



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Tribute to Women Event Honors Outstanding Women**

**Omaha, Neb. – June 10, 2010.** Over 750 people attended Tuesday's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tribute to Women at the Holiday Inn Central Ballroom. The 11 honorees included Cindy Bay; Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Oledia Bell, USAF; Betty Davis; Kathy Fitzgerald Grandsaert; Joan Lappe, Ph.D.; Melissa Marvin; Mary Maxwell; Sue Morris; Joan Squires; Ellen Wright and Young Leader, Monica Ibarra were honored.

Jane Rips and Dr. Ann Sjulín co-chaired the event. Of the 2010 honorees and past honorees, Rips said, "These honorees become the latest members of a very distinguished group of women. These women have broken glass ceilings in business, expanded opportunities for exposure to the arts; enlightened and emboldened through the gift of communication; inspired and uplifted through education; and worked tirelessly for the neediest among us."

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YWCA Board President, Melanie Morrissey Clark said, "This year's Women of Distinction were among the most accomplished we have ever had the privilege of honoring. They, along with our many sponsors, volunteers and dedicated staff, made the 2010 Tribute to Women a huge success."

Dianne Seeman Lozier, Corporate Counsel of the Lozier Corporation and active advocate for women and girls, was presented with the Outstanding Community Service Award for her contributions to the field of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

One guest speaker was former YWCA client, now advocate for women and teens, Felicia Frizell said, "The YWCA also provided counseling to help me and my family deal with the trauma of abuse. Because of their constant support and dedication, I have been able to accomplish so many of my dreams that I thought would never come to pass."

Frizell was able to become self-sufficient through the help she received. "I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in business Leadership from the College of St. Mary's. Today, I am a successful business owner operating two childcare centers. But What I am most proud of, is that I am able, through my business 'to answer the call' assisting teen mothers and women who face the same struggles that I did."

Another featured speaker, former Omaha news anchor and now media production company owner, Mary Williams challenged the audience to "Reach back and help someone else...we all have the power to make a difference."

Williams, who is a Women in Transitions Workshop presenter for the YWCA said that individuals can help by volunteering their time, donating to the Career Clothing Closet, considering teaching a class for a workshop. "I can tell you firsthand; these women are hungry for information and grateful for any wisdom you can spare."

Other notable attendees of the event included, Mayor Jim Suttle and his wife Deb; Council Member Jean Stothert; Chairman of the Douglas County Board, Mary Ann Borgeson; and Douglas County Commissioner Clare Duda and his wife Gayle.

This week YWCA has kicked-off its annual fund drive with the theme of “Transitions.” For more information contact Chief Development Officer, Mary Kerr, [mkerr@ywcaomaha.org](mailto:mkerr@ywcaomaha.org) or at 345.6555.

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The YWCA Omaha mission is to help women and their families build lives of strength, growth and stability. The YWCA provides opportunities to create and take steps on the path toward self-determination and self-sufficiency. The organization assists women, wherever they might be on their journey, in achieving stable and hopeful lives. The mission is achieved through programs and services that include domestic violence advocacy, career services, counseling services, preventive training education, as well as nonviolence programs. Visit us on the Web at [www.ywcaomaha.org](http://www.ywcaomaha.org).