



CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# Gala

HONORING WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS

# Forward Feminine



**Charles County Government**

P.O. Box 2150 • 200 Baltimore Street • La Plata, Maryland 20646  
301-645-0550 • 301-870-3000 • MD Relay Service: 7-1-1 • Relay TDD: 1-800-735-2258

# Award Nominees

## Armed Forces



### Dottery Washington

For her commitment and service for pushing to establish a Southern Maryland SportsPlex community center for Charles County

## Education



### Claudia Bellony-Atanga

For her work as the first African-American board member and president of the Charles County Public Library's Board of Directors



### Stephanie Bryan

For her work educating, encouraging, and empowering young girls to find their voices



### Tameka Johnson

For her passion and commitment to motivate, inspire, and connect youth to resources to promote education



### Kimberly Hill

For her commitment to a strong STEM program as the first female superintendent of Charles County Public Schools and her encouragement of females and minorities to participate in the computer science curriculum



### Stephanie McCaslin

For her commitment to encouraging young women to seek careers in formerly male-dominated careers, particularly focused on math

# Award Nominees

## Education



**Yvonne Medley**

For her dedication to mentoring individuals to write literary works and influence the books that we read



**Dorothea Smith**

For her tireless efforts and vision to get funding to establish the African American Heritage House, and for her service as a member of the Kiwanis Club, Charles County Substance Abuse Advisory Coalition, and Charles County Sheriff's Advisory Council



**Monique Wilson**

For her passion as an exceptional science teacher, STEM coordinator, and director of the James E. Richmond Science Center, and for mentoring minority youth in a weekend robotics program

## Entrepreneurship



**Tanya Barnett**

For her advocacy work with women and girls with alopecia and her commitment to providing free books for children in Charles County



**Kim Briscoe-Tonic**

For her concern and passion for supporting Charles County families



**Ylonda Dowleyne**

For her support and dedication to assisting Charles County female veterans gain access to appropriate services

# Award Nominees

## Entrepreneurship



**Darlena Ford**

For her work with children and families through her home school curriculum



**Robin Marion**

For her work in promoting health and fitness and providing free services in the community



**Quiana Murray**

For her dedication in establishing a Southern Maryland women's business group that assists women with starting their own businesses



**Alicia Perkins**

For her commitment to the arts, by establishing the "Take a Bow" performing arts organization



**Dr. Trenance Richardson**

For her dedication in establishing REAL Women, a life-transforming, empowering effort to help women change through authenticity and healthy relationships



**Pam Roberts**

For her more than 15 years of service in providing a place for pampering and relaxation at the Galleria Salon and Spa

# Award Nominees

## Entrepreneurship



### Shelly Tucker

For her work to establish the Mom with Tots blog, a vital resource for families with small children, providing information on health and wellness and fun activities



### Dajonaire Washington

For her commitment to starting her own business as a cosmetologist and cosmetology instructor, educating every guest about proper hair care



### Tammy Wright

For her dedication as an advocate for healthy lifestyles through her business, ABC Fitness Connection, LLC, and for coordinating blood drives, fundraisers, and donation drives for homelessness and cancer awareness

## Government/Politics



### Rebecca D'Ambrosio

For her dedication to community initiatives and mentoring future leaders



### Michelle Reynolds

For her tireless service as a volunteer, manager, and member of the Chaplaincy Support Team at the Prince George's County Correctional Center in Upper Marlboro in affiliation with Good News Jail and Prison Ministry

## Health/Medical



### Dr. Dianna Abney

For her genuine care for children in Charles County and her commitment to healthy families as the first African-American female Charles County health officer

# Award Nominees

## Health/Medical



### Rene' Brooks

For her commitment to providing quality medical care to homebound Charles County veterans, allowing them to maintain a better quality of life



### Yvette Lane

For her commitment to providing quality medical care to homebound Charles County veterans, allowing them to maintain a better quality of life



### Veronica Randolph

For her commitment to providing quality medical care to homebound Charles County veterans, allowing them to maintain a better quality of life



### Teresa Robinson

For her dedication as the director of nursing and her work in quality assurance at Sagepoint Senior Living Services, where she rebuilt the entire nursing structure and created a strong leadership team



### Linda Smith

For her tireless efforts over 30 years to improve the health of residents of Charles County, her commitment in establishing Project Graduation, and her work with the Substance Abuse Advisory Coalition



### Dr. Patricia Vance

For her dedication to training and mentoring psychology students at the Charles County Department of Health

# Award Nominees

## Human and Social Services



**Tanya Barnett**

For her advocacy work with women and girls with alopecia and her commitment to providing free books for children in Charles County through her nonprofit organization, Forever Free Books



**Claudia Bellony-Atanga**

For her passion for bringing STEM education to the library as the first African-American board member and president of the Charles County Public Library Board of Directors



**Roberta Berry**

For her commitment to providing programming and services to citizens of Charles County and her community work as a juvenile justice professional and social worker



**Rene' Michelle Fenwick**

For her advocacy work with victims of domestic violence



**Robin Kegg**

For her commitment to teaching youth about sports by establishing Robin's Pee-Wee soccer organization



**Courtney Knichel**

For her commitment to bringing baseball to Southern Maryland by serving as the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs marketing manager

# Award Nominees

## Human and Social Services



**Yvonne Medley**

For her dedication to teaching incarcerated persons about writing their stories by establishing the Life Journeys Writing Guild



**Catherine Meyers**

For her dedication to serving children and families through the establishment of the Center for Children



**Heather Sells**

For her effort and work at the Catherine Foundation. Her actions will make an impact on those lives she touched as well as those lives were saved. She runs the foundation efficiently with grace, good humor, and great attitude



**Sheeba Smith**

For her passion and service to helping people through community outreach at the Spring Dell Center



**Tamara Stallings**

For her work to bring awareness to work equality, highlighting women's veterans resources, and developing workshops to provide budding entrepreneurs guidance to maintain confidence in carrying out their goals and dreams



**Sandy Washington**

For her more than 18 years of service to the less fortunate and supporting families, and for being one of the first African-American females to establish a Charles County nonprofit organization, LifeStyles of Maryland in 1998

# Award Nominees

## Human and Social Services



**Janice Wilson**

For her commitment to service as a member of the NAACP and the Tri-County Youth Services Bureau, and for being a voice for voiceless, underserved, and overlooked citizens

## Law Enforcement



**Sylvia Mudd**

For her commitment to the community as the first female sworn deputy in the Charles County Sheriff's Office



**Sarah Vaughn**

For her commitment to showing at-risk teens a better way of life by providing options and experiences through the teen court program

## Science and Technology



**Temitope Akinwumi**

For her support of youth empowerment, mentoring programs, job readiness, apprenticeships, and STEM for children from K-12



**Vonda Hicks**

For her passion in the field of math and her commitment to her students

# Award Nominees

## Young Trailblazer



### Tatianna Griffin

For her dedication to helping others who are less fortunate through unselfish acts of kindness such as helping her sister bring donuts to the fire and sheriff departments, helping to pay for groceries, taping coins to vendor machines, and leaving a \$100 tip for a waitress, all with her own funds



### Kennedy Smith

For her work to create the Tiara ASCEND program, and for helping to develop a culture of high academic excellence and achievement at St. Charles High School



### Leslie Thompson

For her dedication to starting a Red Cross Club at St. Charles High School (*photo unavailable*)

## Young Trailblazer, Jr.



### NaKyiah Nichols

For her service in the areas of mime and dance, and for being a young author who shares information about the impacts of domestic violence on children



### Jaime Reed

For her commitment to demonstrating an entrepreneurial spirit by writing a book promoting a healthy lifestyle for her peers



### Tayler Somerville

For her dedication to spreading and showing love to others through unselfish acts of kindness such as helping her sister bring donuts to the fire and sheriff departments, helping to pay for groceries, taping coins to vendor machines, and leaving a \$100 tip for a waitress, all with her own funds