



spokane

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YWCA SPOKANE ANNOUNCES “GOOD GUYS” MOVEMENT

A group of Spokane men have coalesced to help the YWCA combat domestic violence

Spokane, WA. – Today, YWCA Spokane is announcing the launch of the “[Good Guys](#)”—a group of men from Spokane who have joined together to support the YWCA’s efforts to end domestic violence.

Led by Doug Kelley of Avista and Manny Hochheimer of Numerica Credit Union, one of the group’s first activities will include filling at least 10 tables at the YWCA Spokane’s **2016 Women of Achievement (WOA) Impact Luncheon**. The WOA event is the YWCA’s largest fundraiser of the year; this year, the event will be held at the Davenport Grand Hotel on Friday, Oct. 7, 2016, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

“Working to end domestic violence cannot be limited to one gender,” says **Hochheimer**. “Our community—of women and men—needs to address this problem that tears at our families and hurts our children.”

“Our Good Guys group started with an idea a year ago, when I was challenged to put together a men’s table for the Women of Achievement luncheon,” says **Kelley**. “As I learned more about how domestic violence is impacting our community and the criticality of the YWCA’s work, I knew we had to do more.”

A new light-hearted video features Hochheimer and Kelley, along with other community leaders, indicating that they “are in” as a supporter of the YWCA and its work to raise awareness about domestic violence and support its victims. In 2015, 54 people died in Washington State as a result of domestic violence, and one in three women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. **See the video at ywcaspokane.org/good-guys-are-you-in.**

Regina Malveaux, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA Spokane, says the Good Guys support comes at an important time, augmenting the many long-term supporters of the organization. A new focus for combating homelessness at the federal level has reduced the grants the YWCA traditionally has gotten for ongoing operation of shelter space and transitional living for victims of domestic violence.

“Those we help are not just homeless, they are fleeing emergent, violent situations and they need supportive, safe shelter services to get through the first part of their transition away from their abusers,” **Malveaux** says.

The Luncheon

For 34 years at the annual Women of Achievement luncheon, YWCA of Spokane has celebrated successful women in the community for their achievements combined with their commitment to give back. This year, the event will feature actress, humanitarian, and advocate for women and children worldwide, **Ashley Judd**. Established with the goal of increasing community awareness and appreciation for the diverse contributions of women leaders in Spokane, this luncheon has honored more than 200 women in the region.

The Women of Achievement luncheon has evolved into the YWCA Spokane's largest fundraising event, sponsored by over 25 companies and organizations each year, and is one of the area's most prestigious award recognition events for women.

The YWCA Spokane's 2016 Women of Achievement Award Luncheon will be held at the Davenport Grand Hotel, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., on Friday, Oct. 7. Visit the [YWCA's web site](#) to buy tickets to this year's event.

"All proceeds raised by this important event directly benefit the YWCA's services for domestic violence victims and their children, including emergency shelter, counseling, legal services, job readiness, child care, and Pre-K programs for low income children," says **Malveaux**.

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About The YWCA Spokane

The YWCA Spokane is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. In 2015, YWCA of Spokane provided counseling, legal services, safe shelter, outreach, job readiness training, outreach and early childhood education to more than 17,577 women and children. The YWCA Spokane is the go-to place in the region for support for victims of domestic violence and services that empower women and children. The organization is a key resource for issues of racial and social justice in the community.