2010 Legends Award Reception

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. • The Peabody Memphis

The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis is honored to host the second annual Legends Award. The Legends Award pays tribute to women whose work embodies the mission of the Women's Foundation. This award is designed to celebrate these women leaders of Memphis who found their own unique way to better our city and its citizens.

The 2010 Legends Award Reception is Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis. This Reception honors the life's work of the Legends Award Honorees, unveils the Artists’ work and shares the story between Honoree and Artist through the Writers’ words. At this event, the Legends Award Honorees are honored through artistic expression that will personify their accomplishments and perseverance. Each work of art, along with the Writer’s story, is revealed at the Legends Award Reception.

Everyone at the Women’s Foundation extends our sincere gratitude for your participation and involvement in the 2010 Legends Award. We look forward to commemorating these wonderful women and we hope this will be a joyous and uplifting experience.

2010 Legends Award Honorees

Dr. JoeAnn Ballard

In 1979, Dr. JoeAnn Ballard was selected for a special mission – to create a service agency for inner-city people in need. Dr. Ballard took the helm of what is now the Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc. (NCC). Neighborhood Christian Centers now serves more than 100,000 Memphians each year, providing a continuum of compassionate services from birth to the grave. Food, clothing, emergency assistance, marriage and family enrichment, youth ministry, college preparation and funeral assistance are all available to NCC’s “neighbors in need.” These services are all provided free of charge thanks to the vigilance of Dr. Ballard and the generosity of others.

Lois DeBerry

Speaker Pro Tempore Lois DeBerry has been a model of progressive race relations through her political career. She was the first African-American woman elected to serve in the Tennessee House of Representatives from the city of Memphis, the first chairwoman of the Shelby County Delegation, and the first African-American woman to be elected speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives. She shattered the glass ceiling for women long before it became popular to recognize a woman's leadership in politics. She is devoted to encouraging and fostering talent in every level – legislative, executive and judicial – of government. She has been a mentor to emulate and one who always offers good guidance and counsel to women in public service.
Gayle S. Rose

Gayle S. Rose has been a leader in the women’s funding movement for more than two decades. She inspires, challenges and assists others and models proactive feminist philanthropy. She has worked to improve the quality of life for women in Memphis, the Mid-South and nationally through her leadership with non-profit organizations and other political, civic, and advocacy projects. She maintains focus on her vision of making the Memphis community the best place to live and work for all citizens. She supports women’s leadership and advocacy, education at all levels, girl’s leadership and sports, political activism, job training and entrepreneurs and young women’s philanthropy.

Rebecca Webb Wilson

Rebecca Webb Wilson is a visionary who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create a better Memphis. In 1988 she founded Bridge Builders, the signature program of BRIDGES. The program began with two high schools and now has expanded in more than 50 public, private, parochial, county and home schools across the Greater Memphis area. Its mission is to develop among high school students a group of future leaders who can lay aside individual, social, economic and cultural differences and work for the benefit of all, while focusing on three areas: diversity appreciation, community action, and leadership. Bridge Builders is now a national model.

Jocelyn Dan Wurzburg

Jocelyn Dan Wurzburg has a distinguished history as a civil rights activist, women’s rights activist, community leader, pioneer in the field of mediation, and a force for justice and social change. As founder of the Panel of American Women in Memphis in 1968, she helped facilitate racial reconciliation in a city devastated by the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She supports empowerment of women through the YWCA, National Women’s Political Caucus, the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis, Network and the Memphis Area Women’s Council. Jocelyn demonstrates her commitment to change by finding ways to bring women together to create social progress, both in Memphis and beyond.

The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis

The mission of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis is to encourage philanthropy and foster leadership among women and support programs that enable women and children to reach their full potential. The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis is the agent for change committed to a community of wellbeing and prosperity, where women live in sufficiency, strength, and safety, sharing their leadership and empowering their children.

For more information, please contact:
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