

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YWCA Greater Pittsburgh Announces the 2009 A Tribute to Women Leadership Awards
Awards Luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, May 20

PITTSBURGH, PA (May 13, 2009): As the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh celebrates its 140th anniversary this year, it will also celebrate the achievements of eight extraordinary women for their leadership and contributions to the Pittsburgh community. These women will be recognized at the YWCA's 27th annual **A Tribute to Women Leadership Awards Luncheon** on Wednesday, May 20, from noon to 1:30 p.m., at the Westin Hotel, 1000 Penn Avenue.

Awardees for 2009 include:

- Arts & Culture: Deborah L. Acklin, Executive Vice President and General Manager, WQED Multimedia
- Business & Industry: Sally Wiggan, Anchor, WTAE-TV
- Civic Engagement: Valerie McDonald Roberts, Manager, Allegheny County Department of Real Estate
- Community Empowerment: Aggie Brose, Deputy Director, Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
- Education: Olga M. Welch, Ed.D., Professor and Dean, Duquesne University
- Entrepreneur: Ellen A. Roth, Ph.D., President, Getting to the Point, Inc.
- Health & Human Services: Joyce Rothermel, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
- Professional Services: Sylvia Hill Fields, Executive Director, Eden Hall Foundation

"This year's awardees exemplify the same spirit that our founders demonstrated 140 years ago," said Magdeline E. Jensen, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh. "They are women who have shaped our community and improved the lives of others – they are innovators, visionaries and advocates."

In a special "Tribute" to the YWCA's founders, this year's event will feature a special "walk through time" pictorial display of the YWCA's past presidents, beginning with Mrs. O.H. Allerton who served as president for three terms. There will also be a traveling exhibit created from the YWCA's archives, which are housed at the Senator John Heinz History Center.

The YWCA's A Tribute to Women has become one of Pittsburgh's most prestigious events recognizing women's accomplishments since it was established in 1983. This annual luncheon celebrates the achievements of women and honors those who distinguish themselves in performance and leadership in their fields and in the greater Pittsburgh community.

An Event Committee of business and community leaders had the challenge of selecting the finalists this year. Peggy Finnegan, co-anchor for WPXI Channel 11 News at 5 and 6 p.m., is serving as Mistress of Ceremonies during the luncheon. Ms. Finnegan was honored with an **A Tribute to Women Leadership Award** in 1997 in the Communications category.

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Proceeds from the event benefit the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh's programs and services. For more information about A Tribute to Women, call 412-255-1258.

The YWCA Greater Pittsburgh is a women's membership movement committed to the elimination of racism and the economic empowerment of women and girls. To learn more about the YWCA's programs and services, visit www.ywcapgh.org or call 412-391-5100.

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[Awardee biographies are available upon request.]