FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate Women and Ignite Change During National Women’s History Month 2022

Local organizations look to transform nationally recognized Women’s History Month into a community-wide annual celebration of women and girls in Spokane.

**Spokane, Wash., December 7, 2021** – Spokane organizations, businesses and institutions will team up to honor the achievements of women and girls throughout the month of March and invite the Spokane-area community to join in and grow this national celebration locally.

Through communitywide engagement, this monthlong celebration hopes to pay tribute to trailblazing women who pave the way for change, discover leaders on the precipice, ignite a fire in young women on the rise, highlight women-led initiatives, startups and local businesses, celebrate female frontline workers, and shine a light on those who may need community support.

“When we champion women and girls, we change our community for the better,” says Heather Hamlin, executive director of Women Helping Women Fund. “We celebrate Women’s History Month to remind ourselves of the extraordinary accomplishments and contributions of women to our culture and society. When we lift up voices that often go unheard, celebrate milestones achieved and unearth the tremendous history of women in our community, we all benefit.”

“With a shared belief that an investment in the future of women and girls will result in progress for all, YWCA Spokane is excited to join a group of remarkable community partners – including YWCA Spokane’s Women’s History Month 2022 sponsor, Washington Trust Bank – for a truly exciting and strategic partnership,” says Jeanette Hauck, CEO of YWCA Spokane. “It is more important than ever to join together as a community to lift up women and look toward the possibilities ahead when we all step into action.”

**Women’s History Month Calendar of Events**

This effort will highlight events, activities and local initiatives happening in March 2022 during nationally recognized Women’s History Month through social media, ywcaspokane.org, and other communication channels to coordinate and showcase all of the opportunities to celebrate. An online form to submit event details can be found at ywcaspokane.org/whm2022, along with examples of ways to celebrate. The deadline to submit is Jan. 21, 2022, to be included in the calendar.
The month will kick off with Women Helping Women Fund’s Women Helping Women Week, March 1-8, move into Gonzaga University’s Women Lead Conference on March 9, and will culminate with YWCA Spokane’s 40th Women of Achievement Awards on March 24.

Local Women’s History Month Partners

This communitywide celebration would not be possible without the collaboration of the Spokane Women’s History Month Planning Committee including Gonzaga University, Numerica Credit Union, Providence Inland Northwest Washington, Washington Trust Bank, Whitworth University, Women Helping Women Fund, and YWCA Spokane. In addition to committee partners, those who have already signed up to join or support the March celebration include the Community Colleges of Spokane, Eastern Washington University, Kalispel Tribe and Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Karli Ingersol Design, KXLY, the Spokane Public Facilities District, and Spokane Public Schools.

Individuals and organizations interested in learning about partnering to support Women’s History Month can reach out by emailing whm@ywcaspokane.org.

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**Women Lead**

The Women Lead initiative at Gonzaga University aims to educate and empower women, both personally and professionally. Through workshops, events and conferences throughout the region, the program provides opportunities for all genders to gain skills that lead to gender equality in the workplace.

**About the School of Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University**

SLS educates individuals to impact their communities as principled practitioners of leadership, communication and scholarship. With programs from the undergraduate through doctoral levels, the school also offers non-credit leadership training for career professionals and lifelong learners, with a total enrollment of nearly 1,000 students last year.

**Women Helping Women Week**

The women of our community are the future of Spokane, with the potential to achieve the highest levels of education, thrive in their careers, set and reach their goals, and empower future generations to continue these legacies. For this reason, Women Helping Women Fund has created this week of celebrating women locally. Join us February 28 - March 7, 2022.

**About Women Helping Women Fund**

Women Helping Women Fund was established in 1992 to empower local women and children to achieve their full potential. The 501c3 nonprofit is building a strong, diverse community of educated, engaged and strategic givers through the power of collective giving. Over $360,000 in grants and scholarships were awarded last year, the most in the organization’s history. Learn more at www.whwfspokane.org

**YWCA Spokane’s Women of Achievement Awards Celebration**

Table and individual ticket registration for YWCA Spokane’s 2022 Women of Achievement awards luncheon is available at ywcaspokane.org/woa2022. The event will feature a keynote address by retired Adm. Michelle Howard, the first woman to become a four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy. She last served
as the commander of United States Naval Forces Europe while concurrently acting as the commander of United States Naval Forces Africa and commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

The luncheon will be held in-person at The Davenport Grand on March 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This annual awards luncheon celebrates high-achieving women who embody YWCA Spokane’s mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all by giving generously of themselves to make Spokane a better place for all. In addition to honoring the extraordinary contributions of the winners, the luncheon serves to raise awareness about the epidemic of domestic violence in the Spokane region and to raise critical funds for the victim support services offered by YWCA Spokane.

About YWCA Spokane

For 118 years, YWCA Spokane has been helping women and children overcome social, economic and personal barriers to accomplish their goals and achieve healthier and more fulfilling lives. Today, areas of focus include: eliminating racism, empowering women, standing up for social justice, helping families, strengthening communities and promoting peace, justice, dignity and freedom for all.

By working at the intersections of inequality, poverty and domestic violence, YWCA Spokane is able to empower survivors to choose treatment pathways that best meet their needs and align with their safety concerns and disrupt longstanding societal patterns of trauma. Learn more at ywcaspokane.org/our-impact.

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