



spokane

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Media Contact: Regina Malveaux, Chief Executive Officer

Email: ReginaM@ywcaspokane.org

Phone: (509) 789-9303

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOMINATE GREAT WOMEN IN SPOKANE FOR PRESTIGIOUS YWCA RECOGNITION

YWCA Calls for Woman of Achievement Nominations

Spokane, WA. –YWCA of Spokane is calling for nominations for its **2016 Woman of Achievement Awards**. The deadline for submissions is June 15, 2016.

For 34 years at this annual 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 be held at the Davenport Grand Hotel on October 7, 2016, and 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.

“Spokane is home to amazing women who are a force of positive change in our community,” says **Regina Malveaux**, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA of Spokane. “We are honored to provide this opportunity to recognize these women and share their examples of furthering the YWCA mission of empowering women and eliminating racism.”

Nomination Requirements

Winners of a YWCA Woman of Achievement award must embody the mission of the YWCA by giving generously of themselves to make Spokane a better place for all citizens to live. They must also demonstrate leadership through their professional work or service to the community.

The YWCA encourages nominations for YWCA Woman of Achievement awards in the following areas:

- Arts & Culture
- Business & Industry
- Carl Maxey Racial & Social Justice Award
- Community Enhancement
- Education
- Science, Technology & Environment

Nomination forms may be found online at www.ywcaspokane.org and may be completed and submitted via email to development@ywcaspokane.org or by mail to 930 N. Monroe St., Spokane, WA 99201, Attention: Woman of Achievement Awards. The deadline for submissions is June 15, 2016.

Raising Awareness

“This luncheon is a gift to our community, but also an opportunity to raise awareness about critical issues,” says **Catherine Kashork**, YWCA of Spokane Women of Achievement Luncheon Chair and YWCA of Spokane board member. “We want to demonstrate to women at the luncheon and around the community that Spokane and the YWCA is here to support them.”

Last month, the YWCA of Spokane announced that the keynote speaker for the October 7 event would be Ashley Judd. While she may be known more for her work in movies and as the daughter and sister, respectively, to country signers Naomi and Wynonna Judd, Ashley Judd has spent decades working as a humanitarian and activist. She has spoken out on a variety of issues from the impacts of coal mining in the southeast to youth with AIDS to alleviating poverty and supporting social justice. Recently, she has focused on raising awareness on the need for educating girls worldwide.

In her memoir *All That is Bitter and Sweet*, Judd details her struggles with dealing with her own emotional pain from childhood abandonment and how she was led to focus on humanitarian work and making a difference.

One of the main goals of the luncheon is to raise awareness of domestic abuse in the community. 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.

The Luncheon

The Women of Achievement luncheon has evolved into YWCA of 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.

YWCA of 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. Details on how to register for the event and hear keynote speaker, Ashley Judd, are available at www.ywcaspokane.org. Community members are welcome to direct additional registration questions to Dana Morris by calling (509) 326-1190 or emailing danam@ywcaspokane.org.

“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 YWCA of Spokane

The YWCA of 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 of 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.