

49th Annual Celebration

**eliminating racism  
empowering women**

**ywca**  
Rock County

YWCA ROCK COUNTY  
*Women of  
Distinction*

May 8, 2024

*Celtic House at Glen Erin Golf Club*

**WOMEN OF DISTINCTION**

*Amy Kenyon  
Carrie Kulinski  
Erin Davis  
Nailah Adama  
Tricia Clasen*

*Young Woman: Annabelle Hundt*



# A night to shine...



Welcome to the 49th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Banquet!

Tonight we celebrate the strength and achievement of six women who have all improved women's lives through community service, professional achievement, integrity, leadership, and dedication to the well-being of others.



The honorees have been nominated by their peers and have been chosen by the selection committee comprised of community members, YWCA Rock County Board members and staff.

Over the past 49 years, the YWCA Rock County has honored over 275 women and 23 corporations for their outstanding achievements. By joining us tonight, you're not only honoring the past and present recipients, you're also helping women build life skills through the YWCA's Transitions Program. This program is located at the Jeffris Flats in Downtown Janesville, and it ensures that families with a history of domestic violence will earn a sustainable income, live in safe housing, and heal.

An important part of this program is the Give A Lift or Gift Program. This program provides personal care items and gas only cards for clients in our programs to help propel them on their journey from poverty to stable housing and gainful employment. Personal care items and fuel for vehicles are often a barrier to gaining and maintaining employment, and tonight you have the opportunity to support this program.

Thank you for joining us tonight helping honor the 2024 Women of Distinction recipients and for helping the YWCA Rock County continue to assist victims of domestic violence.

Sincerely,

Heidi Deininger  
YWCA Rock County Executive Director

Adrian Henning  
YWCA Rock County Board President



# **YWCA Rock County Women of Distinction ~ Her Night to Shine May 8, 2024**

## **Welcome**

Adrian Henning  
President, YWCA Rock County Board of Directors

## **Dinner**

The Celtic Salad with mixed greens, baby kale, tomato, cucumber, carrot, croutons and feta with a choice of balsamic vinaigrette or ranch dressing

The Celtic Chicken Signature: spinach, boursin cheese, artichoke and mushrooms with parmesan cream sauce. Served with rosemary fingerling potatoes and bourbon glazed carrots

VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE: Herb Parmesan Risotto with grilled seasonal vegetable medley (gluten free)

Choice of Lemon Blueberry or White Chocolate Raspberry Mini Bundt Cake

## **Transitions Housing Program Overview**

Heidi Deininger

## **Introduction of Guest Emcee**

Adrian Henning

## **Presentation of Awards**

Sue Conley

## **2023 Women of Distinction**

Amy Kenyon

Carrie Kulinski

Erin Davis

Nailah Adama

Tricia Clasen

Annabelle Hundt (Young Woman)

## **Closing**

Heidi Deininger: Executive Director, YWCA Rock County





# YWCA IS ON A MISSION

## **Our Mission**

YWCA Rock County is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

## **Our Vision**

Transforming lives and communities through education and action to empower women and dismantle racism.

## **Women of Distinction Planning Committee**

Jessi Campbell, Jamie Counsell, Brittany de la O, Heidi Deininger, Kari Dray, Andrea Ehret, Maryam Enterline, Samantha Guthrie (Committee Chair), Adrian Henning, Danica Keeton, Terisa Kessler, Diana Montes

## **YWCA Rock County Board of Directors**

Angie Baskin, Jenniffer Bue, Jillian Davenport, Melanie Dunkin, Kelly Eickstead, Andrea Ehret, Crystal Fox, Adrian Henning, Ashley Morse, Deanna Renteria, Tami Scarpetta, Karen Schmitt, Shatoria Teague



*Celebrating All  
Women of Distinction  
Past, Present & Future*

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# Amy Kenyon



## **Amy Kenyon**

Amy Kenyon grew up in the Rock County area and graduated from Milton High School. After high school, she attended UW-Whitewater. Amy graduated in December of 1999 with a degree in Business Education. Less than a month later, she began teaching Business Education at Milton High School.

After teaching Business Education at Milton High School for 16 years, Amy moved into a newly created position of School to Career Coordinator. In this role, she works with students to help develop their own education and career path. Amy organizes multiple career events,

Academic and Career senior presentations, job fairs, job shadows, field trips and strives to connect students with local employment opportunities. She played a key role in implementing a financial literacy requirement for graduation and the creation of Academic and Career programming in the School District of Milton. One of Amy's passions is to promote and encourage young women to pursue careers in the predominantly male dominated trades fields. She loves encouraging young women to strive for the career of their choosing, regardless of any stereotypes that may be attached to those careers.

Amy believes in the importance of volunteering and being involved in many community organizations. She currently serves as an Ambassador and a board member for the Milton Chamber of Commerce. She is also a board member for the Milton Youth Coalition and NAMI-Rock County, the founding advisor for the Milton High School Fishing Team and has recently started the Milton Girls Softball Booster Club. Through her leadership in the MACC Shining Star non-profit, she has been instrumental in helping many families facing financial hardships in the Milton School District. In her spare time, Amy enjoys spending time with her family, playing bingo and traveling.





# Carrie Kulinski



## **Carrie Kulinski**

Carrie's motto is "Live on Purpose." She began serving others as an addiction counselor for Mercy Health in the early 1990's, where she implemented the family programs on the inpatient addiction unit. In 1999 she joined the School District of Janesville as the AODA (Alcohol and Other Drugs of Abuse) Coordinator. In her 13 years as the AODA Coordinator, she became nationally recognized as a leader in prevention by implementing model programs, opening a recovery school for students in recovery from addiction and wrote a marijuana curriculum used by many school districts throughout the

nation and the US Army. She formed a school and community committee to focus on the prevention of youth substance use, which is now known as Janesville Mobilizing for Change. She served on the State Superintendents AODA Advisory Council and the City of Janesville Alcohol License Advisory Council for 6 years. For the last 10 years she has held the position of the Families in Transition Coordinator serving homeless youth and their families. She has served on the board for Project 16:49 for the last ten years and continues to serve on the board of Janesville Mobilizing for Change.

Throughout her career, she has served on five nonprofit boards and twenty-two committees. She is also an accomplished grant writer who has brought millions of dollars into the Janesville community.



# Erin Davis

## **Erin Davis**

Erin Davis is the Director of Corporate Campaigns at United Way Blackhawk Region, where she works to improve the health, education, and financial stability of people living in Rock and Northern Winnebago counties. She began volunteering while in high school, which laid the foundation for her desire to bring about positive change. With a Bachelor's in Human & Social Services Administration and a Master's in Public Administration, Erin has worked for the City of Janesville, Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change, and the House of Mercy Homeless Center.

She is a member of the Janesville Lions Club,

the past Chair of the Community Action Inc. Board of Directors, and a graduate of the Leadership Development Academy. Erin recognizes raising her two children as a single parent while working full-time and attending school as her greatest accomplishment.





# Nailah Adama



## **Nailah Adama**

Nailah Adama spent her childhood living between Rockford, Macomb and Chicago, Illinois with her mother Kimberly Ellis. After graduating from Cosmopolitan Prep School in Chicago, she moved with her son to San Bernardino, where she earned her Associate's in Liberal Arts from San Bernardino Valley College. She went on to earn her BA in Sociology from the University of California, Irvine. Nailah moved back to the midwest in 2004 with her three young children, to be closer to family.

She began her career with the School District of Beloit as a recess supervisor and para-educator at Wright Elementary, very shortly after her move. She went on to serve Wright School as the Home-School coordinator, and eventually returned to school to earn a Masters of Art in Teaching. After some moves within the district, Nailah settled at Merrill Elementary where she has worked for the past 15 years and currently teaches 5th grade. At Merrill, she has served on the Parent Leadership Team, Parent Teacher Organization, Building Leadership Team, SAIL Team, Minority Excellence Organization co-leader as well as several other initiative committees throughout the years. Nailah has further served the district by providing 7 Habits® workshops, co-facilitating SEED workshops, and offering professional development on mindfulness and yoga to her colleagues.

In addition to advocating for Beloit parents and citizens through grassroots efforts, Nailah served seven years on the Community Development Authority Board. She is currently a City of Beloit Police and Fire Commissioner and a parent advisor on the Department of Children and Families Parent/Caregiver Equity Advisor Cabinet (PCEAC).

Nailah's commitment to equity work is rooted in a commitment to her eight children and all of her school babies to do everything she can to move us closer to a world where equity in policy and action is the default.





# Tricia Clasen



## **Tricia Clasen**

Dr. Tricia Clasen is Dean and Assistant Vice Chancellor of the UW-Whitewater at Rock County campus. In her 22 years at URock, she has served in a wide range of roles, including Professor of Communication, Associate Dean, Department Chair, and Engaging Students in the First Year Coordinator.

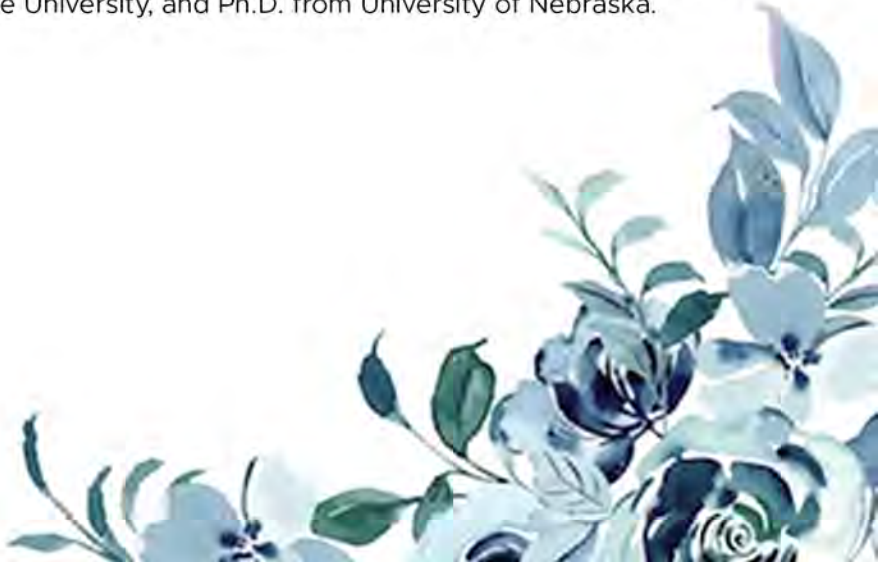
Her teaching, research, administrative work, and volunteer activities have centered around educational access for all. She's won awards for teaching innovation as well as the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence.

A published author of middle-grade fiction, her

most recent scholarship will be featured in the forthcoming "Handbook of Gender and Young Adult Literature" from Oxford University Press.

Tricia serves on the Mercy IRB committee and the Janesville Innovation Center Board of Directors and has offered communication training to the City of Janesville, the Janesville Fire Department, Blain Supply, and numerous school districts. She will be concluding her term on the Rock County Board of Supervisors this spring.

Tricia received her bachelor's degree from UW-River Falls, master's from Wichita State University, and Ph.D. from University of Nebraska.



# Annabelle Hundt

(Young Woman)



## **Annabelle Hundt**

Annabelle Hundt is from Janesville, Wisconsin, and is a senior at Rock University High School, where she is also working towards her associate's degree at Blackhawk Technical College (BTC). She will be graduating this spring as valedictorian with a 4.0. She will be starting the Surgical Technology program at BTC this upcoming fall.

Not only is she dedicated to her academics, but is also involved in several extracurricular activities. Aside from school, Annabelle has competed for Craig High School swim and gymnastics teams, where she was named most dedicated by her gymnastics team. She also helped coach young girls in gymnastics at the kid's camp at Craig each year. Annabelle has also been involved in Girl Scouts since 2014 and was recognized as the top cookie seller in Wisconsin in 2020. Wanting to make an impact in other girl's lives, she started her own Girl Scout troop this year and hopes to give the girls similar experiences and lessons that she's had over the years. In addition to athletics, Annabelle is also a part of the Craig Symphonic and Philharmonic Orchestra, where she plays the violin and the viola. Annabelle is also a dedicated member of the Student Leadership Council, where she helps plan fundraisers, school activities, and events.

In Annabelle's free time, she likes to try new hobbies, like paddle boarding, sewing, reading, and she has a passion for traveling. Along with the other girls in her Girl Scout troop, they spent the last four years setting really high cookie sales goals to sell enough cookies to pay for a Europe trip. She will be leaving for Europe in June and will be visiting England, France, Italy, Switzerland and Greece.





# ABOUT TRANSITIONS HOUSING

2023 ANNUAL IMPACT NUMBERS

**1,216** hours of case management



**7,918** shelter nights provided



Transitions not only provides an apartment for families, but also skills and job training and domestic violence recovery resources. The goal is to help families transition to an independent life. -Heidi (Graduated Transitions Resident)



# YWCA Women of Distinction 1975 - 2023

Judy Adler  
Dorrie Alff  
Jeanine Allen  
Marion Allen  
Linda Amundson  
Joanne Anderson  
Lucy Anderson  
Eva Arnold  
Peggy Aulino  
Jean Austin  
Milly Babcock  
Cynthia Bagley  
Barbara Barrington  
Alice Barlass  
Marion Barlass  
Edie Baran  
Sally Basting  
Sally Bean  
Tashs Bell  
Katherine Belling  
Judy Berg  
Clarice Bergerson  
Sr. Mary Michael Berry  
Ruby Beyer  
Marie Bilek  
Barb Bortner  
Barbara Boyd  
Carolyn Brandeen  
Fran Brien  
Edna Brooks-Pittman  
Sgt. Ann Brophy  
Leslie Brunsell  
René Bue  
Lois Buell  
Robin Bye  
Kelli Cameron  
Carol Campbell  
Amy Carey  
Jeanne Carfora  
Marjorie Carlson  
Ella Cash  
Dorothy Chladek  
Harriet Christopherson  
Barb Cisler  
Joan Clark  
Maria Clark  
Sue Conley  
Hazel Connors  
Jamie Counsell  
Karel Cripe  
Jane Crisler  
Sally Cullen

Jaleh Dabiri  
Gwen Daluge  
Erica Daniels  
Jennifer DeGarmo  
Mirabel Deming  
Paula DeRubeis  
Kay Deupree  
Marsha Dobbs  
Abbey Donahue  
Nancy Belle Douglas  
Rachael Dowd  
Regina Dunkin  
Mary Ann Eggen  
Mary Lou Einerson  
Kim Emerson  
Shari Faber  
Nancy Fennema  
Beverly Ferguson  
Kristin Fillhouer  
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Kerri Harold  
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Ilah Hartung  
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Diane Hendricks  
Regina Hendrix  
Michelle Hendrix-Nora  
Julie Hermanson  
Kim Hesgard

Lois Hickey  
Barbara Hickman  
Theresa Hinline  
Elisabeth Hinkle  
Kathy Holcombe  
Mary Hopkins  
Julia Hornbostel  
Mary Margaret  
O'Connell-Hosler  
Irene Hoyt  
Cecelia Howe  
Bettye Hugill  
Peggy Jacobs  
Judy Jaggard  
Lora Jakoubek  
Muril Janisch  
Kathleen Jelinek  
Marilynn Jensen  
Sandy Johnson  
Patti Podgers-Johnson  
Doris Johnston  
Lynn Jones  
Junice Jones  
Julia Jorgensen  
Jackie Judd  
Marilyn Keating  
Susan Keeney  
Jamie Kessenich  
Evelyn Kettle  
Jan Kinnaman  
Stephanie Klett  
Judi Kneece  
Grace Knipp  
Kris Koeffler  
Jacki Olson Kold  
Deb Kolste  
Jennie Krajeck  
Patricia Krarup  
Charlene Kraus  
Karen Krueger  
Bernice Laita  
Elida (Lollie) Langer  
Rosamaría Laursen  
Jan Leach  
Karen Lisser  
Kimberly Litsheim  
Amy Loasching  
Linda Lyke  
Gen MacFarlane  
Kathi Madsen  
Joan Malin  
Ann Markulis

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Bettye Hugill  
Peggy Jacobs  
Judy Jaggard  
Lora Jakoubek  
Muril Janisch  
Kathleen Jelinek  
Marilynn Jensen  
Sandy Johnson  
Patti Podgers-Johnson  
Doris Johnston  
Lynn Jones  
Junice Jones  
Julia Jorgensen  
Jackie Judd  
Marilyn Keating  
Susan Keeney  
Jamie Kessenich  
Evelyn Kettle  
Jan Kinnaman  
Stephanie Klett  
Judi Kneece  
Grace Knipp  
Kris Koeffler  
Jacki Olson Kold  
Deb Kolste  
Jennie Krajeck  
Patricia Krarup  
Charlene Kraus  
Karen Krueger  
Bernice Laita  
Elida (Lollie) Langer  
Rosamaria Laursen  
Jan Leach  
Karen Lisser  
Kimberly Litsheim  
Amy Loasching  
Linda Lyke  
Gen MacFarlane  
Kathi Madsen  
Joan Malin  
Ann Markulis



# Upcoming Events



*CARE House*  
*Golf Open*  
**ywca**  
Rock County

## SAVE THE DATE

**17TH ANNUAL** **JUNE 7TH 2024**  
GLEN ERIN GOLF CLUB  
1417 AIRPORT RD, JANESVILLE

**YWCA ROCK COUNTY & THE ELITE LADIES PRESENT**



eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Rock County

**YWCA**  
**IS ON A MISSION**

# JUNETEENTH

— CELEBRATING FREEDOM —

**JUNE 15, 2024 • NOON - 8:00PM**







YWCA ROCK COUNTY

# WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES®

SEPTEMBER 2024

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Rock County

*10th Annual  
Racial Justice Conference*

**WHAT IS MY ROLE IN  
ELIMINATING RACISM?**

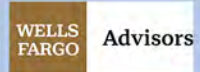
JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 14TH, 2024





# Thank You

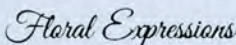
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Décor



Dessert



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