under wide West Texas skies. The same steadiness she offers patients and colleagues is rooted in that deeply personal center.

Those who work alongside her describe not only her expertise, but her heart. Connie Tyne of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health describes her leadership as marked by “authenticity, grace and a deep sense of purpose,” adding that she leaves a lasting impression on everyone in the room.

Dr. Amy Thompson, CEO of Covenant Children’s Hospital, calls her “a steady and courageous leader who does not shy away from difficult challenges,” praising her rare ability to unite people around a shared mission.

Perhaps the clearest window into her life’s work is found in her own words: “We are not here to warehouse children. We are here to keep them safe while we help them heal.”

That belief has shaped programs, influenced statewide strategies, directed tens of millions of dollars toward expanded care, and produced nearly forty-five peer-reviewed publications. But more importantly, it has shaped lives.

Sarah Wakefield built bridges where barriers once stood. She turned scarcity into structure, stigma into support, and isolation into connection.



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

STACY KEITH

Stacy Keith thrives where creativity meets strategy, in the often unseen business side of the arts. In 2020, while the world was shutdown due to the pandemic, Stacy stepped in to build the Lubbock Cultural Arts Foundation (LCAF). During a time of unprecedented setbacks for artists and performers, she stepped into a brand new role with no blueprint, choosing to build exactly what Lubbock’s arts community needed.

Though she doesn’t call herself an artist, Stacy brought a strong fundraising background, including support for the Tornado Memorial project. Her skillset, work ethic, and passion for Lubbock’s creative culture quickly made her a trusted advocate for artists across the region.

Under Stacy’s leadership, Lubbock earned all four “Friendly” designations from the Texas Music Office — Music Friendly (2020), Film Friendly (2021), Digital Media Friendly (2025), and Tourism Friendly (2025). Only the second city in Texas to achieve all four, Lubbock now enjoys the measurable economic impact these certifications bring.

One of Stacy’s greatest strengths is her understanding of collaboration. As one supporter noted, “Every committee under her direction benefits from her ability to communicate clearly, assign responsibilities effectively, and stay focused on outcomes.” One example is when she united Texas Tech University Medical Center, Covenant Health, federal healthcare programs, and private insurers to develop practical solutions and expand access to healthcare coverage to artists and performers.

LCAF’s role in the Buffalo Grass Fest each spring and the “Getting the Gig” showcase each fall also reflects Stacy’s leadership. These events support emerging talent and foster collaboration among the Texas Tech School of Music, South Plains College, the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, Lubbock Youth Orchestras, recording studios, venues, musicians, and numerous arts organizations.

Stacy and her husband, Ray, are familiar faces at nearly every arts and music event in town, devoted to strengthening Lubbock’s creative community. At home, she treasures time with her son, Paden, and their three dogs, gardening, reading, and quilting. Since joining LCAF, she has even begun exploring her own artistic voice — proof that when you invest in the arts, they begin to invest in you.



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

TAMMY WILLIAMS

Tammy Williams has never led from behind a desk. For more than three decades, Tammy has served at University Medical Center, beginning as a staff nurse in the Neonatal ICU and Transport Team and rising to Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, now responsible for more than 1,700 nurses across the system. Under her leadership, UMC became Lubbock's first Magnet-designated hospital, a national recognition for nursing excellence and patient care quality.

Colleagues describe her leadership during some of healthcare's most turbulent chapters as decisive, steady, and deeply human. Dr. Mike Ragain, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at UMC, wrote that Tammy "exemplifies the very definition of excellence in leadership, compassion in healthcare, and advocacy for the advancement of women in the profession." He credits her with championing evidence-based practice, professional development, and mentorship opportunities that have helped countless nurses rise to their full potential.

Under Tammy's direction, UMC's nursing retention rate has far outpaced state and national averages, reflecting a culture where nurses feel supported, valued, and empowered to lead. She championed shared governance and fostered an open-door leadership style that invites participation at every level. One colleague described her rare blend of strategic vision and emotional intelligence, calling her a "transformational leader in every sense."

Tammy partnered with donors to establish the Reach for the Stars Nursing Scholarship Program, investing in future nurses from within the UMC workforce. She helped develop UMC's first 24-hour urgent care clinics and worked alongside medical staff to improve patient flow and expand access to care across the region.

Yet beyond the systems she has strengthened and the recognitions she has earned, those closest to her speak first about her heart. They speak about her authenticity, her resilience, and her unwavering commitment to excellence not just in outcomes, but in people.

Tammy Williams carries the weight of responsibility with clarity and calm. She is fiercely protective of her nurses and equally devoted to the patients they serve.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

VELMA RUTH SHAMBECK

Velma Ruth Shambeck's life reads like the quiet architecture of a city well built. You may not see her name etched on a skyline, but generations of students, teachers, principals, and families carry her influence forward every day.

Born on December 21, 1931, and raised on a farm near Tahoka, Texas, Velma Ruth understood early the value of discipline, endurance, and faith. Those lessons traveled with her into the classroom, where she began her career as a teacher in the Texas Panhandle before joining the Lubbock Independent School District in 1961.

She did not simply teach curriculum. She cultivated confidence. In 1967, she was selected as a Demonstration Teacher for Lubbock ISD, mentoring new and struggling educators. A year later, she became principal of Murfee Elementary, and eventually moved into Central Office administration before being named Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools in 1983. In that role, she helped guide dozens of principals and shape the academic experience for thousands of children across the district.

For more than three decades, Dr. Shambeck has served as a teacher and Core Group Leader with the Lubbock Area Community Bible Study, guiding women across denominations and generations. Even into her nineties, she continues to lead, teach, and mentor. Her quilting projects are stitched with the same precision she once brought to administrative decisions. Her Bible studies are approached with the same rigor she once applied to curriculum design. Excellence, for her, is not seasonal. It is habitual.

Those who know her speak of her integrity, her faith, and her unwavering commitment to family. She and her husband, Bill Shambeck, raised two daughters, Debbie Shambeck West and Brenda Shambeck Ellis, and today her growing legacy includes eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Family was never secondary to career. It was foundational to it.

Now in her nineties, Dr. Velma Ruth Shambeck continues to model active engagement, intellectual curiosity, and spiritual leadership. Her influence spans more than seventy years in Lubbock, shaping classrooms, campuses, church groups, and countless individual lives.

Communities are strengthened by people who build systems. They are transformed by people who build people.





WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

Brinkley Coker

Youth Leadership Honoree
Frenship High School

Brinkley Coker is a young woman whose leadership, discipline, and commitment to service already signal a future of remarkable impact. A senior at Frenship High School, Brinkley has distinguished herself among an exceptional class, earning recognition as one of the Top 10 Students in the Class of 2026. This achievement reflects not only academic excellence but the rare ability to balance rigorous coursework with meaningful leadership roles, extracurricular involvement, and sustained community service.

Central to Brinkley's life is her deep commitment to serving others. For the past six years, she has been an active member of the National Charity League, contributing more than 120 volunteer hours across a wide range of organizations throughout the Lubbock community. Each experience has reinforced her belief in the power of service and its ability to shape both individuals and communities.

In addition to her academic and civic achievements, Brinkley has demonstrated exceptional dedication through her cheer career. As a student-athlete, cheer has instilled in her the values of teamwork, perseverance, and accountability. Balancing the physical demands of athletics with academics and service, Brinkley has learned the importance of discipline, time management, and leading with confidence, skills that continue to shape her approach both on and off the field.

While many young leaders struggle to find balance, Brinkley approaches life with intention. She prioritizes her responsibilities while remaining fully engaged with family, fitness, athletics, and service. In her downtime, she enjoys working out, staying active in sports, spending time at the lake, traveling, and continuing to give back to the community she calls home. This balance allows her to remain both grounded and energized as she pursues her goals.

At this stage in her life, Brinkley is most passionate about being a leader and a positive role model in every environment she enters, whether in the classroom, in athletics, extracurricular activities, or through volunteerism. She understands that leadership is not defined by titles alone but by consistency, integrity, and the willingness to serve others well.

Rooted in strong family values and guided by a sense of responsibility to those around her, Brinkley McClaire Coker represents the very essence of Youth Leadership. With her dedication to excellence, service, and personal growth, she stands poised to leave a lasting mark on her community and far beyond, embodying the promise of a new generation of women leading with purpose, compassion, and confidence.

Congratulations

2026

Women of Excellence

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WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE ACADEMY

2020s

Sarah Bevers	2025
Annie Chalex Boyle	2025
Kelly Criswell	2025
Rhonda Dillard	2025
Nedra Hotchkins	2025
Lindsey Maestri	2025
Chibuzo O'Suoj, MD	2025
Raegan Higgins Siwatu, PhD	2025
Amarachi Uche-Eboh	2025
Janelle Barrington Spivey	2024
Ruth Robillard	2024
Nancy Ruth Neal	2024
Misty Lynn Rieber	2024
Shelia Patterson Harris	2024
Pamela Roddy	2024
Julie Doss	2024
Jeye Johnson	2024
Amanda Mead	2024
Emily Wilkinson	2023
Lisa Stane	2023
Olivia Boggs	2023
Traci Cheek	2023
Jessica Gray, MD	2023
Murvat Musa	2023
Megan Estrada	2023
Gabriella Contreras	2023
Nanette Deso	2023
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
Latrelle Bright Joy	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
Sharmila Dissanaik, MD	2017
Phebe Ellis-Roach	2017
Kim Flenniken	2017
Candace Bourland Hicks	2017
Anna Jackson	2017
Michelle Kraft	2017
Madeleine Lipetska	2017
Rhosean Asmah	2016
Janie Bush	2016
Abigail Crawford	2016
Berta Fogerson	2016
Linda Greenstreet	2016
Karen Gibson	2016
Emily Lemley	2016
Ann Manning	2016
Sandi Turner	2016
Suzanne Blake	2015
Betty Shewbert Dotts	2015
Lynda Loyce Dutton	2015
Amy Faris	2015
Judge Drue Farmer	2015
Lisa S. Leach	2015
Michelle Pantoya, PhD	2015
Michelle Suzanne Staley	2015
Gail Spivey	2015
Mimi Zumwalt MD	2015
Alona Beesinger	2014

Holly Betenbough	2014
Alejandra Estrada	2014
Lorrie Lushnat	2014
Aretha Marbley, PhD	2014
Carolyn Perry	2014
Ariwan Rakvit MD	2014
Carolyn Simpson	2014
Laura Vinson	2014
Marguerite Fallon, DNP, RN	2013
Karen K. Garza, PhD	2013
Nita Kiesling	2013
Neoka Perez	2013
Mary Jones Saathoff, PhD	2013
Nancy Tucker Sharp	2013
Sindee L. Simon, PhD	2013
*Carolyn Taylor	2013
Merinda K. Condra, JD	2012
Christie Devitt	2012
Michaela Hardin	2012
Louisa Hope-Weeks, PhD	2012
Terri Caldwell	2012
Narissra Maria Punyanunt-Carter, PhD	2012
Lori Rice Spearman, PhD, MT, ASCP	2012
Emily Ratcliff	2012
Diannah Tatum	2012
*Kay Cross	2011
Aimee C. Doane	2011
Yvonne Racz Key	2011
Sarah Jo Lambert	2011
Beth Lawson	2011
Kelly Overley, PhD	2011
Kamlesh Varma, MD	2011
Kitty Harris Wilkes, PhD	2011
Bonnie J. Aycock	2010
Sharon Hyde Bass	2010
Billie J. Caviel	2010
Mary K. Crites, AIA	2010
Grace Hernandez	2010
Betsy Goebel Jones, EdD	2010
Judge Nancy M. Koenig	2010
Vickie Russell, LMSW	2010
Jade C. Shank	2010
2000s	
Melinda Corwin, PhD, CCC-SLP	2009
Christina Esperat, RN, PhD, FAAN	2009
*Stacie George	2009
Sally Kipyego	2009
Jennifer McGrew	2009
Margarita Olivarez	2009
Catherine Lee Pope	2009
*Louise Hopkins Underwood	2009
Mitzi Ziegner	2009
Maria Elena Quintanilla	2008
Linda M. Brice, RN, PhD, FNP	2008
Pamela A. Eibeck, PhD	2008

Sharyn Ivory, FACHE, CPHQ	2008
SuzAnn Moore Kirby	2008
Allison Rae Korinek	2008
*LaWanda Sherrod Murfee	2008
Melisa Tatum Roberts	2008
Kay Holder Sanford	2008
Adrienne Cozart	2007
Cynthia Jumper, MD	2007
Nicole Mitchell	2007
Beth Pratt	2007
Kathryn Kinnison Rollo	2007
Kathy Stocco	2007
*Mary Nell Strong	2007
Jan Thetford	2007
Beena Variyam	2007
Karen Baggerly, MSN, RN	2006
Linda Gaither	2006
Judith Henry, EdD	2006
Linda Crawford Hoover, PhD	2006
Marie Pfarr	2006
Rosa Hernández Sheets, PhD	2006
Margaret Vugrin	2006
Vernita Woods-Holmes	2006
Karen Worley	2006
Danette Castle	2005
Nettie Edwards	2005
*Conny McDonald Martin	2005
Patti J. Patterson, MD	2005
Renée Bergenheier Underwood	2005
Margaret Williams	2005
Susan Ford Wiltshire, PhD	2005
Katie Megan Akeroyd	2004
Geneva B. Boren	2004
*Gloria Snell Gale	2004
Sara Stalcup McKee	2004
Elma S. Moreno	2004
Marilyn Phelan, JD	2004
Lugene Lane Pickering	2004
Marianna Shubov, PhD	2004
Toni Arnett	2003
Margaret Brannon-Randle, MEd	2003
Ashley Marie Cartwright	2003
Alexia E. Green, RN, PhD, FAAN	2003
Suzanne Adams Beck Liner, MD	2003
Rev. Stephanie Schreiner Nash	2003
Sharon Young Prather	2003
*Trudy Putteet	2003
*Mary Jeanne van Appledorn, PhD	2003
Donna Bacchi, MD, MPH	2002
Lady Falls Brown, PhD	2002
Kay Davis	2002
Tina Fuentes	2002
Ione Heartsill	2002
Joe Love Stogner Nelson*	2002
Alana K. Noble	2002

Connie Wharton	2002
Janie Landin Ramirez	2001
Myrna L. Armstrong, EdD, RN, FAAN	2001
Jane O. Burns, PhD*	2001
Lauren Griffin	2001
Pat Maines	2001
Judge Judy Parker	2001
Windy Sitton	2001
Linda Suzan Lazarin Thomas	2001
Maxine Willingham	2001
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
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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
Jitra Subpamongkol Anuras, MD	1997
Christy Michele Badgwell	1997
Ruth Jane Holmes, PhD	1997
Phyllis Sullivan Jones-Beasley	1997
Sherry Sancibrian	1997
Marisue Pounders Smith	1997
Irasema Velasquez	1997
Kathy Volanty, PhD	1997
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
Patricia Yoder Wise, RN, EdD	1996
Louise Willson Arnold	1995
*Betty L. Baker	1995
Louise T. Cummins	1995
Tammy D. Barnes Fedynich	1995

Shaili M. Khandheria	1995
Marian K. Solowy Myers, MD	1995
*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
Katherine Anne Lucas	1993
Mary Tom Riley O'Bar, EdD	1993
Sandra Sabatini, PhD, MD	1993
*Barbara L. Sommerville	1993
Kirsten Storin Doty	1992
*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
*Betty J. Savage Mills	1991
*Virginia M. Sowell, PhD	1991
*Helen Wagner Willey	1991
Alicia Boswell	1990
*Glenna Maxey Goodacre	1990
Eillean 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	

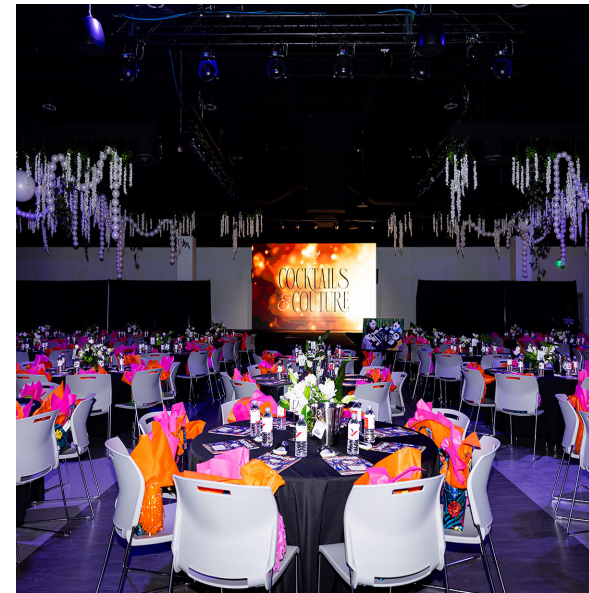


A Space With Purpose

When it comes to planning an event, the venue sets the tone long before the first guest arrives. In Lubbock, one location that stands out not only for its versatility, but for the mission it supports is the YWCA Lubbock. Renting event space at the YWCA offers more than just four walls, it provides an opportunity to bring people together in a place dedicated to empowerment, inclusion, and community impact.

The YWCA of Lubbock offers flexible event spaces designed to accommodate a wide range of occasions. From professional meetings, workshops, and conferences to celebrations, receptions, and community gatherings, the facilities can be adapted to meet your needs. Clean, welcoming, and functional, the spaces are well-suited for both formal and casual events. Natural light, adaptable layouts, and practical amenities help create an environment where guests feel comfortable and engaged.

Whether you're hosting a small group discussion or a larger event, the YWCA's spaces provide a professional yet warm atmosphere. What truly sets YWCA Lubbock apart is its mission. Proceeds from facility rentals help support the organization's programs and services, which focus on empowering women, eliminating racism, and strengthening the local community. By choosing to host your event at the YWCA, you're directly contributing to meaningful work that impacts lives across Lubbock.



Your Event. Our Mission.

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By choosing to host your event at the YWCA, you're directly contributing to meaningful work that impacts lives across Lubbock. Located in the heart of Lubbock, YWCA facilities are easily accessible and supported by a staff that understands the importance of smooth event planning. The team works closely with renters to ensure spaces are prepared and expectations are met, making the process straightforward and stress-free.

The YWCA of Lubbock offers something unique, the chance to host an event that has purpose beyond the agenda. When you rent space at the YWCA, you're not just reserving a room, you're investing in a stronger, more inclusive community.

For your next meeting, celebration, or gathering, consider a venue where your event can make a difference long after the chairs are stacked and the lights are turned off.

Ready to start planning?

We're honored to help you prepare for your big event, your special day, your moment. To learn more about what we offer, simply scan the QR code to visit our events website, where you can explore our spaces and submit your interest form. We look forward to connecting with you!



2026

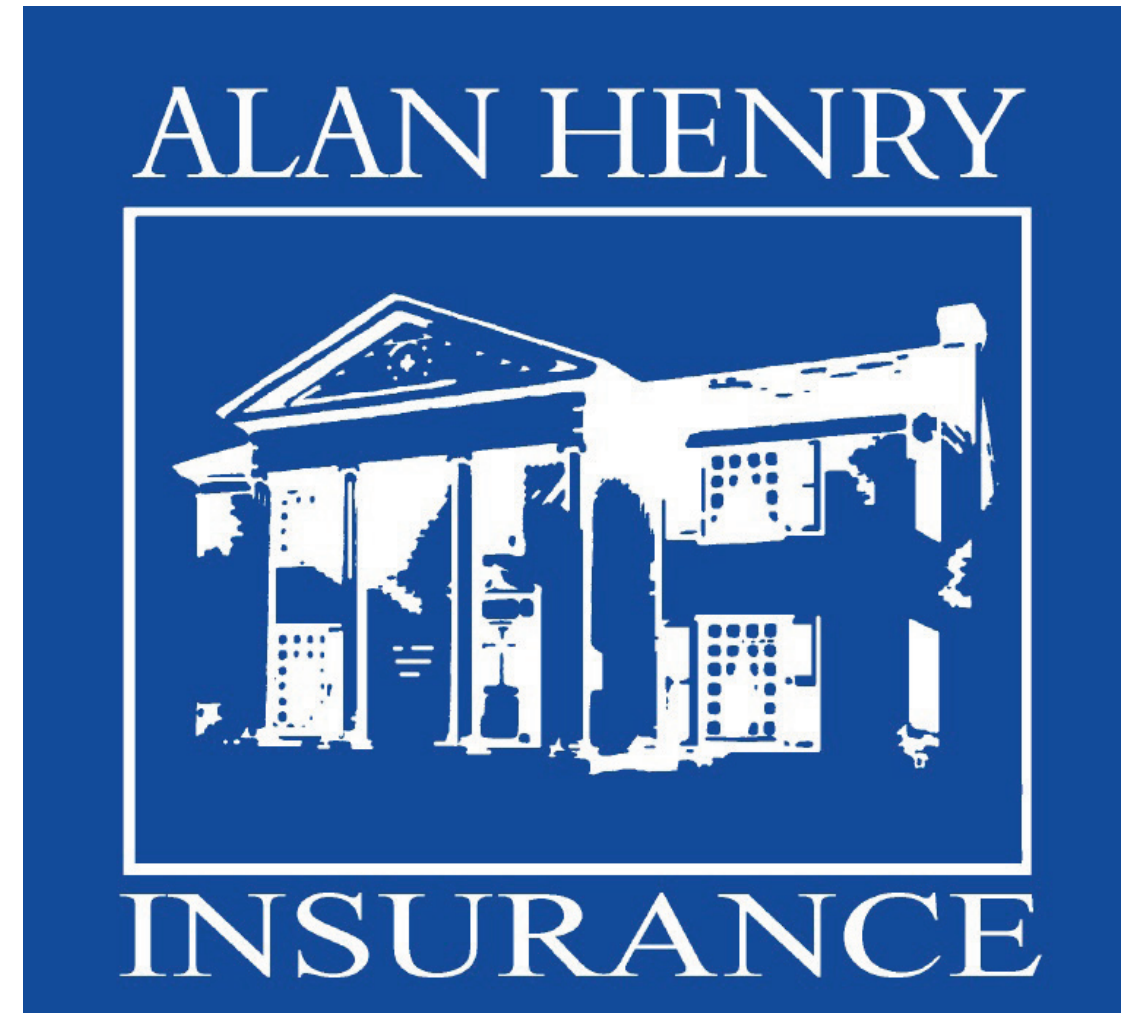
COCKTAILS & COUTURE

October 1st



An evening of style and sophistication with cocktails and mocktails, curated auctions, and a glamorous fashion show.

For more details, visit
ywcalubbock.org



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YWCA Women of Excellence*

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EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH BLOOM



The YWCA of Lubbock has experienced steady growth in recent years, welcoming new programs, partnerships, and voices into our organization. As we expand, our focus remains on people and on creating spaces where individuals feel supported and seen. What began as a place of service has become a place of belonging, shaped by connection, care, and opportunity.

One reflection of that growth is **BLOOM**, one of three youth development programs at the YWCA of Lubbock created to help guide the next generation of women toward confidence, purpose, and direction.

BLOOM is the sister organization to AMEND and was created to support young girls as they grow into confident, well-mentored young women. Guided by the belief to **Challenge, Cultivate, Change**, the program offers a supportive environment where girls are encouraged to explore identity, build social and life skills, and consider what is possible for their future. Through shared experiences and intentional connection, participants form relationships that support personal growth, leadership development, and expanding opportunity.

KICK OFF

On January 15, **BLOOM** held its first official kickoff. Girls of various ages and backgrounds came together for an evening focused on creativity and inspiration. Participants created vision boards and heard from guest speaker Quanosha Bean, who shared her journey into entrepreneurship and spoke about perseverance, growth, and defining success. The evening was made possible in part through the generous donation of dinner from Raising Cane's, helping create a welcoming space for connection.

LOOKING AHEAD

As **BLOOM** continues to take shape, the program remains focused on creating intentional experiences that encourage confidence, creativity, and connection for young girls. Upcoming gatherings such as Paint and Sip on March 26 will provide opportunities for self expression and shared experiences as **BLOOM** looks toward the future.



BLOOM

MAR
26

Sip & PAINT

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

YWCA on University
6501 University Avenue

Please enter through the
South Entrance and follow
signage to the Art Room.



YWCA IS ON A MISSION

RAISING THE BAR ON CHILD SAFETY

In every childcare center, there is an unspoken covenant: families hand over what they value most, trusting that the adults and systems inside the building will protect, nurture, and guide their children. That trust is sacred. It is also fragile.

Across the country, youth-serving organizations are being asked harder questions by parents, regulators, insurers, and funders. Not “Do you have policies?” but “Do your policies work in real life?” Not “Do you background check?” but “Do you know what background checks cannot tell you?” Not “Do you care about safety?” but “Can you prove that safety is built into how you operate, train, supervise, and respond?”

PRÆSIDIUM EXISTS FOR THIS MOMENT.

Præsidium is a national leader in abuse risk management with a mission to prevent the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and preserve trust in the organizations that serve them. Their approach is grounded in more than 30 years of field experience and thousands of case analyses, translating what we have learned from real incidents into practical prevention systems that organizations can implement.

Præsidium Accreditation is one of the clearest ways an organization can publicly demonstrate it meets high, research-informed standards for abuse prevention. It is not a poster on a wall. It is a blueprint for how people are screened, trained, supervised, supported, and held accountable, day after day, shift after shift.

FOR CHILDCARE CENTERS, THAT DISTINCTION MATTERS.

WHAT IS PRÆSIDIUM ACCREDITATION

Præsidium Accreditation is a standardized and objective process that allows organizations to demonstrate their commitment to abuse prevention. It is built on the “Præsidium Safety Equation,” a framework that identifies eight organizational operations where risk can be reduced through specific, measurable practices. For the YWCA of Lubbock, child safety is not a programmatic detail. It is foundational to the organization’s credibility, its mission, and its long-term sustainability.



As a community-based nonprofit serving children, youth, and families across multiple programs, the YWCA of Lubbock operates in spaces where trust is essential. Families enroll their children not only because of programming or convenience, but because they believe in the integrity of the institution. That trust must be reinforced by systems, not sentiment. Præsidium Accreditation strengthens that foundation in three critical ways.

PRÆSIDIUM ALIGNS SAFETY WITH MISSION

The YWCA’s work centers on empowerment, leadership development, and community impact. None of that can occur in an environment where safety is assumed rather than engineered. By adopting a nationally recognized abuse prevention framework, YWCA of Lubbock ensures that its protective practices rise to the same level of intentionality as its programming.

A parent touring a childcare center might not know the language of risk frameworks or organizational operations. But they understand this:

“Will my child be safe here?”

Præsidium Accreditation gives a center a way to answer with substance:

- We train our people before they are ever alone with children.
- We re-train, because safety is not a one-time lesson.
- We design supervision and spaces to reduce isolation and increase visibility.
- We take concerns seriously and respond decisively.
- We build accountability into leadership and governance.

For the YWCA of Lubbock, Præsidium Accreditation is a promise made visible: a community institution choosing not only to care about safety, but to engineer it into how it operates. That is how trust is earned, and how it is kept.





BREAKING BARRIERS LUBBOCK'S FIRST WOMAN VETERINARIAN

THERE ARE LEADERS WHO HOLD TITLES, AND THEN THERE ARE LEADERS WHO HOLD SPACE. DR. SONJA LEE HAS BUILT A LIFE AROUND THE SECOND.

In Lubbock, Texas, where tradition runs deep and community ties stretch across generations, Dr. Lee has become known not simply for what she has achieved, but for how she builds others. Long before she became “Dr. Lee,” she was simply Sonja, a young woman with big questions about purpose and an even bigger belief in possibility.

Almost six decades ago, Dr. Sonja Lee made history as the first woman to graduate with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

In an era when professional spaces in science and medicine were overwhelmingly male, that milestone was more than academic. It was cultural.

Becoming Dr. Sonja L. Lee was not about prestige. It was about preparation. It was about honoring the doors that she had opened for herself and ensuring they would remain open for others.

She has often shared that her motivation came from recognizing how many women dim their brilliance to make others comfortable. She chose not to dim. She chose to develop.

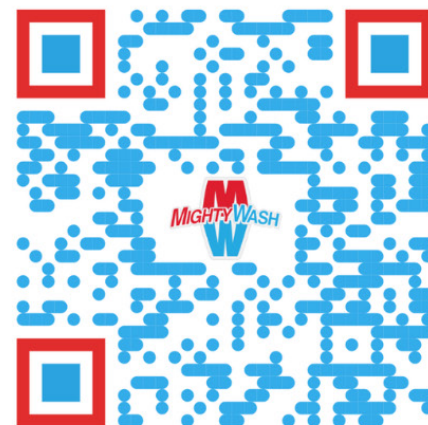
By entering and excelling in a field historically closed to women, she demonstrated that barriers are not permanent fixtures. They are invitations to progress. Young women watching her lead see possibility embodied. She often reminds the women she mentors, *“Empowered women do not wait for permission. They prepare, they position themselves, and they walk through the doors they once thought were closed.”* - Dr. Sonja Lee.



Core Values:

- LOVE
- SERVICE
- TEAMWORK
- STEWARDSHIP
- INTEGRITY
- EXCELLENCE
- RESULTS

SCAN FOR A FREE WASH!



Dr. Sonja Lee's legacy is not defined by accolades alone. It lives in the women who speak up sooner, apply boldly, return to school, launch businesses, or lead initiatives because she told them they could.

Her story is deeply personal, but its impact is communal.

In Lubbock, empowerment has a face. It looks like a woman who chose growth over fear. It sounds like wisdom offered generously. It feels like being seen and strengthened at the same time.

And through Dr. Sonja L. Lee, that empowerment continues to ripple outward, one life at a time.

A Tale of a West Texas Star

Hannah Jackson is a singer-songwriter whose artistry reflects both the grit and grace of West Texas. Based in Lubbock, she has built a career defined by vocal excellence, emotional authenticity, and a deep respect for musical tradition, blending elements of Americana, country, soul, and classic pop into a sound that feels both timeless and deeply personal.

Jackson's connection to music began early. Raised in a traveling ministry, she grew up immersed in performance, stepping onto the stage almost as soon as she could speak. That upbringing fostered not only confidence and discipline, but also a natural instinct for storytelling through song. She later pursued formal vocal training, studying classical, Broadway, and contemporary styles, shaping the technical strength and versatility that have become hallmarks of her voice.

National audiences were introduced to Jackson in 2011 when she appeared as a contestant on The X Factor USA. While the experience expanded her reach, she remained grounded in her artistic vision, choosing to build a career centered on meaningful performances and genuine connection rather than spectacle.

Jackson's recorded work highlights her depth as both a vocalist and songwriter. Her discography includes the Naïve EP as well as her full-length album New Morning, collaborative projects with fellow Texas artists, and contributions to film soundtracks, including a featured vocal performance in a Hallmark holiday film.

A career highlight includes performing an original song co-written with Jeff Cohen at the iconic Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, a milestone that reflects her standing as a respected songwriter within the industry.

In addition to her solo work, Jackson continues to explore collaborative and familial projects, most notably the emerging mother-daughter duo LILLIANNAH, which celebrates harmony, heritage, and shared creative vision. She is currently in the studio working on new music, continuing to evolve her sound while staying true to the roots that define her artistry.



We Rise Together

An original song for the YWCA

By Hannah Jackson

*A world divided, we've seen the scars
But love unites us, it heals our hearts
We light the way where the shadows fall
With every voice, we can change it all
No more silence, and no more fear
With strength from the women that led us here
We hold the power, the courage, the grace
To build a future, and a better place*

*When we rise together, hand in hand
For peace, for justice, for every land
We lift each other, side by side
With a voice of freedom that we can't deny
We rise as women, bold and strong
The power of diversity all along
With dignity and our hearts aligned
When we rise together, When we rise together
We will win this fight*

*To every women who broke the mold
(We see you)
To every story that's yet to be told
(We see you)
We see your strength, your passion, your fire
You light the path and you inspire
From classrooms, boardrooms and every street
We'll keep on marching till the mission's complete
With every step, we're making the way
For brighter tomorrows, starting today*

*For every girl who dreams out loud
For every woman who stands unbowed
For every heart that dares to believe
We're the change we wish to see
We lead with courage, we lead with grace
We leave a legacy in this space
A world united, a brighter dawn
Together we march on*

Intentional Time. Transformational Impact.

CYD (Community Youth Development) is more than an after-school program. It is a promise. A structured, intentional investment in young people during the hours when guidance matters most. When school has ended but the day is far from over, CYD steps in to provide stability, mentorship, and opportunity.

And over time, that presence changes lives.

A Safe Place That Becomes a Launch Pad

For many youth, the hours between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. can determine the trajectory of their choices. Research consistently identifies this window as a peak time for risk behaviors. CYD reframes that narrative. Instead of vulnerability, it offers vision.

Within the YWCA walls, students encounter enrichment that extends beyond academics. They engage in leadership development, creative exploration, character education, and community service. They build confidence not by being told they are capable, but by being given opportunities to demonstrate it.

The impact is visible in subtle but powerful ways. A once-shy student volunteers to lead a group discussion. A teen who struggled academically discovers strength in collaboration. A young girl begins to see herself not just as a participant, but as a leader. CYD does not merely occupy time. It transforms it.

The Architecture of Belonging

CYD's most profound contributions to the community is the environment it creates. Young people thrive where they feel known. Staff and mentors cultivate relationships rooted in consistency and accountability. Expectations are high, but so is encouragement. This balance builds what every child needs: belonging. Belonging fuels engagement. Engagement fuels growth. Growth fuels achievement. And achievement, once experienced, becomes contagious.

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Community

The impact of CYD extends beyond individual students. When youth are supported, families are stabilized. Parents and guardians gain peace of mind knowing their children are in a safe, structured environment focused on development rather than mere supervision.

This trust strengthens the broader mission of the YWCA of Lubbock. CYD aligns seamlessly with the organization's commitment to empowerment and dignity. By equipping young people with the tools to succeed academically and socially, the Y invests not just in the present, but in the community's long-term vitality.

These youth are tomorrow's workforce. Tomorrow's civic leaders. Tomorrow's advocates.

The dividends of today's mentorship compound over decades.

**BECOME A
MENTOR**



Congratulations 2026

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2026
Woman of
Excellence

CONGRATULATIONS!

Amanda Key

Founder of Hope in Song



Sponsor us at:

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BONNIE ELLIS

Congratulations Beema!

Thank you for Setting the Standard of Excellence

Long before any of us understood the meaning of excellence, you were quietly living it.

Through your love, your strength, and your example, you shaped our lives and countless others along the way.

What you built continues to guide us.

Velma Ruth Shambeck
2026 YWCA Women of Excellence

With love and gratitude,
Your Family

*"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
- Galatians 6:9*

Lemonade Day!®

Lemonade Day is a community-wide youth initiative that introduces young people to entrepreneurship by guiding them through the real-world experience of starting and running their own lemonade stand. Through this hands-on program, kids learn how to set a goal, make a plan, manage money, and work their plan to achieve their dreams all while building confidence and valuable life skills along the way.

Saturday, May 2nd

Want to learn more?
Go to lubbock.lemonadeday.org

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Marketing Director

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REGINA CULVER
Education Director

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Facilities Director

PARKER GORE
Health & Recreation Director

SHANE MORAN
Finance Director

MISSION

The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

VISION

The YWCA of Lubbock impacts lives daily and advances the power of women and diversity to strengthen our community.

VALUES

Compassion. Leadership. Integrity. Commitment.

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YWCA MISSION CIRCLE TARGETED GIVING

You Decide the Focus. We Deliver the Mission.

**You believe in our mission.
You value the impact of our work.**

Now is the perfect time to take the next step—join the YWCA Mission Circle.

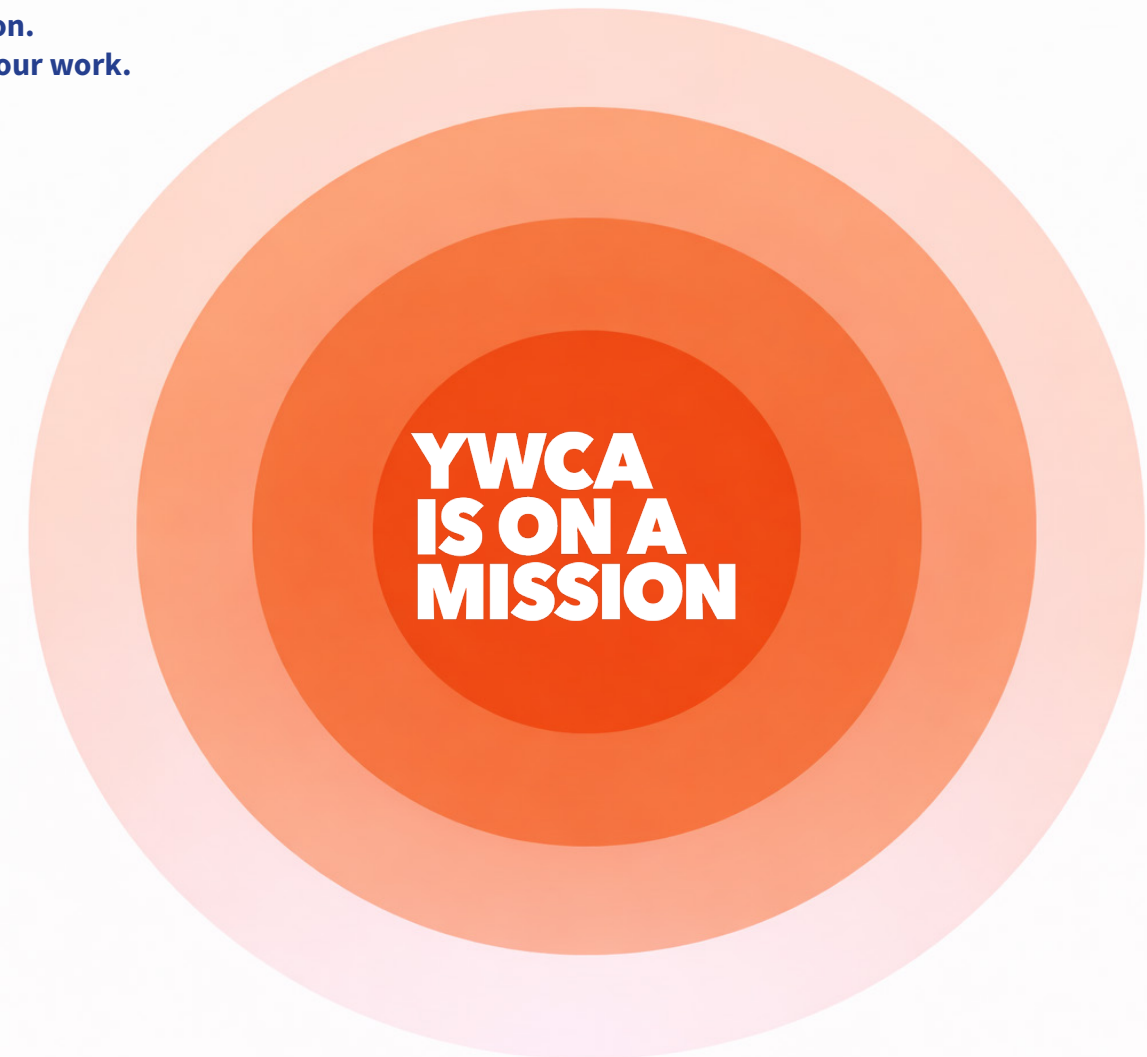
The Mission Circle is a powerful way to make targeted, meaningful contributions to the programs and advocacy efforts you care about most.

In times like these, your partnership has an even greater impact. It's easy to put off giving for "another day," but today, your support matters more than ever. Every gift—at any level—helps change lives.

When you join the Mission Circle, you become part of a community of dedicated supporters committed to keeping our doors open and our voices strong for those who need us most.

Your support fuels our mission to advance peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all, right here in our community. And as a Mission Circle member, you'll receive updates and success stories that show exactly how your generosity is transforming lives—real people, real stories, real change.

**Join today.
We need your voice.
We need your partnership.
We need you in the Mission Circle—showing up for our community every day.**



Donate Today.



SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY DEVOTED TO

Positive Impact



Supporting our community is part of who we are, and we are honored to celebrate **Women of Excellence**—a community dedicated to positively impacting all who surround them.



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