

# eliminating racism empowering women

ywca press release

YWCA Greater Cleveland  
Women's Center  
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## YWCA Announces 2008 Women of Achievement

*February 15, 2008* - The YWCA Greater Cleveland has announced the 2008 recipients of the YWCA Women of Achievement awards. These women will be honored at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual YWCA Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon on Monday, May 12 at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel Grand Ballroom.

The YWCA Woman of Achievement Award is one of the most prestigious honors for women in greater Cleveland. The award honors those who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities, as well as excellence, accomplishments and commitment in their careers and communities. The 2008 award recipients are:

### **Stephanie McHenry President, ShoreBank, Cleveland Region**

Since 1994, Ms. McHenry and ShoreBank, Cleveland Region have invested more than \$200 million in Greater Cleveland neighborhoods. Along with leading the nation's first and largest community development bank, she serves on several local boards and governing bodies, including those of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, Cleveland State University and University Hospitals of Cleveland. Prior to joining the bank, Ms. McHenry served as the senior director, minority business development for The Greater Cleveland Growth Association and was also executive director of Northern Ohio Minority Business Council. In 2007, she was recognized as a "Woman of Note" by *Crain's Cleveland Business*. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Dartmouth College.

### **Linda M. Kane, CPA Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting and Administration Officer, Forest City Enterprises, Inc.**

Ms. Kane assumed her current position in 2007 after holding a corporate controller position since 1995. Before joining Forest City in 1990, Ms. Kane was a senior manager at Kopperman & Wolf CPAs, where she was responsible for audit, tax and consulting services for the firm's largest real estate client. She has nearly 30 years experience in the real estate industry and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants and Commercial Real Estate Women. She is also an active member of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT) and is co-chairman of its Best Financial Practices Council. Ms. Kane holds a bachelor's of business administration degree in accounting from Cleveland State University.

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### **Natalie Leek-Nelson CEO and President, Providence House**

Ms. Leek-Nelson ensures that women have a safe place to turn when they find themselves living in situations that place their children at high risk for abuse or neglect. Since 2001, she has dedicated herself to providing for and helping the women who come to Providence House in their time of need. Ms. Leek-Nelson has coordinated the development of a nationally-recognized, family-focused abuse/neglect program. She has also raised the organization's profile to secure new funding sources, and spearheaded the passage of important new legislature that ultimately enables Providence House to help more families. Plans are underway to expand the Cleveland facility, and once completed, Ms. Leek-Nelson will serve the largest operating Crisis Nursery in the U.S.

### **Beth Mooney Vice Chair, KeyCorp**

Ms. Mooney's focus, strategic approach and enthusiasm are what granted her leadership of Key's Community Banking. Although relatively new to Cleveland, she brings 30 years of experience in retail banking, commercial lending and real estate financing and has been recognized as a leader in the past three *USBanker's* "The 25 Most Powerful Women in Banking" editions. Ms. Mooney has already been quick to show her commitment and appreciation to Greater Cleveland by joining the Board of the Musical Arts Association and becoming a trustee on the Board of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. She is also on the Board of the Village Capital Corporation and Neighborhood Progress, Inc. and is very active with the United Way of Greater Cleveland.

### **Rita N. Singh, CPA Founding Managing Partner and CFO, S & A Consulting Group LLP**

As an accomplished CPA and businesswoman, Ms. Singh has been the first woman from Indian heritage to receive many prestigious awards and recognitions in the U.S. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty by creating and participating in projects advancing and generating economic developments in the city of Cleveland, Northeast Ohio, and is currently working on some international projects. Ms. Singh's efforts in programs such as the Women Leadership Initiative, the Diversity Development Initiative and the Minority Business Initiative have earned her the respect and role model status from peers in both her business and social community. Aside from her business endeavors, she donates her time to serving on several boards and committees including the National Association of Women Business Owners, the American Heart Association's *Go Red for Women* program and the Women's City Club of Cleveland's mentoring program.

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### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

In addition to the 2008 winners, this year the YWCA is proud to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to an exceptional woman who exemplifies the organization's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

#### **Jacqueline Woods**

##### **Retired President, AT&T, Ohio**

Ms. Woods began her career in telecommunications at the Ohio Bell Telephone Company and then moved around the country bringing her expertise to several other telecommunications companies including Bell of Pennsylvania, Ameritech, SBC and eventually retired from her presidential position at AT&T. She is active on several corporate and civic boards including the Timken Company, the Anderson's Inc. and the School Specialty Inc. Ms. Woods is also the chair of The Cleveland Foundation and chair emeritus of the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Great Lakes Science Center and is a national trustee on the Foundation of Independent Higher Education.

Among receiving many prestigious awards, Ms. Woods was entered into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame by former Governor and current U.S. Senator George Voinovich. She holds a doctor of business administration honorary degree from Cleveland State University and is currently a senior consultant for Landau Public Relations.

The YWCA Women of Achievement Luncheon will be held Monday, May 12 at 11:45 a.m. at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel Grand Ballroom. Tickets are \$65 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Call 216-881-6878 or visit [www.ywca.org/cleveland](http://www.ywca.org/cleveland) for more information.

### **About the YWCA**

The YWCA mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. The YWCA Greater Cleveland offers domestic violence education programs, child care, teen parenting programs, programs to help teens make positive life decisions and the Women's Leadership Initiative to help professional women advance their careers. For more information, call 216-881-6878 or visit [www.ywca.org/cleveland](http://www.ywca.org/cleveland).

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