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2019 NATIONAL MOTHER OF THE YEAR



AMERICANMOTHERS

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American Mothers, Inc.® | AMI National Convention | Washington, DC | April 28-May 1, 2019



NATIONAL CONVENTION 2019

AMERICANMOTHERS WASHINGTON, DC | APRIL 28-MAY 1



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY APRIL 28

Noon

Registration Office Opens
Independence Room

1:00 - 3:00pm
Board of Directors Meeting
New Hampshire Room

3:30 - 4:30pm
AMI Leadership Meeting
New Hampshire Room

4:00 - 6:00pm
Honoree Orientation
South Carolina Room

4:30-6:00pm
General Membership Meeting
Virginia Room
All members of American Mothers are welcome to attend.

6:30-8:00pm
Legacy Reception
Palm Court Ballroom
Make connections and help kick off the 2019 National Convention of American Mothers, Inc. All registered attendees are invited to attend.

MONDAY APRIL 29

8:00am
Registration Office Opens
Independence Room

7:30 - 8:30 am
Networking Breakfast
Palm Court Ballroom
Use this opportunity to meet the Mother of the Year® and Mother of Achievement honorees and get to know what makes American Mothers such an incredible organization.

9:00 - 10:30am
Mother of the Year Speeches
Palm Court Ballroom
"America, This is Your Mother Speaking"

10:30-10:45am
Break

10:45am-Noon
Mother of the Year Speeches Cont.
Palm Court Ballroom

12:30 - 2:00pm *Doors open at noon*
Mother of Achievement Lunch
District Ballroom

American Mothers is thrilled to welcome Ree Drummond, "The Pioneer Woman," who will share her experience as a working mom and public figure in the celebrity spotlight.

2:30 - 4:00pm
Hacks & How To's for Modern Moms
Palm Court Ballroom

Attendees will have the opportunity to rapidly expand their knowledge on three different subjects in 25-minute roundtable discussions.

How-to topics include:

- Run for Public Office
- Garner PR & Publicity for Nonprofits
- Write a Grant
- Lead from Within
- Start an AMI Chapter
- Have a Courageous Conversation
- Build Relationships
- ... and more!

4:15 - 5:30pm
What to Expect on Capitol Hill
Palm Court Ballroom
This panel discussion will prep you for meaningful dialogue with your Congressional delegation in advance of your Tuesday meetings.

TUESDAY APRIL 30

8:00am - Noon
Registration Office Opens
Independence Room

8:00 - 9:30am
Eggs and Issues Breakfast
Chinese Room
Congresswomen Lawrence and Lesko will join the convention to discuss the issues and share their views on policies that are impacting moms and children across the country.

10:00 - 10:45am
A. Breakout Sessions:
American Mothers and the Global Discussion on Women
New York Room

Moms & Mental Health
New Jersey Room

11:00 - 11:45am
B. Breakout Sessions:
Raising Kids Who Color Outside the Lines
New York Room

Momming in the 21st Century
New Jersey Room

11:45am - 1:00pm
Lunch on Own, Travel to Capitol Hill

1:00 - 1:30pm
Group Photo at Capitol

1:30 - 5:00pm
Congressional Visits
Our moms head to Capitol Hill to meet with their members of Congress. Appointments are made in advance; make sure to capture a photo with your elected officials and share on social media using #MomNation.

6:00 - 6:30pm
President's Circle Reception
Palm Court Ballroom
A private reception for Honorees, Sponsors and AMI Donors

6:30 - 7:00pm
Pre-Gala Reception
Palm Court Ballroom
All Golden Rule Gala guests are invited to attend

7:00 - 9:30pm *Doors open at 6:45pm*
Golden Rule Gala
State Room
This glamorous and festive evening is the pièce de résistance of the annual convention. During this memorable event the 2019 National Mother of the Year will be named.



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ABOUT US

American Mothers, Inc.® is committed to valuing mothers through service and education and has been MomStrong since 1935. As the official sponsor of Mother’s Day and the Mother of the Year® award, American Mothers serves as the voice for the 85 million mothers in America.

Honoring the mission of the organization’s founders, Eleanor Roosevelt, Sara Delano Roosevelt, Mamie Eisenhower, JC Penney, and Norman Vincent Peale, American Mothers is dedicated to improving the lives of mothers and children in the US and around the world.

Each year American Mothers honors motherhood by naming the National Mother of the Year® and hosting a National Convention. As an NGO centered at the United Nations and leader of the Global Motherhood Coalition, American Mothers organizes annual panel discussions and participates in high level meetings focused on addressing global struggles for mothers and children. By bringing mothers together from across the country, American Mothers harnesses maternal energy for positive change.

Many outstanding individuals have been honored by American Mothers including Phyllis Marriott, Congresswoman “Lindy” Boggs, Golda Meir, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Kathie Lee Gifford, Alison Sweeney, Robin McGraw and Elizabeth Smart. We are #MomNation.

OUR VISION: Every Mother Has a Voice.

OUR MISSION: Harness the power of maternal energy to make a positive impact in the world.

To do this we will:

HONOR moms through the Mother of the Year® and Mother of Achievement award,

EDUCATE moms on important policy decisions that could impact them across the country,

SUPPORT efforts that benefit women and children by providing financial assistance to local nonprofits via the Golden Rule Grant Fund,

ADVOCATE on behalf of women and children for a safer existence in America and around the world,

EMPOWER moms to be community leaders and use their innate abilities to make a positive impact at home, work and in the world,

PROVIDE a platform for networking, lifting one another up, cheering others on, and sharing good news about every victory for every mom, no matter how small.





AMERICANMOTHERS

American Mothers Inc.®

Chief Executive Officer:

Rebecca Latham, New Mexico

National Board President:

Connell Branam, Oklahoma

National Mother of the Year:®

Karen Smoots, Michigan

National Board of Directors

Joan Braitsch, District of Columbia

Dianne Dain, New York

Lizzy Conroy, Virginia

Dorothy DeVore, California

Amy Hoyt, California

Junia John Straker, USVI

Melonie Matarozzo, Colorado

Sheila Monke, Nebraska

Patty Payne, Alabama

Yolanda Perez, Puerto Rico

Gerre Schwert, Tennessee

Deb Stanaland, Oklahoma

Joyce Stevens, Nebraska

Kim Hoey Stevenson, Delaware

Lela Sullivan, Oklahoma

Deanne Taylor, Utah

Sue Venteicher, Nebraska

Kathy Walker, Oklahoma

Carol Willey, Vermont

Sabrina Wisner-DeWitt, Montana

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WELCOME FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



On behalf of our Board of Directors and the members of American Mothers around the country, I would like to welcome you to the 84th National Convention of this historic organization! I am so excited to be sharing this experience with you in Washington, D.C. as we chart the course for our future and celebrate the service and dedication of so many extraordinary women. Earlier this year our Board of Directors made some bold strategic decisions that will pave the way for our long-term success as a nationally recognized voice on issues impacting

women and children. This focus, along with our dedication to honoring the selfless work of mothers and our commitment to growing AMI's philanthropic footprint, means that there is a lot of work ahead for American Mothers, Inc.

Our work begins this week with a robust convention program filled with opportunities to learn and grow as individuals and an organization. The incredible mothers being recognized, and our phenomenal first year state representatives, are the future of American Mothers, Inc. Together we will fulfill our mission to harness the power of maternal energy to make a positive impact in the world.

Thank you for being a part of American Mothers,

Rebecca Latham

American Mothers, Inc. CEO

2017 National Mother of the Year

WELCOME FROM OUR CONVENTION CHAIRS

WELCOME



WELCOME FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 84th National Convention of American Mothers.

What an honor and privilege to volunteer for an organization so rich in history and serve with truly remarkable women from across the country. There is such strength and inspiration found in this organization's tradition of recognizing outstanding women who are passionate about making the world a better place for children and families. This annual convention gathers women together from across the country to focus on relevant issues affecting mothers and recognizes those who are making a positive impact. The extraordinary women featured on the following pages are genuine examples of the best in motherhood and embody all the admirable qualities for which that first Mother of the Year was named.

Their stories are truly inspirational! It is a sincere privilege to be a part of an organization that celebrates the invaluable contributions mothers are making for the benefit of the next generation. Welcome to American Mothers!

Connell Branan, National President

WELCOME FROM OUR CONVENTION CHAIRMEN



On behalf of American Mothers, we welcome you to the beautiful Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. What an amazing city! We hope you enjoy your stay here. Our three days together will be filled with an atmosphere of awe! You will enjoy networking with others who are serving their communities in unique ways.

You will learn about issues facing families in every state. And we will honor you, the extraordinary Mothers who have been in the trenches raising children and have cared enough to give of yourself by serving your children, your family and your community. You truly are making a difference. We have worked diligently to assure a memorable occasion.

Lela Sullivan and Lizzy Conroy

WELCOME



Welcome

American Mothers, Inc.

84th Annual Convention

April 28, 2019


As Mayor of Washington, DC, it is my pleasure to welcome the American Mothers, Inc. to the Nation's Capital, on the occasion of your 84th Annual Convention.

American Mothers, Inc. is an interfaith, independent, non-political, non-profit organization that recognizes the important role of motherhood through various educational programs and community outreach.

In 1935, Honorary Chairman, Sarah Delano Roosevelt, presented the first American Mother of the Year Award and since its inception, American Mothers, Inc. has continued its legacy of recognizing mothers who are courageous, bold, innovative, and creative.

As you gather to celebrate this annual event, I thank you for hosting your conference in Washington, DC, and I invite you to enjoy all that our city has to offer.

On behalf of the residents of Washington, DC, I wish you a memorable and successful event.


Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC





**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515**

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



April 28, 2019

GREETINGS!

To

American Mothers, Inc.

It is my privilege to extend greeting to those attending the annual American Mothers, Inc. celebration. Additionally, I would like to extend my congratulations to the honorees for their dedication to both the organization and community.

In noting this magnificent milestone, I would like to commend the support and contributions you have given to others as well as the wisdom and experience you have gained through the years. I applaud the American Mothers, Inc. for hosting this event to honor the many members and honorees while continuing to support women and families throughout the United States. Your organization is not only a great asset to those living here in the District of Columbia, but to the nation as well.

You have my best wishes for a remarkable occasion and continued future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eleanor H. Norton".

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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WELCOME FROM OUR DC ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Dear Sisters in Motherhood,

I am delighted to extend greetings to you from all the mothers of the Nation's Capitol as we gather at the 84th Annual Convention of American Mothers, Inc.®

We are motivators, movers and shakers, and globe creators. We are shaping the world through inspiration and prayer for all the mothers everywhere as we gather at this National Convention. We are a unit of one mind, one goal, creating a united front for our children – who are our most sacred commodity.

The world stops here, at our desk. We have the strength to empower laws and influence lawmakers. We stand firmly as the most impactful group in the universe. We have been entrusted with God's precious gifts – all of the children. I encourage you to know that we are making a difference even Wall Street has to acknowledge it. We have brought about change.

Now we must implement the mandate which has been passed on to us by mothers and grandmothers of prior generations. My sisters, I challenge you as never before to continue to make a stand and hold fast to the strength that has been given you by God and our mothers and grandmothers. We are strong. We are devoted, we are committed, and we are determined to continue to mold, make, move, motivate, and manifest the Heart and Hard Task that has been set before us.

#MomStrong but we are stronger together. We are a sisterhood. Come to the place where our mothers marched in 1919 to gain Women's Right To Vote by passing the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Join hand in hand and heart to heart. Our Nation's Capital is the place – Be There!

*Betty Lancaster Short, DMin., LPC
DC Mother of the Year 2000
2018-2020 President, DC Association*

2019 CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



REE DRUMMOND

Award-winning blogger, photographer, and celebrity chef from Bartlesville, Oklahoma who first grew a fan base around her award-winning blog, “The Pioneer Woman,” Ree Drummond launched her career when she began writing about life as a cattle rancher’s wife on their Osage County cattle ranch. As her content grew, including a food section filled with recipes, so did her fan base—eventually attracting over 20 million page views per month. This led to cookbook deals and her first televised appearance in 2010 on the Food Network’s, *Throwdown!* with Bobby Flay, where she beat the celebrity chef in a Thanksgiving-themed cooking contest. The following year, her successful television series, *The Pioneer Woman* was launched. In 2016, Ree opened the *The Pioneer Woman Mercantile* in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, home of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Known as “The Merc,” the 25,000-square-foot historical building, purchased and renovated by the Drummonds, includes a

two-level restaurant, retail store, and bakery. The Merc attracts visitors from all fifty states (and many countries) to Pawhuska and the surrounding area. Earlier this year, she opened *The Boarding House*—a three-story, eight-room hotel right down the street from the Mercantile, a pizza restaurant, and an event space. A steakhouse in Pawhuska will open later this year. Ree lives on the family ranch with her husband Ladd and their four children.



CONGRESSWOMAN BRENDA LAWRENCE

Congresswoman Brenda L. Lawrence has lived in Michigan’s 14th Congressional District, which includes a portion of Detroit as well the City of Southfield and 16 other cities located in Oakland and Wayne counties, her entire life. She was re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November of 2018, and she serves as a Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues and 2nd Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. She serves on the House Appropriations Committee serving on subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development (THUD), subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and subcommittee on Interior, Environment. She is also a member on the House Oversight and Reform Committee where she serves on the subcommittee on Government Operation and subcommittee on National Security. Born and raised in Detroit, Congresswoman Lawrence is a product of Michigan’s public

school system. She is an alumna of Pershing High School and earned her bachelor’s degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. Before she began her career in public service, the Congresswoman had a notable career with the U.S. Postal Service. She was elected Mayor of the City of Southfield in November of 2001 and became the first African American and the first woman to serve in that post. She previously served on the Southfield City Council, where she was elected President in 1999. She has also served on the Southfield Public School Board of Education as President, Vice President, and Secretary. She and her husband, McArthur Lawrence, are the proud parents of Michael and Michelle. They also adore their granddaughter, Asya.



CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE LESKO

Congresswoman Debbie Lesko represents Arizona’s 8th Congressional District. In May 2018, she was sworn in to the U.S. House of Representatives and appointed to serve on the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. Congresswoman Lesko is the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues. Prior to her role in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Lesko served in the Arizona Legislature for nine years - the last three of which were in the Arizona Senate. She served as Senate President Pro-Tempore and Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. She was honored by numerous organizations during her time at the Arizona Legislature, including, “Champion of the Taxpayer”, “Guardian of Small Business” and “Senator of the Year”. Congresswoman Lesko received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin. She lives in Peoria with her husband, Joe, and they have three children.

2019 CONVENTION **SPEAKERS**



NIK AUSTIN

Nik Austin is a wife, mother, motivational speaker, vlogger, mentor, advocate, entrepreneur, inspired author, and plus size model. As a survivor of domestic violence abuse and having her son diagnosed with Autism in 2012, Nik recognized her worth when she met her husband, who encouraged her to begin talking about her feelings to cope with her past, by creating a Facebook talk show called *The Glitz & Glamz Chronicles*. She uses her past experiences to help motivate and encourage others to live life unapologetically and fearlessly. She owns 5 businesses and resides in Newport News, VA with her husband and their 2 children. She is currently in the process of writing her first book, "My Son Has Autism, What Do I Do Now?"



EMILY BROOKS

Emily Brooks is an artist, small business owner, philanthropist, and model in Fargo, ND. She launched the business *Taea Made* in 2012, and she serves as Director of Marketing for Fargo Pinball, which she has owned with her husband and brother-in-law since 2015. She is a Teacher of Therapeutic Art for the Psychiatric Intensive Outpatient Program for The Village Family Service Center. Emily also writes travel articles for *Creek Living Magazine*. She is a member of The Arts Partnership, Pride of Dakota Network, and former president of FM Modern Sewing Guild. Emily graduated from the University of North Dakota with a B.A. in Communication. Emily was recognized as North Dakota's Mother of the Year in 2018.



CARA CROMWELL

Cara Cromwell is a veteran public relations and government relations strategist with more than 25 years experience in providing counsel to corporate clients, elected officials, trade associations, non-profits, membership organizations and advocacy organizations. Before forming Cromwell Public Affairs in 2005, Ms. Cromwell was a Vice President with Edelman in their Washington D.C. office. Ms. Cromwell joined Edelman in 2003 along with veteran strategists Brian Lunde and George Burder to form Edelman Issues Advocacy. Ms. Cromwell graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a B.A. in History and Politics. She lives in Bristol, Rhode Island with her husband and two daughters.



SUZANNE FARRIS

Suzanne Farris began a career with the American Red Cross in 2012 where she currently serves as a Senior Recruitment Specialist and Master Trainer for the Greater Chesapeake Region. Suzanne and her husband David are raising their four children in their Bridgeville, Delaware home and Suzanne spends the majority of her non-working hours helping her children to manage their volunteer service organizations – *GAVE*, *GearUp*, *HeartArt* and *The Lily Project!* Suzanne also serves on the Bridgeville Economic Development Council and works alongside her husband to promote healthy marriage and family relationships. Suzanne was recognized as Delaware's Mother of the Year in 2018.



JENNIFER ARENS GUBBELS

Dr. Jennifer Arens Gubbels received her undergraduate degree in biology research with honors from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa in 2004. She then went on to earn her doctorate in Endocrinology-Reproductive Physiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2009. Dr. Gubbels has published 13 peer-reviewed articles on ovarian cancer, and is currently exploring new research in the area of preterm birth and stress. She and her husband have three daughters and reside in South Dakota. Jennifer was recognized as South Dakota's Mother of the Year in 2018.



JENNIFER HARRINGTON

Jennifer Harrington is a mother to four wonderful children and has instilled in each of them a love for learning. As a homeschool mother, Jennifer diligently perseveres in creating lessons that cause her children to thrive in learning. Jennifer also works part-time as an Associate Professor at the Lincoln Memorial University Physician Assistant Program where she shares her knowledge with 100 new medical students every year. Jennifer received a Master's of Health Science in Physician Assistant Studies...*continued on next page*

SPEAKERS

from Lock Haven University and her Bachelor's of Science in Biology from Grove City College. She also finds time to volunteer in the community and coaches an Odyssey of the Mind team, a program that nurtures creativity and problem solving skills in youth through STEM like activities. Jennifer and her husband Bernie, live in Williamsburg, Kentucky with their four children. Jennifer was recognized at Kentucky's Mother of the Year in 2017.



NICOLE S. MASON

Nicole S. Mason is wife to her college sweetheart and mom to 3 sons. Nicole is a working mother, who has dedicated her life to encouraging and empowering women to advocate for themselves and their children. She is an attorney, executive leadership coach and mentor. Nicole was recently recognized by Governor Larry Hogan for her work mentoring women for the past 20 years. She has mentored women to negotiate for salaries, to go back to school to further their education and to make themselves more marketable, to safely leave abusive relationships, to speak up matters that impact the workplace and communities. Additionally,

Nicole is an advocate for Heart Health Awareness, serving as an Ambassador for the American Heart Association.



JENNIFER O'BRIEN

Jennifer O'Brien serves nationally as the Executive Director of the American Special Hockey Association and also employed by Health Processes, Inc. She was the founding director of Life Is Washable, Inc. (a family & caregiver engagement program for children and adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities) which continues to serve her local community. As project coordinator for Our Space at Recreation Park, Mrs. O'Brien spearheaded the construction of the largest fully accessible playground in New York. Mrs. O'Brien also developed other innovative programs such as "Friendly Access Sensory Safety Kits", which

serve professional sports venues from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. and "Fair Play" adaptive athletics. Jennifer was recognized as New York's Mother of the Year in 2018.



SHALITA O'NEALE

Shalita O'Neale graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park with a BA in criminology and also holds a Masters of Social Work from the University of Maryland Baltimore. Mrs. O'Neale founded Hope Forward, Inc. in 2008 and the Fostering Change Network LLC in 2012, as well as the Alumni Powerhouse Networking Conferences (APNC) that have taken place in Maryland, California and New York City since 2015. In addition to overseeing her own non-profit organizations and being recognized as an exemplary speaker, trainer and fundraiser, she provides insight and expertise to other organizations as a mentor, coach

and consultant. Shalita was recognized as Maryland's Mother of the Year in 2017.



SHARON PARKER

Sharon Parker is the author of "True Synergy Works, Leading Within...Seven Defining Principles of Knowing Self to Birth Greatness." She is a former Commissioner with the Maryland Commission of African American History and Culture and former President of the Robert C. Weaver – Blacks in Government (BIG) chapter. Sharon is a long-time Federal public servant and has worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development for over 30 years. She uses her project management skills and knowledge to implement and manage several youth, adult, and senior leadership and transformation programs and

workshops. Sharon was recognized as a Mother of Achievement in 2013 and is the President of the Maryland Chapter of American Mothers, Inc.



DR. SHARON H. PORTER

Dr. Sharon H. Porter (Dr. Sharon) is an author, publisher, Talk Show Host, and has served as an educator for over 25 years. She currently serves as a Leadership Coach for novice school administrators in a school district in the DC Metropolitan area. She is a former elementary and middle school principal. Dr. Sharon is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, National-Louis University, The Johns Hopkins University, Walden University, and Howard University. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, International Association of Women (IAW), an Official Member of the Forbes Coaches

Council, Sister 4 Sisters Network, Inc, and Professional Women of Winston-Salem. Dr. Sharon is the host of The I Am Dr. Sharon Show, and is also a wife, bonus mom, and proud pet mom.



MICHELLE SCHROFF

Michelle Schroff is an advocate for children in New Mexico and around the world. She and her husband, Clay, have been recognized by Governor Susanna Martinez and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption for their work developing two nonprofit organizations: the Aspen Project, a support network for foster families, and Project Zoë, a boutique that empowers young ladies to believe that they are more than their past. When Michelle isn't teaching, sharing, or driving her kids to activities she loves to wind down doing interior design or traveling. Michelle and Clay have a full quiver, 10 children (5 adopted through state custody, 1 adopted from Russia, and 4 biological children) and two grandsons. Michelle was recognized as New Mexico's Mother of the Year in 2018.



KAREN SMOOTS

Karen Smoots is an entrepreneur, business owner, and the mom of two boys. She holds a U.S. patent for the Green Glove Dryer, a product she created to solve the problem of soggy gloves during the wet winter months. Karen's innovative product has been featured on ABC's World News Tonight and HSN, and she's received recent attention for her donation of 500 Green Glove Dryers to classrooms in her community. In addition to running her own business, Karen actively volunteers her time to Western Michigan University students and faculty to talk about entrepreneurship, innovation and owning/operating a business. She speaks frequently to groups of students to explain the success and failures and how each step of life is a learning adventure. Karen was honored as the 2018 National Mother of the Year.



KIM HOEY STEVENSON

Kim Hoey Stevenson is a freelance writer who has written for such media outlets as American Online, Money Talks News, Gannett, Delaware Today, PARADE Magazine and Delaware Beach Life. She traveled extensively both personally and professionally. Most notably, she was in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope to cover the change over from US to United Nations forces. A graduate of Wake Forest University, Kim used her degree in psychology to help co-author the book, "Overcoming Misfortune: Children Who Beat the Odds," a book that explored the positive side of psychology. Kim was recognized as Delaware's Young Mother of the Year in 2013.



SUE VENTEICHER

Sue Venteicher has lived in Omaha, Nebraska her whole life. Sue recently retired as the Trainer/Educator for Phlebotomy at Children's Hospital and Medical Center where she worked for almost 25 years. Sue is an advocate for Organ Donation, she had the honor to be a living kidney donor in 2017. Sue's greatest joy is her family. Sue has been married to her husband Steve for 33 years, their children are Magann, Lexi, Jordan, Colten, Hillary, Dylan and Brooklynn. Sue also has 5 beautiful grandchildren. Sue was recognized as the Nebraska Mother of the Year in 2016 and she currently serves on American Mothers, Inc. National Board as the Area II Coordinator.



REPRESENTATIVE ROBYN VINING

Representative Robyn Vining was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in November 2018. She is a highly successful entrepreneur and small business owner. Robyn is a founding board member of Exploit No More, which works to end child sex trafficking. She is also a founding member of Help Portrait Milwaukee and The Milwaukee Portrait Project, initiatives that serve some of the city's most vulnerable citizens. She was awarded the United Way's Philanthropic 5 award in 2013 and was named American Mothers' Wisconsin Mother of the Year in 2017 in recognition of her commitment to her community.



MICHELLE WALL

Michelle Wall is the Community Relations Manager for Make-A-Wish Delaware and an active volunteer for the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, where she was named 2014 MS Society Volunteer of the Year. She was elected to a five year term for the Appoquinimink School Board in 2015 and was named the 2016 National Mother of the Year by American Mothers, Inc. Michelle resides in Historic Odessa with her husband and their two daughters in a home that was built in 1847.



AN ORGANIZATION **RICH IN HISTORY**

The idea behind American Mothers, Inc.® (AMI) began in 1931 when Eleanor Roosevelt announced the formation of a Golden Rule Mothers Day Committee to help mothers and children during the Great Depression. Formally organized in 1933 as a division of J.C. Penney's Golden Rule Foundation, the Golden Rule Mothers Day Committee established a fund to help Americans "Celebrate Mother's Day the Golden Rule Way" by providing financial assistance to mothers and children in need. By 1935, the organization was under the Honorary Chairmanship of Sara Delano Roosevelt, and named the first American Mother of the Year® at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. It was the hope of the committee that she would be an inspiration to the nation.

Lucy Keen Johnson from Georgia was billed as the 'typical mother of 1935' when she was recognized as the first Mother of the Year®. It was written that the celebration was simple but celebrity studded with a small luncheon and program over at CBS, followed by an informal reception before the evening NBC broadcast. At that time, the Motherhood Medal was presented to her by Sara Delano Roosevelt, the President's mother.

Lucy Keen attended Wesleyan College, the world's oldest college for women. Soon after graduation, she married Fletcher M. Johnson, a young lawyer with five children. In 1914, at age 38, Lucy was left a widow with her five step children and a daughter of her own. Lucy soon became the Dean of Women at Wesleyan College, her alma mater, while raising her children and "mothering" a sizable college community. Along

with her career and family, Lucy always found time for the concerns of others. A loyal Methodist, she served in various capacities within her church and found time for community projects. Sweet and grandmotherly, this woman of refinement had successfully met the problems of raising a family alone and accepted for all mothers the plaudits of her country as the very first American Mother of the Year.

American Mothers has annually selected an inspirational mother from nominees across the 50 States, District of Columbia, USVI and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for this important honor. There is a Hall of Fame plaque located in the south lobby of the Waldorf Astoria (former home of American Mothers) that lists every National Mother of the Year since 1935. Dedicated in 1970 by Honorary Chairman Mamie Eisenhower, and the Hilton Corporation, the plaque remains an iconic symbol of the mothers

of America and the rich history of this organization.

Under the leadership of Mamie Eisenhower, American Mothers also established a strong presence at the United Nations and recognized many international mothers for their humanitarian efforts. American Mothers continues to be recognized as a non-governmental organization (NGO) at the United Nations and is currently working with other NGO's to raise awareness about important issues that impact mothers and children worldwide.

American Mothers is an educational 501(c)(3) organization that recognizes the invaluable contribution mothers make to the future success and happiness of children and society. Its purpose is exclusively charitable. The national headquarters is located in Washington D.C.

AMERICAN MOTHERS

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES



GOLDEN RULE GRANT PROGRAM

The Golden Rule Movement encourages moms to do what they do best...teach kindness to others. The Golden Rule Movement creates a more positive and empathetic culture in America by empowering, educating, and inspiring women to lead by example and model kindness and compassion through volunteerism and acts of service in their local communities. American Mothers is helping encourage this Movement by providing charitable and communications support for programs which benefit mothers and children through the Golden Rule Grant program.

Do you volunteer with an organization that exemplifies the Golden Rule? If so, you can apply for a Golden Rule Grant that will help you increase your reach! Contributions are made to organizations involved primarily in health and human services and civic and community programs that impact mothers and children. Funding requests for capital projects will not be considered. Applicants can only apply on behalf of programs that are sponsored by a 501(c)3 non-profit. The grant does not fund individuals. Official AMI state associations may submit an application but will not receive preferential treatment.

Organizations that receive grants will be featured in American Mothers social media, e-Newsletter and member outreach to continue to highlight the efforts of the Golden Rule Movement and moms spreading the message of kindness to others. Applications may be submitted online at AmericanMothers.org.

NATIONAL 5TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

If a 5th grade student you know would like to participate in American Mothers 5th Grade Essay contest, the contest runs from August 15th through January 15th and the topic is, "What my Mother Means to Me."

Participating is easy! Each child writes 150 words about their moms and turns the essays into their teacher by January 15th. Teachers will then need to turn the essays over to an American Mothers representative or mail to the National Office. A winner will be selected from each state, and then we'll announce a national winner by March 15th. Monetary prizes will be given to the top three essays nationally and the National Winner will be invited to read their essay in Washington DC!

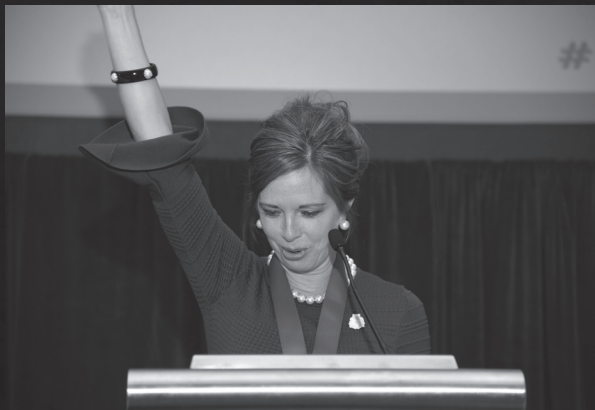
If you're a parent who thinks this is a great idea for your fifth grader's classroom, send an email to info@americanmothers.org and we'll help facilitate it in your school. The Fifth grade essay contest runs each year beginning in August, with submissions due by the January 15th.





NATIONAL CONVENTION

Each year American Mothers celebrates motherhood in Washington, DC just before Mother's Day! With exciting speakers, special events, Capitol Hill visits and the American Mothers Golden Rule Gala, this historic event that has been celebrating #MomNation for over 80 years! Follow us on Facebook or Twitter for the latest news and updates. We can't wait to celebrate motherhood with you!



MOTHER OF THE YEAR®

For over 80 Years we have been honoring moms who make a difference! Since the first National Mother of the Year® was named by the American Mothers Committee and Honorary Chairman, Sara Delano Roosevelt in 1935, American Mothers has honored inspirational moms from across the country every year! Nominations open on Mother's Day and close on September 15th for Mother of the Year.



I HEART MOM PROGRAM

Want to personally honor a mom you know? Let us help! For \$5 you can send your mother a love note that will be shared at the American Mothers National Convention and on our social media outlets. Proceeds from the I Heart Mom program benefit the American Mothers Golden Rule Grant program making this an extra special Mother's Day gift!

UNITED NATIONS

American Mothers is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We are currently working with the United Nations and the Commission on the Status of Women to raise awareness about issues impacting women and children worldwide. American Mothers also works closely with other organizations around the globe who share our same mission.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING - MOTHERS EYES ON THE WORLD

American Mothers, Inc.[®], Innocents at Risk and Operation Underground Railroad have forged a partnership to educate mothers and the public on ways to identify trafficking and how to take action. Through the Mother's Eyes on the World initiative, these 501(c)(3) charitable organizations are working together to educate the public on how to identify the key signs of trafficking and protect the children of our communities. An informational brochure is available for download online.

WHO WE ARE

MEET OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, **REBECCA LATHAM**

With nearly two decades of experience in marketing, communications and government relations, Rebecca Latham was named CEO of American Mothers, Inc. in January 2019. She brings a wealth of experience across all aspects of the marketing spectrum including strategic messaging, brand development, public relations, and event promotion. Prior to her role with AMI, she served as the Cabinet Secretary of Tourism for Governor Susana Martinez in New Mexico. In 2013, Rebecca was named New Mexico's Tourism Professional of the Year, and in 2017 she was named National Mother of the Year®. Rebecca is the proud mother of two joyful children. She and her husband, Scott, enjoy skiing and being outdoors with their family.





MEET THE AMERICAN MOTHERS, INC. NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JOAN BRAITSCH

Joan Braitsch currently serves as Endowment Fund Chairman for American Mothers. For two decades, Joan was employed by IBM and other high tech companies marketing computer systems to the Federal Government in Washington, DC and across the country. Joan and her husband met in college and enjoy supporting community outreach initiatives. They were the Founding Chairs of the Marriage Ministries Council at their church where Joan also served as Trustee, Treasurer and founding Co-Chair of the Legacy Giving program. Joan has served in numerous leadership positions with American Mothers, the DC Metro Area Association of AMI, and on Boards of Trustees for local, state and national charitable and educational organizations. She is inspired everyday by her two grown children and granddaughter.



CONNELL BRANAN

Connell Branam has been involved with American Mothers since 2006 when she was named the National Young Mother of the Year and currently serves as the organization's President. She realizes the powerful voice and positive impact mothers can make when working together. Connell has served American Mothers in various leadership capacities and recently moderated a panel for American Mothers on Human Trafficking at the 59th Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California and previously worked in Washington D.C. for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. She and her husband Cliff, live with their two children in Oklahoma where Cliff served as a member of the Oklahoma State Senate.



LIZZY CONROY

Lizzy Conroy is Vice President at Huckaby Briscoe Conroy Group-Keller Williams Realty in McLean, VA where she co-leads the #1 team in the #1 real estate office in McLean. Lizzy graduated from Georgetown University with a B.A. in Economics and has served in a number of professional capacities in the Washington, DC area. Lizzy is the 2005 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society National Woman of the Year and a past member of the LLS Board of Trustees. She is a sustaining member of the Jr. League of Northern Virginia and is a devoted member of her church, Trinity United Methodist. She and her husband, Steve, live in McLean, VA with their two children. Lizzy is the 2017 Virginia Mother of the Year and Co-Chairman of the 2018 National Convention.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DIANNE DAIN

Dianne Dain was honored as the 75th National Mother of the Year in 2010 by American Mothers, Inc. and currently serves as the UN Representative for the organization. She believes strongly in giving back to her community and improving lives through creating opportunity. Educated at Brigham Young University and Columbia Business School's Institute for Non-Profit Management, Dianne has served on numerous boards and consulted with schools, organizations and government leaders across the nation and globally. She currently works at the United Nations in New York City building programs and partnerships with the private sector. Her proudest accomplishment is her 4 beautiful children and 4 grandchildren.



DOROTHY DEVORE

Dorothy DeVore and her husband Greg, live in La Canada, California and have been married for over 49 years. Together, they have 7 children and 23 delightful grandchildren. Dorothy has helped her husband set up 7 medical offices at different times and now manages three for his practice of Maternal Fetal Medicine. She has enjoyed teaching and volunteering for her church, teaching music and French to elementary students, but most of all loves spending time with their children and their families who are scattered across the United States. Dorothy became involved with American Mothers, after being named California's 2007 Mother of the Year. Through this organization she has met, served with and has been greatly inspired by many outstanding mothers. Dorothy is currently serving as the Area I Coordinator.



AMY HOYT

Amy Hoyt is the mother of five children, three of whom were born with varying abilities. Amy's children have taught her to appreciate and work on behalf of children who are blind, deaf, or cognitively unique and have motivated her to learn ASL. Amy has a PhD in Women's Studies in Religion and is a professor of Religion and Ethics. Her work focuses on experiences of motherhood for religious women, eradicating gender-based violence, and minimizing the influence of pornography on children. Amy's current research focuses on examining the stories of women in Rwanda and South Africa who have survived national conflict and comparing models of transitional justice. Amy's volunteer work includes writing grants for a school that serves children who are deaf, directing charity events to benefit special needs children, serving on the PTA at two schools, and teaching Sunday school at her local congregation.



KIM HOEY STEVENSON

In her professional life, Kim Hoey Stevenson is a freelance writer who has written for such media outlets as American Online, Money Talks News, Gannett, Delaware Today, PARADE Magazine and Delaware Beach Life. She traveled extensively both personally and professionally. Most notably, she was in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope to cover the change over from US to United Nations forces. A graduate of Wake Forest University, Kim used her degree in psychology to help co-author the book, "Overcoming Misfortune: Children Who Beat the Odds," a book that explored the positive side of psychology. Kim is married and is mother to one child at home, six grown step-children and grandmother to 15. She lives in Delaware and was the 2013 Young Mother of the Year for Delaware.



JUNIA JOHN STRAKER

Junia John Straker has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands, Inc., the largest non-profit in the Virgin Islands, since February 2007. Before her appointment to CEO, she served the organization for over 16 years as Chief Fiscal Officer. She oversees a number of residential and non-residential programs that serve the needs of children, low-income adults and seniors, and the disabled of all ages. Junia has over 33 years of financial and management experience and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. She is happily married to her soul mate, Michael Straker, owner and manager of Straker Motor, LLC. and has two wonderful sons in college. Junia was recognized as the 2016 USVI Mother of the Year and is the current Area VI Coordinator.



MELONIE MATAROZZO

Melonie Matarozzo lives in western Colorado with her husband, Tony, and two daughters. She has worked as a Victim Services Advocate, being named Advocate of the Year in Colorado. While working to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault she helped create a sexual assault awareness program that was adopted in the local middle and high schools. When her daughter, Mackenzie was three she was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy. Mackenzie has been the Goodwill Ambassador with MDA and the family spends time every month doing public appearances on behalf of MDA. Melonie works for the Town of Collbran where she sits on the Economic Development Committee. The family enjoys their western way of life spending time with their horses, hunting, riding atv's, camping, and snowmobiling.



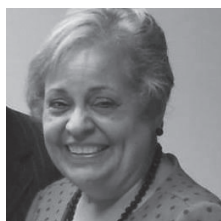
SHEILA MONKE

Sheila Monke, a member of American Mothers since 2013, is determined to increase awareness and sustainability for the organization. As the current 1st Vice President, she understands the impact American Mothers can make while assisting mothers nationally, and globally. Born and raised in the farmland of Nebraska, neighbor supporting neighbor was fully ingrained, generationally. 'Educated' in a small country school and a small community high school, Sheila received her undergraduate education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and then proceeded to 'educate.' Most importantly, Sheila is proud of the achievements of her husband and those of their children.



PATTY PAYNE

Patty Payne is a retired naval officer and mother of one son, John, who lives near. After retirement Patty worked with the U.S. Navy as an Education Specialist, and later for the U.S. Air Force as an Instructional Designer and Auburn University Montgomery as an adjunct professor. In 2006, Patty volunteered to help her young town work to have its own school district which opened its first public school in the Fall of 2015. Patty is the volunteer director of the town's Arts Council, and a member of the advisory board of the Alabama Plein Air Artists. Patty currently works as a contractor with the US Air Force in curriculum development and instruction. Patty is the 2014 Alabama Mother of the Year and the Area V Coordinator for American Mothers.



YOLANDA PEREZ

Yolanda Perez has been involved with American Mothers since 1996. She was named the 2007 Puerto Rico Young Mother of the Year and served as the Puerto Rico State President for 7 years. As a young business leader, Yolanda is the recipient of the Medal of the President of the United States in 1972. A business teacher by profession, Yolanda has a BA in Business Education from the University of Puerto Rico and obtained graduate certificates on urban planning and management from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard, the University of Maryland at College Park and a Certificate in Labor Law from Cornell University. In 2012 she participated in an AMI United Nations panel discussion on violence to women in rural communities and has attended the UN CSW ever since. Under her leadership, AMI selected the first Mother of the Year from the USVI in 2015 and the Puerto Rico Association received the first Circle of Excellence award in 2014. Yolanda is currently employed as a Chief of Asset Management Properties with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Atlanta, Georgia, where she currently resides. She has served AMI as a member of the Nominating Committee, Bylaws Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and is currently the National Third Vice President. She is the happy mother of Veronica (24) and Leonardo (29).



GERRE SCHWERT

Gerre Schwert, MSW, LCSW is a clinical social worker in the Center For Cancer Support at CHI/Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga, TN, providing counseling and support groups to cancer patients and their families. She is certified as a mind-body therapist by the Center For Mind-Body Medicine in Washington, DC and employs stress reduction therapies with patients, caregivers and staff. Gerre and her husband Doug enjoy travel, especially when it connects them with their six children and eleven grandchildren. Gerre was named 2014 National Mother of the Year and currently serves American Mothers as Area III Coordinator.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



KAREN SMOOTS

Karen Smoots is a 41 years old a native “Michigander” and the middle of three girls. Given that she was the middle child, she knew nothing more than the juggle of an older and younger sister! Karen grew up on a family farm that was more than 125 years old. A work ethic was instilled in her at a young age as she remembers the struggle of those dreaded hay bails that would arrive in the hottest days of summer. As a child, Karen was never interested in TV, but rather enjoyed being outside or keeping herself busy. Always a self-motivated individual, she found herself numerous times in leadership roles. Karen’s earliest jobs were babysitting and she always knew she would do the best job she could at being a mother. “I’m not perfect, I make mistakes, but having two boys that call me mom is the best thing that could have happened to me.” Live today, tomorrow is never guaranteed.



DEB STANALAND

Deb Stanaland is the owner of Stanaland Consulting. She is a Certified Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Professional and holds a Professional Certificate in Victim Assistance. She has over twenty years of experience in victim services and recently retired as a Chief Officer with the YWCA Oklahoma City. As the owner of Stanaland Consulting, Deb has served as an Expert Witness in both Civil and Criminal Domestic Violence cases, in both State and Federal courts. Deb is the Chair of the Oklahoma State Crime Victims Compensation Board, a member of the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, serves on the Steering Committee for the Oklahoma City Family Justice Center, and has served on the National Board of Directors of American Mothers, Inc. for two years. Deb was named the 2015 National Mother of the Year.



JOYCE STEVENS

Raised on a farm in Nebraska with 6 brothers and 1 little sister, Joyce Stevens acquired a resilient work ethic and devoted love of family. An enthusiastic mother of three, Joyce has been married to her husband for over 42 years. A certified pharmacy technician by trade, Joyce recently retired after 27 years to help with the family business, be caregiver for her aging father and spend precious time with her ten grandchildren. Joyce has served as chairperson on many volunteer levels including 4-H, church, school, fundraising events , confirmation, teaching, choir, business chamber and community theatre. After Joyce was honored as Nebraska Mother of the Year in 2012, she has continued to volunteer for American Mothers locally and nationally and currently serves as Secretary on the National Board.



LELA SULLIVAN

Lela Sullivan, a graduate of Oklahoma State University, is a mother, a former teacher and a devoted community volunteer. Many organizations have benefited from her time and dedication and she has received numerous honors and awards for her service which include the YWCA’s Outstanding Community Volunteer Award, Oklahoma City University’s Award for Community Service, Oklahoma Hospitality Club’s Woman in the News Award, the Oklahoma City Public School Foundation Alumnae Award, the Pi Beta Phi National Crest Award and the Junior League of Oklahoma City’s Sustainer of the Year award. Lela has been married to her High School sweetheart for fifty four years and together they have two children and two grandchildren. She is the 2018 American Mothers Convention Chairman.



DEANNE TAYLOR

Deanne Taylor has been a member of American Mothers since 1976 when she first became involved with the chapter program. Since that time she has served on the American Mothers National Board in various capacities for the past 30 years. Deanne is committed to serving mothers and increasing awareness about the organization and is an active member of her community. She is a charter member of Rotary Club of Mount Timpanogos, and the founding president of the Pleasant Grove Business Alliance which became the Chamber of Commerce. Deanne and her husband of 50 years, are real estate investment specialists and Deanne manages 3 of their companies. They have 8 children and 19 grandchildren and have lived in Pleasant Grove, Utah for 24 years.



SUE VENTEICHER

Sue Venteicher was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, graduating from Marian High School and the University of Nebraska in Omaha. As an employee for 23 years, she currently works as the Phlebotomy Trainer and Educator at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. Sue’s greatest joys in life are her children - Magann(29), Lexi(28), Jordan(27), Colten(25), Hillary(24), Dylan(22) and Brooklynn(19). Recently, Sue and Steve became “empty nesters” for the first time. Their home remains busy as they spend the week caring for their grandchildren. Sue has always been active in her church and community and volunteers both as a mentor with Catholic Charities of Omaha and as a Supervised Visitation Worker. Giving back to the community and helping children are two of Sue’s highest priorities. Sue is the Area II Coordinator for American Mothers.



KATHY WALKER

Kathy Walker is a fifth generation Oklahoman. She and her husband, Russ, have built a life together in their community where they raised four children and now have four grandchildren. Her volunteer efforts and board service to many area organizations led her to be celebrated by the Oklahoma City University Societies with an Award of Excellence, and by the Journal Record as one of “50 Women Making a Difference.” A Nichols Hills Councilwoman for six years and mayor for two, she was vice-chairman of the Association of Central Governments of Oklahoma Board of Directors.



CAROL WILLEY

Carol Willey lives in Bakersfield, Vermont in her “dream house” that she and her husband of forty years built themselves. She is the mother of 4 grown children and grandmother of 8 and is an activity director at a community care home; co-founder and on the Board of Abundant Life Fellowship of Northern Vermont where she attends church and where her husband is pastor. Carol volunteers for the local Agency on Aging as a certified Tai Chi for Arthritis Trainer and companion for seniors in the community. Her work in American Mothers has brought a whole new dimension to her personal mission as it expands her circle of influence and opens up new opportunities. Carol was the 2015 Vermont Mother of the Year and serves American Mothers as the Area IV Coordinator.



SABRINA WISHER DEWITT

Sabrina Wisher DeWitt was the 2014 Montana Mother of the Year. She is currently involved with the Lions Club and serves on the board of Flathead Industries, a non-profit corporation, providing community inclusion and integration services to a wide spectrum of individuals. In 2013, Sabrina created “Mikayla’s Miracles and Blessings Foundation” in honor of her daughter Mikayla. The foundation has helped numerous disabled children get the necessities they need. Sabrina believes that every child, no matter their disability, deserves “Quality of Life.” Sabrina has worked with her father in their family owned business, “Wisher’s Auto Recycling” for 27 years. Sabrina is the mother of four children & two step children. She also recently married the man of her dreams, Paul DeWitt.



NATIONAL **ADVISORY BOARD**



CATHY KEATING

ADVISORY BOARD CO-CHAIRMAN

Cathy Keating was born and reared in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, she married Frank Keating, had three children and embarked on the never-ending challenge of balancing life as a wife and mother with community service and career. For the forty-three years of their marriage, her priority has always been family first. Community service has also been a focus in her life since childhood, but her most significant contributions occurred while serving the state of Oklahoma as First Lady. Most specifically, her efforts were concentrated on the rescue and recovery of those affected from the Oklahoma City Alfred P. Murrah bombing, where Keating planned and organized the International Prayer Service, then published *In Their Name*, which was on the New York Times bestseller list. All proceeds were directed to "Project Recovery." She is a 2015 National Mother of Achievement Award winner and currently strives to be a "Mother of Achievement" in all aspects of her life.



GOVERNOR BILL ANOATUBBY

Bill Anoatubby began work for the Chickasaw Nation in 1975 as its health services director. A year later, he was asked to direct its finance department. In October 1978, he was promoted to the position of special assistant to the governor and controller. In 1979, he was elected as the tribe's first Lt. Governor. Governor Anoatubby was elected to his first term as Governor in 1987. In his first term, Governor Anoatubby established goals of economic development and self-sufficiency for the Chickasaw Nation and its people. Today, the Chickasaw Nation is well on the way to achieving those goals. In 1987, the tribe had about 250 employees. Today, the Chickasaw Nation employs nearly 14,000 people. The financial condition of the tribe has been improved tremendously. Funding for tribal operations has grown exponentially. Tribal assets have grown two-hundredfold. Governor Anoatubby is committed to meeting the needs of Chickasaw people through programs and services. Governor Anoatubby and his wife, Janice, have two sons, Brian and Chris and five grandchildren, Brendan, Eryn, Chloe, Sydney and Preslea.



SECRETARY HENRY G. CISNEROS

Henry G. Cisneros began his career in public service working as an administrative assistant in the San Antonio City Manager's office. He was elected to the San Antonio City Council in 1975, and became the first Hispanic Mayor of San Antonio, the nation's 10th largest city, in 1981. As a four-term mayor of San Antonio, Mr. Cisneros rebuilt the city's economic base, recruiting convention business, attracting high tech industries, increasing tourism and creating jobs in San Antonio. In 1985, he was elected president of the National League of Cities. He was nominated by President Clinton to serve as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on December 17, 1992. Mr. Cisneros graduated from Texas A&M with a B.A. and a masters of urban and regional planning. He earned an M.P.A. in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and a doctorate in public administration from the George Washington University. Mr. Cisneros has received numerous awards and honors. Mr. Cisneros married Mary Alice Perez in 1969. They have two daughters, Teresa and Mercedes, and a son John Paul.

STATE LEADERSHIP



LAURINE CLARK

CALIFORNIA

Lauraine Clark has lived most of her life in Southern California where she worked for fifteen years as a Senior Analyst for the Boeing Corporation and ten years as a trainer/lobbyist to the U.S. Congress for the Northrop Corporation. She has enjoyed raising her three children and playing grandmother to her twelve grandchildren. Lauraine has spent many hours sharing the talents and interests of her family as she travels to their homes across the United States. She love the art of making things happen. Lauraine keep busy each day with family, church and community. She loves the challenge of solving problems and creating new ways to get things done. Music, art and sports have taken up most of her time over the years. Lauraine admits that doing something creative every day is her current mantra, and making handmade books is her passion.



REV. DR. BETTY LANCASTER-SHORT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

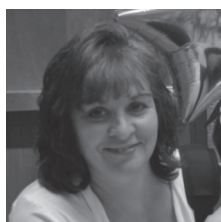
Rev. Dr. Betty Lancaster-Short, native Washingtonian, graduated Howard University School of Divinity. Recruited to sing professionally with the world famous Wings Over Jordan Choir, Betty chose to be the wife of a young charismatic minister, and devoted her energies to their shared ministries for 51 years. Betty co-founded the William Joseph Seymour House, America's first Pentecostal Campus Ministry at Howard University that lasted 41 years. Nurse, hospital chaplain, journalist, mental health advocate, professional-licensed counselor, radio-television producer and on-air radio personality are the ways she has served. Alongside her husband, the late Bishop Stephen N. Short, Betty played a pivotal role in spreading the Gospel to Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Australia. U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes-Norton awarded Lancaster-Short a Proclamation on behalf of those suffering from mental illnesses.



BECKY ROWAN

IDAHO

The importance of a supportive family was a blessing for Becky Rowan. Family traditions of Sunday meals at her Grandparent's small farmhouse in Idaho influenced her future family gatherings. She attended The College of Idaho and received a B.S. in Mathematics with a minor in Physics and Business Administration – graduating in three years. Most importantly, she met her future husband, Paul, and they maintained a long distance relationship during their graduate school programs. Becky graduated from Stanford University with a Master's of Science in Petroleum Engineering. She retired from her fast track career to raise her family and to be closer to her mom who was battling breast cancer. She is blessed to continually be active in her children's lives who are currently pursuing doctorate degrees in health care professions. Becky was Idaho Mother of the Year in 2014 and is currently the Idaho State President for American Mothers.



LISA NIEVES

ILLINOIS

Lisa Nieves and her identical twin sister Lori, were born in May, 1964, joining three older siblings. Her parents, Clifton and Carol Black, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Lisa married young and became a mother at 18 to a daughter, Jodi Colonius. Lisa entered nursing school right after graduating High School, and has been a Registered Nurse at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois for 29 years. Lisa remarried at 37 to Dan, becoming a stepparent to Cassidy, then 5 years old. In 2004 Lisa gave birth to Reagan and in 2005 gave birth to twins, Adan and Livia. Dan and Lisa have enjoyed good health, and feel they have been blessed with great children. They now have a son-in-law, Aaron, and three wonderful grandchildren. Their free time is spent driving children to and from dance, piano, guitar, and voice lessons, tumbling classes, baseball practices and going to church.

STATE LEADERSHIP



KRISTEN VAN BAALE

IOWA

Kristen Van Baale grew up in Kansas with her parents, one brother and two sisters. Growing up Kristen enjoyed spending her time playing various sports, playing the piano and saxophone, hunting, fishing, going on family vacations and spending time with the family's dog and their two horses. After graduating high school, Kristen attended Kansas State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and Pre-Veterinary Medicine as well as a Master's Degree in Food Microbiology. While at K-State, Kristen met and married her husband of 17 years, Matt Van Baale. After grad school, Kristen worked as a lab technician at the University of Arizona in Tucson. As their family grew, Kristen chose to stay home with the children. Currently residing in Harlan, Iowa, Matt and Kristen have two daughters, Brecken, 14, and Brinley, 8 and two sons, Bret, 13 and Bryce 11.



THERESA CLOUTIER

MAINE

Theresa Cloutier was born in Augusta, Maine, to poor Franco- American parents, the oldest of 6 children. Very proud of her heritage, through perseverance, hard work and an engaging personality she became respected by her peers at school, at work and in the community in an era when being French was considered a minority. Marrying the love of her life, Roland Cloutier, after graduation, they raised a family of 10 children, 8 by birth and 2 by adoption. Shortly after the last child was born, her husband became ill and found himself unable to work as his illness got worst until death in 1998. Actively involved with church and the community, while raising her family, she worked in public service until her retirement 6 years ago when she left the State of Maine Service Center after 30 years. Theresa remains actively involved with family, church and community through volunteerism and the organizations to which she belongs.



SHARON PARKER

MARYLAND

Sharon Parker is a native of Calvert County, Maryland and the mother of four daughters, Sharon is the current President of the Maryland Association of American Mothers and was recognized in 2013 as Maryland's Mother of Achievement. Sharon is the author of "True Synergy Works, Leading Within...Seven Defining Principles of Knowing Self to Birth Greatness". She also serves as President for Remembering Our Ancestors Synergistic Association, Inc. (ROASA), an organization that inspires disadvantaged youth to tap into their greatness. Sharon is a former Commissioner of the Maryland Commission of African American History and Cultures and former President for Robert C. Weaver - Blacks in Government (BIG) chapter. Sharon is a long-time Federal public servant and has worked for Department of Housing and Urban Development for over 30 years.



LANAE TRYON

NEBRASKA

Lanae Tryon was born and raised in Mesa, AZ by her parents Donald and Helen Lamoreaux. She was the 2nd of 5 children. Lanae married Louis Kent Tryon in Mesa and has been happily married for 38 years. They are parents to 9 children, the youngest died at age 3 of heart problems, and have 16 grandchildren. Lanae decorates fun cakes for birthdays and has done wedding cakes. She loves to sew for her children and grandchildren. She has worked in the Cub Scouts for over 15 yrs and is active in her church where she had held many positions. Lanae was Arizona's Young Mother of the Year and served as the President of the Arizona Mothers Association before moving to Nebraska. Lanae currently serves as the President of the Nebraska Association.



CRISTI BULLOCH

NEVADA

Currently residing in Las Vegas, Cristi Bulloch was asked to serve on the Nevada Association board as their Community Liaison in 1993. As a Special Assistant to two U.S. Senators, she had prior experience working with community organizations. Cristi was honored in 1995 as Nevada's Young Mother and had the blessing of being a stay at home mom to two daughters as they grew up. Cristi has also been able to assist her husband in their Real Estate Investment and Development business and enjoys working with students on significant projects in the College of Communications at Brigham Young University through the President's Leadership Council. Additionally, Cristi has served on the national board of American Mothers and currently serves as the newly re-chartered Nevada President.



NYLDA R. GONZALEZ PAGAN

PUERTO RICO

Nylda R. González Pagán graduated from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a major in accounting. After working several years in the banking industry, she gave a turn to her life, and began studies in cosmetology and aesthetics at the former Mary Ann Academy. Later she became part of the faculty of the same institution. She continued developing her entrepreneurial talent through workshops, lectures, special activities, student supervision and beauty contests. As a result of this experiences, she began a career in the competitive field with the opening in 1982 of the Elegance Unisex Hair Styling Salon, which was opened until 2002. As the mother of three professional daughters and two talented grandchildren, Nylda dedicates much of her time to collaborating with different non-profit organizations to achieve the well-being of women, mothers and the needy.



DIANE WEESE

UTAH

Diane Weese is from River Heights, Utah. She is married to Mark Weese and they are the parents of 5 children. Diane graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education and has taught preschool for many years. She has numerous interests including American Mothers, running marathons and planning parties! Her favorite event to plan is their state's mini conference for American Mothers. She also loves to watch her grandchildren in their activities.



BETTY HAGGERTY

VERMONT

Betty Haggerty is a native of Vermont and graduated from the University of Vermont in 1966, with a degree in elementary education. That same year, she married Hugh Haggerty, also a teacher and school administrator. When Hugh accepted a school superintendent position, the family moved to Bellows Falls, Vermont where Betty began working at Falls Play School. She taught and directed the nursery school for seventeen years before retiring. Since then, she has given back to the community, which has been supportive of them, by volunteering. Betty was the 2013 Vermont Mother of the Year.

TEAM CONVENTION



EBONY BANKS

Ebony Banks is currently a Health Teacher for Prince George's County Public Schools. She has also been a member of the St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in Calvert County Maryland since she was 16 years old. Ebony says she 'enjoys the blessing and honor or being in the greatest club of all..... Motherhood!!!!'



SUZY BENNETT

Suzy Bennett is the President of Attitudes Inc., a wholesale to retail sales and consulting business working with everything from small retailers to big accounts with Neiman Marcus and Hobby Lobby. Suzy also enjoys volunteering with the Boys and Girls Clubs, Sister Cities and Catholic Charities. Suzy lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, David Bennett and they have one adult son.



SUE BURGE

Susan Burge is a retired Office Manager who artfully coordinated both corporate and church offices alike. Sue now shares her business acumen with the Boothbay Region Community Resource Council, a local charity, where she served as President from 2015 through 2017. Sue is married to Bill, her husband and partner of 55 years. Together they raised 3 sons and are the proud grandparents of seven amazing grandchildren.



JALISA CATER

Jalisa Cater is a tour guide in the DMV area. She is in the process of publishing a bi-monthly resource guide for Montgomery County, Maryland parents. Jalisa is also a Certified and Trained teacher with Fascinating Womanhood and a member of MOPS.



CYNTHIA GREENE

Cynthia Greene is the mom of four from Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and CEO and Founder of her company, Marriage Built 2 Last. She is a speaker, two time best selling Author and a Certified Professional Life Coach who works with coaching couples on how to have healthy, happy, whole relationships.



BETTY HINES

Betty Hines is a semi-retired Business Professional with 40 years of experience. She's been a C-Suite Executive, an Entrepreneur & a business leader, and for the last 15 years, she has worked with women who are presidents & CEOs of their own companies and who run multi million dollars busin



MARY HOFFMANN

Mary Hoffmann is a Concordia College Associate Professor in Apparel and Design and has dedicated her life to teaching and mentoring young women. She has made major contributions and awarded educational grants for over 20 years and collaborated with the Oklahoma Department of Education on a curriculum development book for high schools. She has two grown daughters and was recognized as the 2017 North Dakota Mother of the Year.



PAULINE ROSE MOORE

Pauline Rose Moore, a “Modern Renaissance Woman” and “The Creative Activator” has earned several professional degrees, including a Master of Divinity of Religion from the Howard University School of Divinity and an MA in Counseling from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is a CML and Sexual Abuse Survivor, Adult Foster and Adoptee, Award-Nominated Author, a Veteran and Airman in the US Air Force Reserves for 11+ years and has been an ASL Interpreter for 13+ years. Pauline and her husband Duane live in Maryland with their two sons.



BARBY MYERS

Barby has more than 30 years of experience in government relations, communications, public relations, media relations, and crisis management. Barby recently returned to her home state of Oklahoma and began her consulting work with American Mothers, Inc. Prior to working with American Mothers, Inc., Barby served as vice president of the government relations division of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce in Wichita, Kansas and was with the chamber from 2008 - 2017. Before working at the chamber, Barby worked as vice president at Schnake Turnbo Frank Public Relations in Tulsa, OK and was director of public relations and strategic planning at Armstrong|Chamberlin Marketing Advertising and Public Relations in Wichita. Barby also served as Chief of Staff to Oklahoma First Lady Cathy Keating and worked as the executive director of Red Earth Inc., a non-profit, Native American arts and cultural organization in Oklahoma City, OK. From 1987 – 1993, she lived in Washington, DC and held positions at The White House (Bush 41 Administration), U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Department of Energy. Barby has a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University. She is married to Craig Myers and is the proud mom of two college-age sons and one daughter, Kylie Brooke Jobe, who, at 20, was killed by a drunk driver in 2011.



BARBARA OWENS

Barbara Owens is a seasoned educator and has worked in public schools in New York City, Euclid, Ohio and Washington DC. Her experience in the classroom has opened doors to many opportunities to work with students outside of the classroom including home schooled students. Barbara is also passionate about helping families in need through Community Health Initiatives and serves as a Health Coordinator for Ward 5 in the District of Columbia. She is also a certified grief coach and the 2017 DC Mother of the Year.



RICHARD PAYNE

Richard Payne is a retired naval officer who managed to spend a little over 28 years at sea before meeting Patty, the love of his life, while both were teaching at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL. Richard served on ships both big (carrier) and small (minesweeper) along with a little time on a submarine. And since the slogan is “Join the Navy to see the World”, Richard's tally includes stops to 38 countries. Since leaving the Navy, he has been homeported in Pike Road, AL helping Patty in whatever way she wanted him to and assisting with the care and feeding of the cats and dogs, son John, brother in law Charles and the family and friends who drop by.

TEAM CONVENTION



KRISTA RITACCO

Krista Ritacco has served as Former Director, White House Counselor's Office and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Education. A mom of two boys, Krista was honored as the 2013 DC Young Mother of the Year. Currently, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Women's Club in Chautauqua, NY, providing scholarships to students to pursue their artistic talents in Fine and Performing Arts.



DIANE ROCHE

Diane Roche is a mother of 3, stepmother of 4 and a grandmother of 7. After her youngest child was in college, she applied to medical school to become a Physician Assistant. Her medical training has required her to travel around the United States and work in many hospitals, clinics and rural areas. Diane believes that motherhood has provided her with the ideal training for this second career. She credits her children and husband for her success. They have been the driving force to encourage her to dream and succeed. Diane and her husband, David, live in Sneedville, Tennessee.



SILMA SERRA DI MARCO

Silma Serra Di Marco graduated from Ponce High in 1965, and in 1970 obtained a Bachelor's Degree of Arts with a major on social work. Upon graduation she was hired by the University as Associate Director for the Evaluation Office. Currently Ms. Serra Di Marco has had a very active role in the community, supporting and working in civic, charity and wellness organizations. For her lengthy involvement in fund raising and supporting various non-profit organizations she has also been recognized by the Commonwealth Government of Puerto Rico.



ARLENE SPANN

Arlene Spann is a Philanthropist, Author, International Speaker and voice in community. She is also the mother of two children. Arlene is involved with many local organizations that help those in need and is the current Treasurer for the Maryland Association of American Mothers, Inc.



LYNN STARZL

Lynn Starzl runs a daycare out of her home in Yankton, South Dakota where she is also the mother to 8 children. The 2015 South Dakota Mother of the Year, Lynn is also a prolific card maker, sending hand made cards to anyone in need. Lynn believes a handmade card is like a hug with a fold in the middle.



HOLLY WORTMANN

Holly Wortmann is a domestic engineer and stay at home mom to four girls in Crofton, Nebraska. She is involved in several organizations in her community and became acquainted with American Mothers, Inc. when her Mother in Law, Mary Ann Wortmann, was named 2003 Nebraska Mother of the Year and her own Mother, Joyce Stevens, was honored as the Nebraska Mother of the Year. "I am sandwiched between two INCREDIBLE women! (I call them both MOM!)"

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taste
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The Maine Chapter of American Mothers proudly congratulates



Lina Michaud,
*2019 Maine Mother
of the Year*



Sue Burge,
*2019 Maine Mother
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Celebrating Lela!

**YOU WILL ALWAYS
BE MY
MOTHER OF THE YEAR!**

♥ Connell



AMERICANMOTHERS



WHO WE ARE



MEET AMERICA'S MOM

KAREN SMOOTS
2018 NATIONAL
MOTHER OF THE YEAR®

NOMINATE!

Do you know a special mom? Nominate her for Mother of the Year!! Nominations open on Mother's Day and close September 15th. For more information, go to www.americanmothers.org/nominate

OCCUPATION: I am a self-employed business owner and entrepreneur.

SPOUSE / CHILDREN: I have been married for 18 years to Ryan Smoots and we have two boys, Colin, age 15 and Nolan, age 11.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP? I grew up on a 150-acre family farm in Cassopolis, Michigan.

DESCRIBE A TYPICAL DAY IN YOUR LIFE. I wake up early! At least 5:30-6:00 am and head down to get the kids lunches and coffee going. Check email. Respond to urgent matters. Get kiddos off to school. Head back to office, work on all items by priority of importance. Lunch with my husband each day (perk and highlight). Manage all extra curricular activities in

the afternoon with kids. There is NEVER a dull moment EVER. Dinner, dishes, laundry, catch up on emails, orders, scheduling events and more. Late night tasks...bed by 11:00pm and then start the day all over.

ASIDE FROM BEING A MOM, DO YOU VOLUNTEER OR PARTICIPATE IN SOMETHING SPECIAL TO YOU?

I love volunteering at WMU. This is my alma mater and I am passionate about helping students navigate entrepreneurship and innovation. I gain as much knowledge and energy from them as they do from me.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO BEING A MOM? Raising respectable, independent, trustworthy and hard-working men. I want them to succeed and have a respect for everyone they come in contact with. My hope is they will be as kind as grown adults as they were with toddlers.

HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN BALANCE IN YOUR LIFE?

Some days are harder than others, but my priorities are family and kids. I always try to schedule around their activities and functions. There are plenty of hours in the day for work and I know that their time with me, living in our home is getting shorter and shorter, so I try to maximize every minute I get with them. I am driven by work and success but that comes in many forms and my children are a testament to success.

MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT YOU... I have a disease, scoliosis and fused my entire back with rods. I don't complain or talk about it much but there are

many days I can't even sit for 5 minutes without being in severe pain. I also LOVE VW buses! I wish I could own 20 of them like Gabriel Iglesias.

LEAST FAVORITE WORD? I don't really have one, but maybe today...with boys (BRA) which in teenage terms is BRO.

IPHONE or ANDROID? Android, but I'm thinking of switching it up. I work on a MAC everyday.

HEELS OR FLATS? Flats only because heels kill my aching back. I'd wear heels everyday if I could.

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE MOST? My husband. He is smart, funny and kind all wrapped in one. I wish I could be half as smart as him. He is the kindest, most caring and helpful individual I have ever met. I am the luckiest gal in the world to spend my life with him.

FAVORITE QUOTE? Nelson Mandela, "I never lose, I either win or I learn."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A NEW MOM? Stop reading all the books/ Do what makes you feel right and comfortable. There is no perfect answer because everyone's path is different. Motherhood is learning new things. It's also about patience and solidarity. Be compassionate to others offering advice but also know when the lights go out at night, you are the one that is in the driver's seat with your child. No one will ever know a child better than his or her mother. Your gut instinct is your best friend.



2019 STATE **MOTHERS OF THE YEAR**



ANGIE JORDIN

ALABAMA

Angie Jordin is the Business Development Director for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for the State of Alabama. She has been with MDA for 11 years and has held several roles within the non-profit organization. She enjoys her career and has been blessed to have the opportunity to model for her children the importance of balance in work and home life. She has been married for 22 years to John Jordin, a former police officer and current federal employee. Together they have two daughters, Hayley and Jessica Jordin.

She believes today's women really can have it all.



CYNTHIA BOWMAN

ALASKA

Cynthia was born into a large family, in southern California, in 1980. In 2008, she graduated from California State University, San Bernardino, with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Her first nursing job, was as a "generalist" nurse, in Valdez, Alaska. She met her husband while working there and they moved to Olympia, Washington. She quit nursing, when she was put on bed rest during pregnancy, and never returned to work. They decided they wanted to raise their family in Alaska and drove back when the baby was two months old.

After a couple years and a second child, Cynthia and her husband bought an off-grid cabin, in Trapper Creek, Alaska. Cynthia now spends her time homeschooling, caring for her husband with intractable epilepsy, and trying to keep up with the work their lifestyle requires. She has learned a tremendous amount about what it takes to be self-reliant, as well as the essentiality of community.



MICHELLE LACY

ARIZONA

Michelle Lacy is a Jesus follower, wife and mother to two. Michelle grew up the youngest of three with three generations under one roof. She loves the beach, her family, and reading. Michelle is a founding member and the Clinical Director for Women's Health Innovations of Arizona, a 501c3 with the focus to serve mothers and families struggling with mental health and substance use disorders around pregnancy, postpartum and parenting regardless of their ability to pay. This is the result of her years of work as a licensed

counselor, subject matter expert, national trainer, and advocate. Michelle has served as state coordinator for Postpartum Support International, founding member and Vice President for the Arizona Postpartum Wellness Coalition, President of the Board for the PSI-AZ Chapter, and trauma therapist. Michelle is a co-author of "Mind-Body-Soul Sisters: A Journey to Authentic, Christ-Centered Friendships" and "Our Family Fabric" a faith-based parenting curriculum.



BREANNE DAVIS

ARKANSAS

Breanne and her husband, John-Paul, have been married for 14 years. They have four children, sons Riley (10) and Blaze (6), and daughters Darby (7) and Everly (6 months). Breanne has been serving as an Arkansas state Senator since June 2018 and was the first female legislator to give birth while in office.

Breanne holds a bachelor's degree in speech communications from Arkansas Tech University. Elected to the Russellville School Board of Education in 2009, she served as President, Communications Liaison, and Legislative Liaison. She was voted Leadership Russellville's Leader of the Year by her peers in 2009 and named "20 in their 20's" by The Courier in 2010. Over the years, her volunteer experience includes working with human trafficking survivors, being a respite foster family, Choices Crisis Pregnancy Center advocate, traveling internationally to work with Syrian refugees, U8 girls soccer coach, and working on 25 state and federal campaigns.



SUSAN TATSUI-D'ARCY

CALIFORNIA

Susan Tatsui-D'Arcy was born and raised in Southern California and currently lives in Santa Cruz, California. After her first child was born, Susan set up a preschool so she could spend more time with her daughter and provide engaging activities for her. She invited other children to join to create a stimulating and social environment. Realizing that no existing school met the standards she wanted for her children, she opened an elementary school for accelerated students that expanded with her children as they advanced each year. When her daughters were in middle school, Susan created ProjectMERIT to inspire teens to find their niches and pursue independent projects and then expanded Merit Academy to include high school and college advisory. Susan has written eleven books on parenting, education & time management. Susan is the CEO and founder of Merit Academy and Merit Educational Consultants. For fun, Susan skis, ATVs, and manages her aquaponics garden and permaculture fruit orchard.



NICOLE GROSS

COLORADO

Nicole Gross is the mom for her 2 boys, Zach and Chase in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Her youngest son Chase was born number of severe medical conditions, and Nicole has used her prior life as a forensic biologist to seek out multiple rare diagnoses and work toward the best treatments possible. She is the winner of the Chicago Epilepsy Foundation Hero's Award for her successful legislative work in obtaining access to medical cannabis for children with no other options. Following a move to Colorado, she has gone all in with the special needs community, working as an advocate for Chase and many other families in the 25,000 student school district. Sensing a larger need, she founded a district wide support group for special needs families. She is also a fibrosarcoma cancer survivor and created an online support group for patients worldwide who share her rare condition.



KAREN MOWAD

CONNECTICUT

Karen is a foster mom who also serves as a mentor for new foster families in New Haven County, hosting between 5 and 20 families at a time. As a cancer survivor, Karen has helped other cancer survivors through community outreach programs, by providing support and encouragement, and donating funds. Karen is a Justice of the Peace and was recently awarded the 2018 Couple Choice Award from Wedding Wire. She is a Notary Public and serves on the Membership Board of the Farmingbury Women's Club. Karen Mowad currently serves as the Town Clerk of Wolcott and the Registrar of Vital Statistics. She was previously Assistant Town Clerk for 12 years and Asst. Registrar of Vital Statistics for 16 years. Karen has worked to preserve historic records while moving technology forward. She treats her customers with dignity, respect and kindness. Karen is a Certified Municipal Officer and town official.



TRACIE HITCHENS

DELAWARE

Tracie Hitchens was born Tracie Gilewski on April 17, 1960 in Milford, Delaware. Tracie graduated from Milford Senior High School in 1978 and went on to attend the University of Delaware where she studied Elementary Education. After graduation, in 1983, she was employed by the Woodbridge School District as a special education teacher where she taught for 30 years. In 1990 Tracie married Randy Hitchens and moved to Georgetown, Delaware. 1994 saw the birth of her only child, Jenna. In 2000 Tracie earned her master's in Educational Technology from Wilmington University. In 2013 Tracie retired and became employed by the Sussex County Department of Libraries. Tracie lives in Lewes, Delaware with her daughter Jenna. She enjoys being five minutes from the beach, scrapbooking and traveling. This past fall Tracie and her daughter set off on a cross country road trip to the west coast and back.

2019 STATE **MOTHERS OF THE YEAR**



CAROL MULETA

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Carol is the mother of wonderful twin sons who sparked her curiosity about child development and her passion for parenting. What started as a search for a parenting philosophy to steady herself as she wrangled busy toddlers became a journey toward a new calling – parent education. Today, she is a certified parent educator, leading parenting classes and presenting community talks. Carol co-founded a parent education company where she presents parenting programs and consults with families to support the healthy growth and development of their children. Carol hosts a radio show, Parenting 411, where she shares “information parents need from sources they can trust”. In her downtime, Carol always enjoyed following her sons’ athletic pursuits including Tae Kwon Do and basketball, which she made time to learn herself. Carol has been happily married for 24 years and lives in the DC Metro area with her husband and sons who are now freshmen in college.



MORGHANN BLUM

FLORIDA

Morghann Blum is a self made photographer in DeLand, FL. She has three children she adores and a husband she is madly in love with. Morghann is a proud Law Enforcement Wife and is entirely dedicated to her husband and her children. Morghann spent ten years in the medical field and has always been a nurturing individual. After a back injury forced her to consider an alternate career, she shifted her energy towards creative outlets and helping individuals in her community. Morghann’s photography not only brings her joy but also those around her. She is an animal lover and she is known for taking in animals that need a loving home. In her free time Morghann enjoys outdoor activities with her family and an occasional trip to see an Opera.



CAROL NORRIS

GEORGIA

Carol Norris currently resides in Bonaire, Georgia with her 15 year old daughter, Kelsey. She adopted Kelsey, as a single mother, from a Russian orphanage when she was 14 months old. Carol has a Master’s Degree in Health Administration from Washington University School of Medicine. For more than 30 years, Carol Norris has served as a devoted advocate for non-profit organizations, public agencies and community collaboratives that serve children and families. She is the President and Senior Consultant at Norris Consulting Group. She specializes in grant writing, resource development, strategic planning and evaluation. Carol has written over 300 successfully funded grant proposals totaling over \$153 million to fund prenatal and child development home visitation programs, after school programs, school-based health centers, juvenile delinquency prevention programs, mental health services, child health networks and other family support programs. These services have subsequently assisted hundreds of thousands of poor and disadvantaged children.



LYNNETTE STUART

ILLINOIS

Lynnette Stuart was born to Huston (a Preacher) & Maggie (a homemaker) Warner on the beautiful island of Barbados. Lynnette and her sister LeAnne lived in Barbados for the first 10 years of her life then moved to America. As a preacher’s kid, there were rules and guidelines that had to be followed. That’s what shaped Lynnette into the woman she has become today. Lynnette loves Jesus and strives to be an example for her children. Lynnette has been married to Brad for 20yrs. She has 3 girls, Halle 18, Hanna 16, & Haléna 14. Lynnette loves her family and has been a homemaker since having kids. Lynnette is a good friend & loves meeting new people. In her spare time she helps out at her church, kids school & volunteers in her community. With all that said, Lynnette knows that if she puts God first everything else will work as it should.



REBECCA SAVAGE

INDIANA

Becky Savage is a wife, mother of 4 sons and has waged a battle against the opioid epidemic ravaging our communities. June 14, 2015, Becky's two older sons Nick and Jack accidentally overdosed on a deadly cocktail of alcohol and prescription drugs. Becky has turned her unimaginable grief into a powerful message: educating students, parents, lawmakers and anyone else who will listen about the dangers of prescription drugs. She created the 525 Foundation (the boys' hockey numbers were 5 and 25) with the goal of preventing another family from experiencing the pain they struggle with every day. To date, Becky has bravely shared her story with more than 90,000 high school students from across the country and presented at conferences. She's spoken to members of a United States Senate Opioid Crisis committee, serves as an ambassador for the Walgreens #ItEndsWithUs campaign and participated in countless interviews for podcasts and news media in the hopes of spreading awareness and prevention.



CHRISTINE PETERSEN

IOWA

Christine was born and raised in southwest Iowa-attending the Logan-Magnolia School system. She grew up on a livestock/grain farm and learned the value of hard work and caring for animals and land. She had one older brother. She received a degree in Agriculture Business from NWMSU. Her career, and raising of her children, has taught her compassion for all. She learned a lot about communication-both talking and listening and the need for sharing of our thoughts and opinions. She feels that it is important to share our life experiences, whether it is mothering skills, budgeting or just our day to day life challenges. By doing this she senses that we give support and encouragement and as we improve others' lives it affects ours as well. She tries to live this motto every day and instill it in her family, friends and all she comes into contact with.



ANGIE EDSTROM

KANSAS

Angie Edstrom was born on February 10th, 1981 in Shawnee, Kansas. She grew up in Gardner, Kansas with her parents and two older brothers. Angie started playing sports at a young age and continued playing throughout high school. Angie continued her love of sports and played Basketball at Highland Community College for 2 years after High School. Angie decided to follow her heart and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The University of Kansas and completed her Masters in Nursing as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in 2007. Throughout Angie's, nursing career, she has worked in an Intensive Care Unit, Trauma Medical Surgical Floor, Case Manager and as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at The University of Kansas Health System. Angie married her spouse in 2010 while living in Spring Hill, Kansas. They have a son and daughter that are currently in elementary school and active with sports.



MICHELLE MEYERS

KENTUCKY

Michelle Myers is a wife and mother to three busy children. She received a Master of Divinity at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia in 1999 and has served in various ministry capacities since then. She currently resides in Williamsburg, Kentucky where she directs an after-school program for children in her community.

2019 STATE **MOTHERS OF THE YEAR**



MELISSA LEE

LOUISIANA

Melissa Lee is a freelance public relations professional, a former television journalist, and currently a stay-at-home homeschooling mom of a high school senior. Born and raised in Oklahoma, she is a proud Oklahoma State University graduate. She worked in television in Tulsa and Oklahoma City before her career path lead to Louisiana where she worked in Monroe, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and New Orleans. A love of animals prompted a career change that put her face-to-face with penguins, sharks, and sea creatures on a daily basis as Director of Public Relations for Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans. She loved promoting the tourist attraction, and learned something new every day during her nearly 15 year career there. Her favorite job and proudest accomplishment is as Mom to son Alex, who was adopted from Russia as an infant. He's filled her life with love and adventure ever since.



DONNALINA MICHAUD

MAINE

Lina Michaud was born and raised in the Capital City of Augusta, Maine. She grew up in a family of 10 children and claimed her spot as a “middle” child, early on, as she cared for and nurtured her younger siblings. Lina graduated High School in 1979 and directly went into the workforce. When Lina married and started a family, she realized that she wanted to be home to raise her children and started a successful in-home daycare. During this, time period, Lina also, decided to further her education and enrolled in the local University to attend night classes. After 12 years of persistence and dedication to her goal, she attained an Undergraduate Degree in Human Services and later became a Licensed Social Worker and advocate for children. Lina is a proud Wife, Mother and “Memere” to 3 precious grandchildren. She enjoys a full-filled life surrounded by family and friends.



CHERYL WHITAKER

MARYLAND

Cheryl Anita Whitaker was born in Washington, DC. She is a graduate of Calvin Coolidge High School where she served as class president. Cheryl matriculated to George Washington University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology/Pre-Med. Cheryl began her career at Georgetown University Hospital as a patient coordinator in the Radiology department. She is the co-founder of River of Life Church located in Temple Hills, MD. As an elder, she has provided leadership, training and facility management. She teaches and provides oversight of the Women’s Ministry. In addition, she serves on the board of the River of Life Church. Cheryl was a vital design team member for the \$2.9 million renovation project for the church’s new facility. Cheryl married her high school sweetheart, Pastor Charles Whitaker. From their union, they have 4 sons, Christopher, Alexander, Nicholas and Gabriel and they reside in Clinton, MD.



ANGELA DRUM

MICHIGAN

Angela grew up in a musical family and enjoys sharing her passion for music with her children. Angela is wife to James and mom to Ewan (12), Josephine (7) and Crosby (5). Along with managing Ewan’s nonprofit organization and Feenie’s postcard project, Angela also substitute teaches. In her spare time, she enjoys playing the tuba, photography and reading.



HANADI CHEHABEDDINE

MINNESOTA

Hanadi is a public speaker and media professional on Islam. She is a Human Rights Award recipient from the city of Eden Prairie city for her efforts in dismantling misconceptions about Islam and building bridges of unity. She has been featured in the Star Tribune for her community building projects and had been published The Washington Times, the Huffington Post, The Star Tribune, MinnPost, The Guthrie Theater, the Minneapolis Institute of Art and recently Cosmopolitan magazine and Pantsuit Nation book. Hanadi is also a U.S. State Department international speaker and a TEDx speaker. Hanadi is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Leadership at St Thomas University while changing perceptions in the corporate world as a keynote speaker and diversity trainer on inclusion. Her recent session at the National SHRM Diversity and Inclusion Conference and Exposition on demystifying Islam and Muslims attests to her caliber and outspokenness.



DILEK ACAR

MISSOURI

Dilek Acar is a mother, community builder and entrepreneur. A daughter of Turkish immigrants, she earned a BA degree from Ohio State University and devoted her early adulthood to supporting her husband's career as a professor and researcher. A survivor of childhood sexual and physical abuse, Dilek is passionate about supporting and empowering women. A natural matchmaker, she is recognized for bringing people together. Dilek considers her greatest accomplishment to be her daughters, one in training to become a child and adolescent psychiatrist and one an early childhood educator, both of whom share Dilek's commitment to the importance of raising healthy children. Even though Dilek is viewed as a successful business owner and community builder, she still struggles with self-esteem and confidence, though seeing herself through her daughter's eyes has helped her grow in this area.



BETTY COOPER

MONTANA

Betty Nell Cooper was born in 1938 in the Blackfeet Community Hospital in Browning, Montana located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Betty is the mother of four daughters and one son. She has worked in the field of Social Work and Mental Health in the community where she raised her children. Betty's education and work experience has been as a Social Worker and Administrator for Family Services. Betty has testified before the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C. contributing to the passing of the Congressional Bill II, "The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act," that went into law on the Indian reservations Tribal Courts and the general public court system. Montana Governor Brian Switzwer appointed Betty to the Montana State Mental Health Disabilities Board where she served a three year term.



ERIN KONECKY

NEBRASKA

In less than two years Erin Konecky, experienced two miscarriages, the death of her infant son, and the unexpected death of her father-in-law. In that time, Erin struggled with her own emotions while comforting her husband and six-year-old son through the losses. Because she learned her story was not unusual, Erin used her tragedy to better the lives of families grieving from infant and pregnancy loss by implementing and executing a condolence card from Governor Pete Ricketts. By coordinating with his staff, Erin created and funded the project to let parents know their baby had an impact. As an educator and through involvement in local organizations No Footprint Too Small, Mourning Hope, and Cedars, Erin focuses on supporting grieving Nebraskans and educating others on the impact trauma has on students at home and in the classroom.

2019 STATE **MOTHERS OF THE YEAR**



SUSAN BRAGER

NEVADA

Susan Brager has been a resident of Clark County for more than 50 years. During this time, Susan has worked to improve education as a parent volunteer, school employee and school trustee. Susan served three terms on the Clark County School Board from 1995-2006. During her tenure, she served as president, vice president and clerk. A realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Realtors for more than 29 years, Susan is a long-standing member of the Las Vegas Association of Realtors. Susan is married to Ron Wellman. They have three children, 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Susan attended elementary and middle school in Clark County, and her children all attended Clark County public schools and graduated from Clark High School.



SHEILLA PARKERSON

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sheilla Parkerson was born in Puerto Rico. Her family moved to the United States main land when she was eleven. She remembers being excited to move so that she could see and touch snow for the first time. The first challenge she had to overcome when she got to the US was to learn English. She became bilingual in 8 months. Sheilla has always had a big interest in health and fitness. She achieved a degree in Exercise Science and has worked in the fitness industry for over 20 year. Sheilla has a passion for helping people find their best selves through the holistic approach of diet, exercise and the implementation of essential oils. She also finds joy in mentoring others new to the field find success in their careers. Together with her husband of 16 years, they are raising their three children Sheylina 14, Drake 11 and Dahlia 8. They are the joy of her life! Sheilla enjoys dancing, skiing, shopping and the outdoors.



BROOK BASSAN

NEW MEXICO

Brook Bassan is a native New Mexican living in Albuquerque with her husband, Uri and their four elementary aged children. She has landed her dream career as a Household CEO, otherwise known as a Stay at Home Mom. In addition to continuously caring for her family, Brook volunteers as President of their school Parent Teacher Association and is Chairwoman of the Friends of the Library committee. She serves on the Nominating Committee for the NMPTA and is an active member of her Neighborhood Association, while also owning two small home-based businesses. Along with making memories with her incredible husband and four children who fill her heart and keep her schedule full, Brook adores cooking, hosting friends and other neighborhood children often, and Girl Scouts with her daughter. She is an avid reader, enjoys snow skiing, walking the family's three dogs, and indulging in a glass of wine with gal pals.



JATALI BELLANTON

NEW YORK

Jatali Bellanton is the founder of the youth financial literacy organization Kids Who Bank. After 13.5 years in the finance world of corporate UK and America helping clients make and retain millions she is now mainly recognized for being an award winning author, investor and her two major creations: a finance curriculum which has gone into 137 schools nationwide and an annual Kidpreneur Awards honoring enterprising youth and the adults who are creating ladders for them. Jatali and her husband have a three year old son.



HEATHER BRIGANTI

NORTH CAROLINA

Heather Briganti has held many job titles, but the best one by far is Mom. Becoming a mother showed her the meaning of true, unconditional and selfless love. Raising a child who is funny, smart, clever and who just happens to have a rare disease is the joy of her life. As the mother to an only child, she has learned that proudly responding “one” rather than “just one” when asked how many children she has is just as great, exciting and wonderful as the response “two”, “three” or more!



RENAE REINARDY

NORTH DAKOTA

Dr. Renae Reinardy is a Psychologist and Director of the Lakeside Center for Behavioral Change. She is the Program Developer of CourageCrittters.com, a plush animal and online program to help children learn adaptive coping skills. She received her doctorate at Argosy University, Washington DC. After several years in Washington, she returned to her home in the Midwest where she started a non-profit and continued to be an advocate for mental health. She has been a Professor and travels across America presenting at numerous conferences and trainings. Dr. Reinardy has been interviewed on Good Morning America, North Dakota Today and the Joy Behar Show. She was featured on Dateline NBC and A&E’s Hoarders. She currently resides in Fargo with her husband Chad and their 7-year-old daughter Fiona. Whenever she is not working, she plays a competitive game of Twister, and enjoys traveling, hiking and finding new adventures with her family.



BROOK HARLESS

OHIO

After her Army retirement, Brook Harless graduated several Leadership Academies, UMHB and CTC. Brook was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame and was a recipient of Stark County’s 20 under 40 award. She works tirelessly on behalf of veterans as CVA’s Strike Team Leader, Serving Area Military VP, American Legion 44 Delegate and Board Membership Chair, MWAN Unit 21 Executive Board, ARC Services to Armed Forces caseworker, Disaster Action Team, Ohio Veterans Coalition Co-Chair, Veterans Task Force, creating and co-chairing the Veterans Stand Down. Her volunteerism extends to the community at large through the ARC and SCHTF Board of Directors, WIN Facilitator and the Rotary Club of Plain Township VP among other organizations. Her perseverance and work ethic are traits speaking to her character. Brook works to improve the lives of veterans all the while raising her 3 boys with her husband, Steve.



BRENDA MCDANIEL

OKLAHOMA

Brenda McDaniel was born in the Oklahoma Panhandle, the youngest of three daughters. Her Mother was a school teacher/artist and her father was a baseball player/farmer. At Laverne High School she became an outstanding student and a popular vocalist. This led to academic and music scholarships for college. She earned a teaching degree at Oklahoma University and later a Master’s degree at NWOSU. She has taught in multiple Oklahoma Public Schools and was recognized for her outstanding teaching at each. She met her husband Tom in college. They will be married 60 years this June. They have 3 sons: Mark-55, Randy-51, and Lance-49. The family includes 2 daughter-in-laws and 5 grandchildren. She has served as First Lady of two universities where she promoted student initiatives and established scholarships. She has been a leader in her Church and recognized with her denomination’s highest awards. She has been a Community Volunteer and Civic Leader which led to her inclusion in the 50 Most Powerful Women in Oklahoma City. Foremost she is a Mother who has invested her life in her children and husband.

2019 STATE **MOTHERS OF THE YEAR**



KIMBERLY MERRILL

OREGON

Kimberly grew up on a dairy farm and married her high school sweetheart. She is a wife, mother of two daughters, surrogate mother, and grandmother to two amazing boys. She is also a kidney donor. Kim has worked for 20 years as a florist and is active in her church. Her husband is retired from the Army. She has been trying to volunteer more in her retirement including work with the Lupus Society and the Dallas Fire Department. Kim and her husband enjoy traveling and camping, but most of all they just like quiet time together.



ABIGAIL BULLARD

PENNSYLVANIA

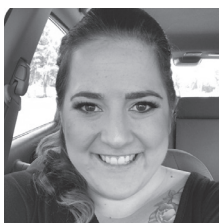
Abigail Bullard is a hard-working, every-Mom, who spends each day trying to make each child, pet, family-member, friend and employee feel like they are a priority. At 21, Abi lost her first son to domestic violence, which put her life on hold as she learned how to move forward from such a tragic loss. At 24, she put herself through college while working full-time and raising her 6 month old son full time, and subsequently completed a Master's degree in Accounting while working full-time and having her second son, who turned one just as she graduated. Today, Abi manages a Finance team for a global healthcare company by day, and spends the rest of her time raising her two boys. When they are not playing piano or on the sports field, they are volunteering in various ways throughout the county.



RAQUEL QUINONES OJEDA

PUERTO RICO

Raquel was born on February 12, 1948 to Mr. Héctor Quiñones, a farmer and María M. Ojeda, a housewife. She is the youngest of four brothers. Raquel did secretarial work in the UIPR and married Mr. José V. Ferrer in 1968. They have 3 children and have 5 grandchildren. Raquel has been a beauty specialist for 10 years when she completed a baccalaureate degree in psychology and a master's and a doctorate in counseling. She obtained two postdoctoral certificates in human sexuality and in family therapy. She worked for 32 years in the UIPR, directing a federal proposal and as a part-time professor. She still maintains this private practice. Raquel is an reader and monitor of the altar. She offers talks to young people with Down syndrome, Hogar-Crea and in different schools and service agencies and is the speaker in recognition of priests.



MICHELLE DONOVAN

RHODE ISLAND

Michelle Donovan was born and raised in Warwick, Rhode Island and is 28 years old. She is a high-school graduate and former caretaker for her mother. Michelle put college on hold to take care of her mother full-time. She met Timothy Donovan, who she went on to marry in 2015. In December 2016, Michelle and Tim were presented the opportunity to adopt a child from a family friend who could not support another child. Raelynn Donovan was born on June 6, 2017 and went home with Michelle and Tim the next day. In April 2018 the adoption was finalized. Michelle's mother passed on January 1, 2018. After her mother's passing, Michelle decided to start taking better care of her own health. In September 2018, Michelle had weight loss surgery so that she could prolong her health for herself, as a wife, but most importantly as a mother.



ELAINE HORTON

SOUTH CAROLINA

Elaine A. Horton lived her early life in Cross Hill, South Carolina. She graduated from Clinton High School, Lander College, and Clemson University. In 1964 she married Paul M. Horton from Charleston, SC. They have one child (Alison Eaker) and two grandchildren (Madelaine and Matthew Hyder). She taught grades 1-4 for 30 years in Pickens County. She also taught at Clemson University and Southern Wesleyan. In addition she served as preschool director at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church. She and Mac have been married for 54 years!



DIANE MAHER

SOUTH DAKOTA

Diane grew up on a family farm and then attended South Dakota State University where she majored in Microbiology and met her future husband, Rob. Diane then entered a graduate program at the University of Minnesota, earning a PhD in the Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology Program. After having their first child, Diane and Rob chose to move to South Dakota with the desire to raise their family in a smaller community. Over the next 10 years, Diane balanced advancing her research career in Cancer Biology and caring for their growing family of 3 children. Diane also carved out time to be an active member of their church and help lead the PTA at school. In 2016, Diane followed a calling to focus on patient care and entered the Accelerated Registered Nursing program at Augustana University. She has been working as a Home Hospice RN for the past year.



KAREN LANE

TENNESSEE

Karen Marie Lane was born May 8, 1970 in Bethpage, New York. She graduated Stissing Mountain High School in 1988; Radford University in 1992 with a BA in Liberal Studies; and Duke Divinity School in 1995 with a Master of Divinity and 1996 with a Master of Religious Education. In 1995 she was ordained a Deacon in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church and in 1998 she was ordained an Elder. Karen has served as a local church pastor since 1996. She is currently the pastor of Jonesborough United Methodist Church. She is the president of the Jonesborough Area Ministerial Association whose main focus is their food pantry; is on the District Board of Ordained Ministry; and is the co-leader for her daughter's Girl Scout Troop. Karen is married to Joe and together they have two children. JJ who is eleven years old and Makayla who is nine.



MARTY NORMAN

TEXAS

Marty Norman, M.Ed., mother of two and grandmother of five is an author, licensed therapist, workshop trainer and inspirational speaker. She has published three non-fiction books, five children's books, magazine articles and has spoken to women's groups. Marty received her B.A. from UT Austin, M.Ed from TWU, and LPC from the State of Texas. She's worked as a therapist and volunteer for family services and facilitated marketing plans for non-profits. Her specialties include women's issues, addiction, sexual abuse, grief issues, and play therapy. Her passion is to impact a community by initiating new programs such as the FWISD's Project Charlie. Marty's hobbies include hiking, reading, writing, painting, mahjong, and canasta. She loves nothing better than watching a sunset, reading by the fire or hiking in the silence of the mountains with her grandchildren.

2019 STATE **MOTHERS OF THE YEAR**



JAMILA A. RUSSELL

USVI

Jamila A. Russell, a former Senate candidate and the Territorial Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, is the mother of two sons, one of which is a child with disabilities. Jamila is responsible for coordinating programs and ensuring the USVI territory's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. She has served as a parent advocate for families with disabled children, and had been vocal of her own experience with raising a child with a disability.

Jamila meets with large audiences, non-profit groups and agencies in order to forge relationships to help build and promote the nondiscrimination requirements of the ADA. Among her community involvements, she has been instrumental in organizing and fostering activities as Executive Producer and Host of "Just Jamila!", a Radio Show and Podcast. She hosts a weekly news editorial, "The Bottom Line with Jamila Russell." She is the founder of "Cultivating Inclusion", a Community Advocacy Organization. She is the Co-Founder of "Reclaim Our Streets/Unite Our People Community Organization." She is also the Founder of "V.I. Emerging Stars", a recognition program for youths in the community. Since October 2009 she has been hosting a daily radio talk show "What's Going On?" Jamila is the beloved mother of Lauritz and Shashamani.



AMY KROFF

UTAH

Amy is a mother to seven kiddos, a sibling to five, a wife to one of the greats, and a friend to anyone who will make eye contact with her. She grew up in Arizona and loves to play in the sunshine any chance she gets, even if it's through a frozen window in January. She loves to dance with her daughters and play practical jokes on her sons and husband. Constantly finding new ways to bring fun and energy to any situation she is always learning a new skill. She has learned balloon-twisting, sucker-making, magic tricks, spontaneous

games and recently is even working on ventriloquy just to name a few. Always wanting to learn and develop Amy has grown a high-end photography business and is sought after due to her abilities to turn a family photo shoot into amazing art for the home.



KARA PETTIT

VIRGINIA

Kara Pettit grew up in Southern California with her 3 brothers and single mother. She currently resides in Virginia Beach, VA with her Ret. Navy Seal husband of 26 years Clark Pettit, and her kids: Connor (24-CNU graduate), Bailey (21- Virginia Tech), and Addison (15-high school). While working as a flight attendant she met and married her husband in 4.5 months. Kara has been blessed to be a stay at home mom, homeschool her three kids, support her husband through his military career, and is currently applying her BS in Business

as the CFO of Clark Pettit Construction Inc, started in 2015. She loves to run, completing numerous half marathons and the Richmond Marathon (cheap therapy), sew (she made her daughters prom dresses), and garden. Kara loves the smell of the Pacific Ocean, a beautiful sunset, adventuring with her husband, and the laughs she hears when all her kids are together.



MARIA ILAC

WASHINGTON

Maria Ilac is a wife and mom of two wonderful children. Her youngest son was diagnosed with cancer at seven months old and successfully beat the disease. Through this experience Maria has discovered her passion to teach others both how to advocate for their children and inclusion awareness. She aspires to one day begin speaking publicly through lectures and seminars about these passions. Maria received a Bachelor's of Science in Earth Science, majoring in Geology, creating a career that has landed her at several

energy companies. Currently Maria works as a technical software trainer at one such company. In just the last five years she has taught over 1000 people how to use complex technical systems that aid them in their jobs. She has received several awards and recognition for her accomplishments at work.



BRADY MEDOVIC

WEST VIRGINIA

Brady Ann Medovic was born and raised in Wheeling, West Virginia. She attended college at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV and then returned to her hometown. She knew that this was the place she wanted to work to make a difference and one day raise a family. Brady is the youngest of four children and shares a close relationship with her family. She has been married to her husband, Ty, for almost 6 years and they have a 4 year old daughter, Peyton. Brady works in the non-profit world for the American Cancer

Society for a mission that is near and dear to her heart. Brady believes in family, faith, friends, community, and appreciating the little things in life.



ELAINE SELLENHEIM

WISCONSIN

Elaine Wesner Sellenheim is a mother of two young girls, Heidi and Autumn, wife of thirteen years to Joseph, and is proud to call Wisconsin her lifelong home. She has a BA in Music Education and a MSE in Education and enjoys being the Music Ministry Coordinator for St. Andrew (Delavan, WI) and St. Patrick (Elkhorn, WI) parishes. Elaine volunteers at Lakeland Health Care Center playing the piano with residents and at Delavan Nursery Center teaching music and movement. Previously, she worked as the choir and drama teacher

at Williams Bay Middle and High School, earning the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association 2014 Outstanding Young Choir Director Award. Elaine is passionate about having her family be an active part of the community they live in and strives daily to love God and serve others.



CONGRATULATIONS Area 5 2019 State Mothers of the Year!

Alabama: Angela Jordin

Delaware: Tracie Hitchens

Georgia: Carol Norris

North Carolina:
Heather Briganti

Virginia: Kara Pettit



DC Metro Area: Carol Muleta

Florida: Morghan Blum

Maryland: Cheryl Whitacker

South Carolina: Elaine Horton

West Virginia: Brady Medovic

"The truest tribute that can be paid to a Mother is to share with each other the love that she so generously and often sacrificially lavished upon us." Golden Rule Philosophy

Remember Mother's Day 2019! Nominate a Special Mom!

A graphic announcement for Alabama's 2019 Mother of the Year and Mother of Achievement. The background is a black and white photograph of a large, ancient tree with a path leading through its branches. The word "ALABAMA!" is written in large, bold, white letters at the top. Below it, the text reads "2019 Alabama Mother of the Year" and "Angela Jordin—Deatsville" with a quote: "Parents set the tone and expectation for how their kids will turn out and should be-". To the right, it says "2019 Alabama Mother of Achievement" and "Debora Neal—Montgomery" with a quote: "My life's journey is to try to make a difference in my little corner of the world." Two small portrait photos of the winners are included: Angela Jordin on the left and Debora Neal on the right.

ALABAMA!

2019 Alabama Mother of the Year
Angela Jordin—Deatsville
"Parents set the tone and expectation for how their kids will turn out and should be-

2019 Alabama Mother of Achievement
Debora Neal—Montgomery
"My life's journey is to try to make a difference in my little corner of the world."

PAST NATIONAL **MOTHERS OF THE YEAR**

2018 Karen Smoots, MI	1988 Thema Loss Kouzes, VA	1962 Mary Celesta Weatherly, AL*
2017 Rebecca Latham, NM	1987 Rita Whalen McCaffrey, VT	1961 Louise Giddings Currey, TN*
2016 Michelle Wall, DE	1986 Martha Burke, MT*	1960 Emerald Barman Arbogast, CA
2015 Deb Stanaland, OK	1985 Louise Monaco Cimino, NE	1959 Jeannie Loitman Barron, MA*
2014 Gerre Schwert, TN	1984 Patricia Kane Hamilton, GA	1958 Mary Roper Coker, SC*
2013 Judy Cook, UT	1983 Clemmie Webber, SC*	1957 Hazel Hempel Abel, NE*
2012 Dr. Ruby Cheves, GA	1982 Helen Marie Burnstad Thompson, ID*	1956 Jane Maxwell Pritchard, MI*
2011 Ernestine Allen, DC	1981 Henrietta Jean Wombles Crouch, KS	1955 Lavina Christensen Fugel, UT*
2010 Dianne Callister, CA	1980 Betty Carol Legget Lieder, IA	1954 Love McDuffie Tolbert, GA*
2009 Betty Jean Ulmer McGregor, SC	1979 Frances Davis Burtenshaw, UT	1953 Ethlyn Weisgarver Bolt, IL*
2008 Jo Ellen Blackwood, WV	1978 Ellen Edens McCall, TN	1952 Toy Len Goon, ME*
2007 Ileen Loosle Barlow, OR	1977 Gloria Betty Langdon, OK*	1951 Dr. Mary Martin Sloop, NC*
2006 Laurie Richardson, NV	1976 M. Garnett Grindstaff, NM	1950 Elizabeth Roe Cloud, OR*
2005 Helen Bean, OR	1975 Joesphine Wainman Burson, TN	1949 Pearl Owens Grills, TX*
2004 Mary Connelly Kegelman, DE	1974 Phyllis Brown Marriott, DC*	1948 Helen Gartside Hines, IL*
2003 Mervlyn Keapo Swain Kitashima, HI	1974 Golda Meir, World Mother, Israel*	1947 Janette Stevenson Murray, IA*
2002 Rosalie Fuscaldo Gaziano, WV	1973 Ruth Youngdahl Nelson, MN*	1946 Emma Clarissa Clement, KY*
2001 Jean Dawn Morris, SD	1972 Esther Hunt Moore, NC	1945 Georgianna Farr Sibley, NY*
2000 Dorothy E. Barta, TX	1971 Betty Anthony Zahn, OK*	1944 Harriet Duff Phillips, PA*
1999 Gail Ford Williamson, CA	1970 Dorothy Lee Wilson, TN*	1943 Mary Dabney Thompson, OH*
1998 Diane Stirland Matthews, AZ	1969 E. Peterson LeTourneau, TX*	1942 Elizabeth Vize Berry, NC*
1997 Deen Day Smith, GA	1968 Elisabeth Grossman Bodine, ND*	1941 Dena Shelby Diehl, KY*
1996 Carolyn Schumway, HI	1967 Minnie Knoop Guenther, AZ*	1940 Edith Graham Mayo, MN*
1995 Barbara Thompson, OK	1966 Bertha Holt, OR*	1939 Otelia K. Compton, OH*
1994 Corrine 'Lindy' Boggs, DC*	1965 Lorena Chipman Fletcher, UT*	1938 Grace Noll Crowell, TX*
1993 Ruby Washington, NE	1964 Cora Hjertaa Stavig, SD*	1937 Harriette Flora Gray, NE*
1992 Johanna Cabbage, WY	1963 Olga Pearson Engdahl, NE	1936 Frances Elenore Smith, CA*
1991 Joan R. Burney, NE	1962 Clara Spoot Glen, World Mother, OH*	1935 Lucy Keen Johnson, GA*
1990 Nadine M. Matus, UT		* Deceased
1989 Nancy Dinwiddie Hawk, SC*		



MOTHER OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HISTORY

In 1975, the American Mothers Committee published a book titled, *Mothers of Achievement in American History*. Dedicated to the organization's Honorary Chairman, Mamie Eisenhower, the book features mothers in all fifty states who were making a positive difference. Included in the publication, is a listing of each state's Mother of the Year dating back to 1935. The cherished book was sent to every Governor and a copy placed in the Library of Congress. The Mother of Achievement Award continues this tradition by recognizing women who are making a significant impact in the lives of women and children at the local, national and international level.

2019 NATIONAL **MOTHERS OF ACHIEVEMENT**



NANCY HUGHES

OREGON

After learning that each year more than four million people—primarily women and children—die prematurely from constant exposure to smoke and indoor air pollution from open fires Nancy Hughes was inspired to take action. Armed with the belief that cooking shouldn't kill and indeed doesn't have to, in 2008, Nancy founded the nonprofit StoveTeam International to promote the local production of safe, affordable and fuel-efficient cook stoves to replace dangerous open fires in the developing world. StoveTeam began as a small idea from someone with a huge heart. Nancy has grown StoveTeam from an add-on to a medical mission to a nonprofit organization that has bettered the lives of over half-a-million people in just 10 years. The organization's success is largely due to Nancy's leadership and selfless devotion to clean cook stoves. Her passion, drive, and energy are infectious to those around her, reminding us all what a profound difference we can make when we put our minds AND hearts to it. Nancy won the 2011 Purpose Prize, a prestigious international award given by the Templeton Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies to a nonprofit founder over the age of 60. In 2013, she was recognized both as a CNN Hero and a White House Champion of Change. She is the mother of two daughters and a son, and the grandmother of two. She has been the host parent to more than 50 international students.



WANDA OTERO-FLORES

PUERTO RICO

In 1997, Wanda, a licensed microbiologist, founded a Milk Laboratory for the testing and quality control of the milk produced by Puerto Rican farmers prior to its delivery to dairy treatment plants. Thus, Puerto Rican families were assured of consuming healthy milk free of disease and bacteria. As the 2008 economic crisis swept across the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico experienced its fair share of financial struggles. Dairy farmers scrambled to stay afloat. Wanda bartered with them, testing the milk in exchange for additional milk. Nearly 10 years later, Vaca Negra (Black Cow) continues to grow as the leading provider of Dairy products. She currently provides free, professional services to over 200 farms and farmers for the testing of milk produced for the 2.3 million residents on the Island. She also speaks to mothers on the importance of first breastfeeding their infants and then considering the use of locally produced milk after that process is finished. She is a strong supporter of charitable events and has been involved in helping abandoned children. During Hurricane Maria, Wanda provided free milk to orphanage and hospital babies who would have died without nutritional assistance. She did the same for nursing homes to feed the elderly. Her many awards include the Excellence and Quality Manager of the Year, by the Puerto Rico Merchants of Puerto Rican Products Association; Microbiologist of the Year, American Association of Microbiologists (USA), and a 2017 Grant Winner of \$25,000 for Puerto Rico Shark Tank. Married for 27 years to Dr. Carlos Rivera-Casanova, she is the mother of Paulo, a veterinary major at Ohio University and Carla, a biologist and current graduate student.



DEBORAH NEAL

ALABAMA

Deborah used childhood memories and experiences as a springboard to right the injustices and unrest regarding race, gender, economic deprivation, and educational inequality that she has experienced along life's journey. She is passionate about making a difference in social justice and its reform. Deborah graduated Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. She then received a Jurist Doctor University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law. After 11 years of practicing law in Missouri, Deborah served as a judge for 8 years. In 2017, she joined Aid to Inmate Mothers as the Mentor Coordinator. This AIM task is for a faith-based and community organization volunteer mentor program for justice-involved women in the Montgomery, AL area communities. Her current position is a beautiful follow-up to positions such as coordinating and implementing a faith-based volunteer mentor support initiative for clients referred for case management and supervised by Missouri Probation and Parole and Johnson County Department of Correction as they reintegrated to Kansas City metropolitan communities. As a Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Judge, she rejected cases based on flagrant racial profiling by law enforcement. Deborah served as a Missouri Supreme Court appointee to statewide Gender Fairness Implementation Committee for the Missouri Courts. She testified before the Missouri legislative committees to support legislation that ended the lifetime ban for federal food stamp assistance for drug offenders. She is an advocate, a mentor, a lawyer, a wife, has been a judge, and is a tremendous example for all of us.



CINDY TRUSSEL

NEVADA

Cindy Trussel lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is not only the mother to five children, but also fostered and adopted three more. Cindy exceeded expectations when for eleven years she raised her children by herself, worked multiple jobs, and went beyond her capabilities in providing for her family. In doing so, she was aligned with a segment of her community that was extremely neglected. Cindy realized that she had the power to mend this broken community and build a haven of heaven and hope for those in need. She is the founder of Lighthouse Charities and serves as its President and CEO. Based in Las Vegas, the non-profit focuses on building self-sufficiency in refugee and low-income individuals who are transitioning out of welfare. Programs focus on employment training, English classes, cultural mentoring, educational scholarships, temporary clothing assistance, and providing hygiene, household, and schools supply items. In addition, she founded three other programs. Operation Lighthouse is a non-profit booth and cultural fair offering free medical and eye exams in addition to the distribution of winter clothing. Nafasi Designs is a Job Employment Program for refugees to learn how to make and market handmade products. The Rejasha Project is a 16 week employment program that focuses on teaching and implementing important job skills such as following instructions, working in a team environment, time management and punctuality, mock interviewing, resume building, accuracy and speed, and personal responsibility.



DEBBIE TAYLOR WILLIAMS

TEXAS

Debbie Taylor Williams is one of America's most loved advocates for mothers. She is the author of eight books including *The Plan A Mom in a Plan B World*, *Pray with Purpose*, *Live with Passion*, and *Prayers of My Heart* prayer journal endorsed by Beth Moore. She is a national Christian speaker, founder of P.R.A.Y. with Passion Across the Nation Conference, and has led conferences for mothers in 45 states. Debbie has a national following, teaching women how to be influencers in the home and community. Debbie is the founder of Hill Country Ministries, a non-profit Christian outreach to women. She is a columnist for the Kerrville Daily Times and a guest columnist for *The Christian Post*; as well as a charter writer for Bible Gateway's BGB2 blog. In addition, she is a writer for *MomLife Today* and *A Wife Like Me*; and has also served as a writer and speaker for *The M.O.M. Initiative*; is published in *P31 Woman* and other magazines, and has served on the faculty of the Michigan Maranatha Writers Conference. Debbie has also appeared as a television guest on *Life Today* with James Robison, *DayStar*, *Family Net*, *The Harvest Show*, and more. Debbie is married to Keith Williams, 216th State District Judge. Keith and Debbie have been married for over 43 years. They are residents of Kerrville, Texas, and have two children, Taylor and Lauren, and five grandchildren. Debbie is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a BS in Human Development and Family Studies.

PAST NATIONAL MOTHERS OF ACHIEVEMENT

2018

Suzanne Breedlove, Oklahoma
Donna Hubbard, Georgia
Anna Molinary, Puerto Rico
Sandy Miller, Idaho
Tonya Stafford, Texas

2017

Anna Brewer, NE
Lise Gates, VT
Sharon Lay, UT
Shawna Walz, ID

2016

Debra Evans, CA
Hanan Waite, GA
Patricia Kempthorne, ID
Marta Gabre-Tsadick, IN
Susan Winchester, OK

2015

Elaine Hill, TN
Pam Kanaly, OK
Cathy Keating, VA

2014

Moraima Oyola, PR
Edie Roodman, OK
Jane Stringfellow, NM
Lynn Clark Callister, UT

2013

Gail Rost, IL
Becky Andrews, UT

2012

Louise Radloff, GA
Cherie Buckner-Webb, ID
Kay Lucas, IA
Senator Loretta Weinberg, NJ
Connie Fox, OK
Esther Caro Morales, PR



YOUNG MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In 1968, American Mothers established the Young Mother of the Year award to honor moms in the trenches with young children still at home. Due to the demographic trends of maternal age, this award was phased out in 2016 and merged with the Mother of the Year recognition. Below is a listing of recipients of the National Young Mother of the Year award from 1968-2015.

2015 Heather Spencer, KY
 2014 Heidi Kim, HI
 2013 Tara Trobaugh, GA
 2012 Carrie Leonard, OK
 2011 Shawni Pothier, AZ
 2010 Sheri Carlstrom, IN
 2009 Kimberly Wright, NV
 2008 Kimberley Shelton, NH
 2007 Ansley Barnett, GA
 2006 Connell Branam, OK
 2005 Janet Baumann, DE
 2004 Deborah Lee Kazel Sipos, CA
 2003 Carole Gates, NV
 2002 Michelle L. Davis, GA
 2001 Cindy Brantley, AK
 2000 Robin Schultz, AL

1999 JaLynn Prince, MD
 1998 Tammy Marie Huber, OR
 1997 Kathy Vining Delone, AK
 1996 Lisa Phillips, North CA
 1995 Roberta Lawler, ME
 1994 Pamela Satterfield, KA
 1993 Michelle Waite, IN
 1992 Lecia Berven, IA
 1991 Wendy G. McKenna, UT
 1990 Patricia H. Hofeditz, NE
 1989 Ian Griffin, GA
 1988 Janet Kimball Bird, OR
 1987 Debra Powell, IA
 1986 Jane Oliver, CO
 1985 Susanne Ballard, WA
 1984 Lezlie Porter, NV*

1983 Catherine Peterson, PA
 1982 LaDawn Jacob, UT
 1981 Carolyn Coker, SC
 1980 Mary Tullie Critcher, AK
 1979 Susan Brown, AZ
 1978 Patricia Higgins, NY
 1977 Susan McNamara, DE
 1976 Clara Schlegel, CO
 1975 Peggy Connelly, NJ
 1974 Mrs. Paul Newton Fields, TN
 1973 Joan Madden, FL
 1972 Mrs. Merrill Oaks, UT
 1971 Shirley Casper, CA
 1970 Mrs. Walter Davidson, CO
 1969 Marian Hight, IA
 1968 Dorothy Baker, AL



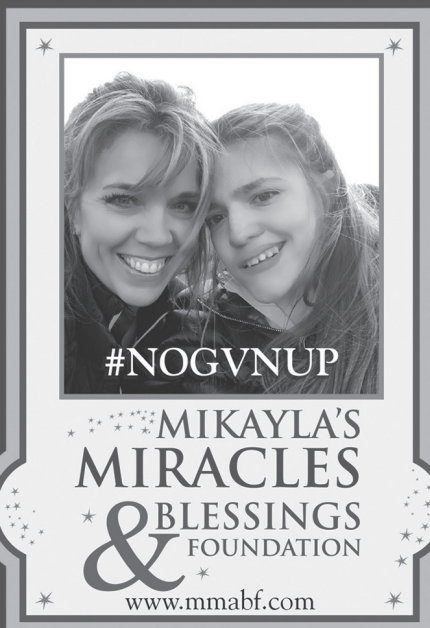
CONGRATULATIONS

2019 Montana Mother of the Year



BETTY COOPER

MIKAYLA'S MIRACLES & BLESSINGS FOUNDATION...



Sabrina Wisher, founder of the organization and mother to Mikayla, started the foundation when she decided to help other families get the medical equipment they need to support their loved ones affected by a disability.

Wisher was previously recognized as Mother of the Year by American Mothers for her efforts and continues to fight for those who are differently abled get the quality of life they deserve. To learn more about her foundation visit: mikaylasmiraclesandblessings.com

Mikayla's Miracles and Blessings Foundation Inc
PO Box 2868 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | 406-261-8782

AMERICA'S MOTHERS OF **ACHIEVEMENT**

American Mothers honors women who have attained national attention for their work encouraging and helping mothers. We celebrate their efforts by awarding them the honorary title of America's Mother of Achievement.



CONGRATULATIONS

REE DRUMMOND

2019 AMERICAN MOTHER OF ACHIEVEMENT

PAST AWARD **WINNERS:**



2018 - Annie Griffiths



2016 - Elizabeth Smart



2015 - Robin McGraw



2014 - Lt. General
Michelle Johnson



2013 - Kathie Lee Gifford



2012 - Alison Sweeney



WELCOME **BACK**

The American Mothers Ambassador Program provides previous honorees the opportunity to re-connect at the Legacy Reception while getting to know the women being recognized this year. Thank-you Ambassadors for your continued dedication and service to American Mothers.

YOLANDA PEREZ, 3RD VICE PRESIDENT

AMERICAN MOTHERS AMBASSADORS

AT THE TIME OF PRINTING:

Joan Braitsch, 2002 DC Mother of the Year
 Carolyn Branagan, 2013 Vermont Mother of the Year
 Connell Branagan, 2006 National Young Mother of the Year
 Emily Brooks, 2018 North Dakota Mother of the Year
 Theresa Cloutier, 2015 Maine Mother of the Year
 Lizzy Conroy, 2017 Virginia Mother of the Year
 Dorothy DeVore, 2008 California Mother of the Year
 Suzanne Farris, 2018 Delaware Mother of the Year
 Rosaura Ferrer, 1993 Puerto Rico Mother of the Year
 Jenny Gubbels, 2018 South Dakota Mother of the Year
 Jennifer Harrington, 2017 Kentucky Mother of the Year
 Mary Hoffmann, 2017 North Dakota Mother of the Year
 Rebecca Latham, 2017 National Mother of the Year
 Wendy McKenna, 1991 National Young Mother of the Year
 Sheila Monke, 2014 Nebraska Mother of the Year
 Joan Nesbitt, 2018 Missouri Mother of the Year
 Lisa Nieves, 2016 Illinois Mother of the Year
 Jennifer O'Brien, 2018 New York Mother of the Year
 Barbara Owens, 2017 DC Mother of the Year
 Sharon Parker, 2013 DC Mother of Achievement

Patty Payne, 2014 Alabama Mother of the Year
 Yolanda Perez, 2007 Puerto Rico Young Mother of the Year
 Krista Ritacco, 2013 DC Young Mother of the Year
 Diane Roche, 2015 Tennessee Mother of the Year
 Becky Rowan, 2014 Idaho Mother of the Year
 Michelle Schroff, 2018 New Mexico Mother of the Year
 Gerre Schwert, 2014 National Mother of the Year
 Silma Serra, 2018 Puerto Rico Mother of the Year
 Deb Stanaland, 2015 National Mother of the Year
 Lynn Starzl, 2015 South Dakota Mother of the Year
 Joyce Stevens, 2012 Nebraska Mother of the Year
 Kim Hoey Stevenson, 2013 Delaware Young Mother of the Year
 Deanne Taylor, 1985 Arizona Young Mother of the Year
 Lanae Tryon, 1993 Arizona Young Mother of the Year
 Sue Venteicher, 2016 Nebraska Mother of the Year
 Robyn Vining, 2017 Wisconsin Mother of the Year
 Michelle Wall, 2016 National Mother of the Year
 Kathy Walker, 2012 Oklahoma Mother of the Year
 Carol Willey, 2015 Vermont Mother of the Year
 Sabrina Wisher-DeWitt, 2014 Montana Mother of the Year



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The American Mothers Lifetime Achievement Award is given for outstanding achievements and inspiring contributions, over decades, which strengthen American Mothers and support mothers and children everywhere. This Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes dedication to American Mothers over the whole of a career.

PAST LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

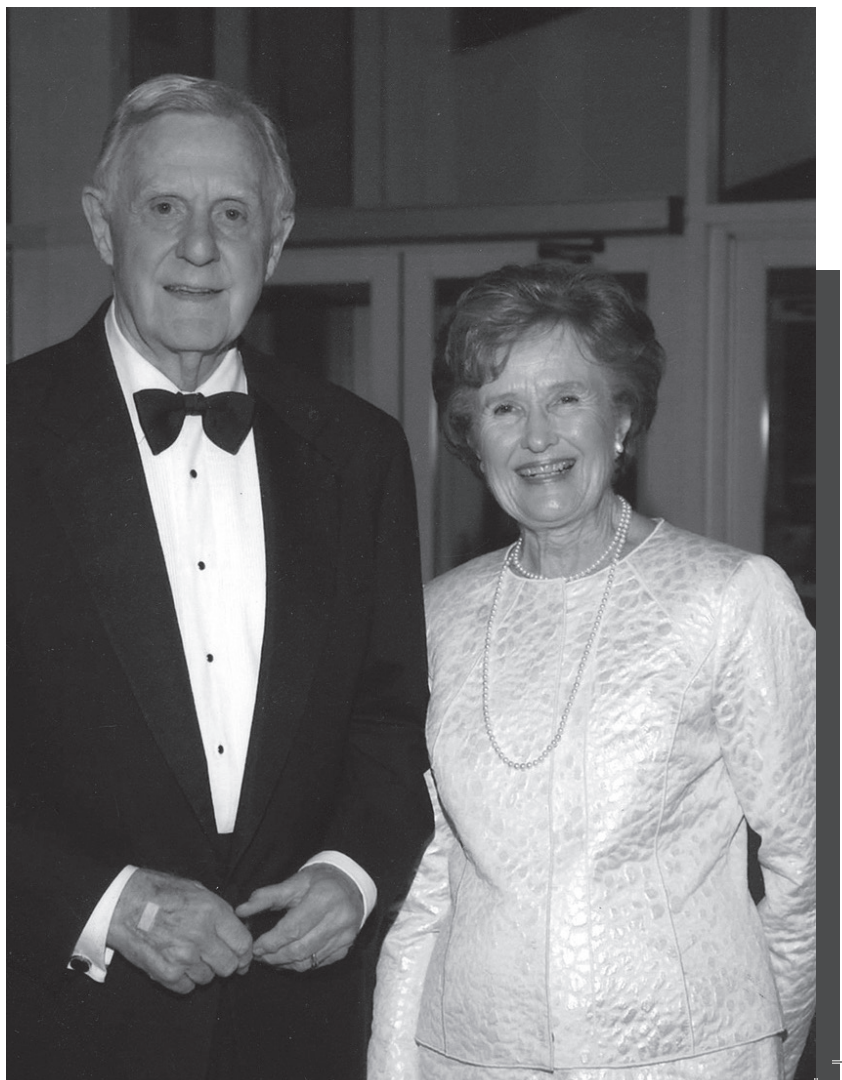
2018 - Deanne Taylor, Utah

2017 - Barbara and Ralph Thompson, Oklahoma

2016 - Sherri Zirker, Utah

2015 - Sue Hickenlooper, Utah

2014 - Ruth Manning, Georgia



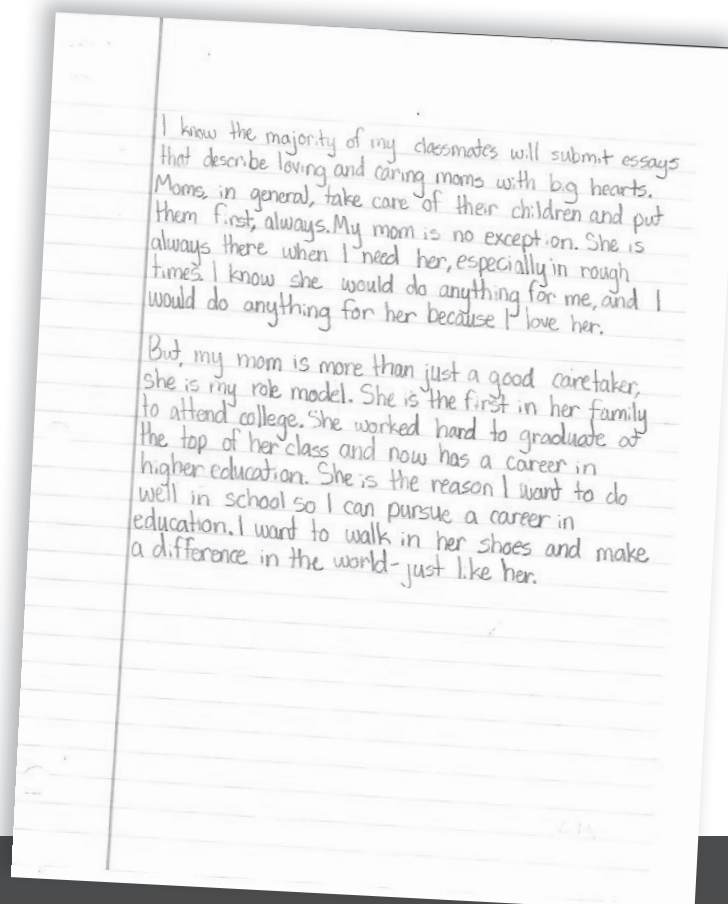
5TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

Each year, American Mothers sponsors an essay contest for all fifth grade students or the equivalent, in the public, private, and home school environment. The contest theme, "What My Mother Means to Me" was initiated in 2004. This year, thousands of students across the country participated in the contest which runs from August - January annually.

CONGRATULATIONS

LAUREN MICHAEL, ILLINOIS

2019 NATIONAL 5TH GRADE ESSAY WINNER



HISTORY OF THE 5TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

"What My Mother Means to Me," for Irene Blore, her answer to that question was "The World." Her mother was the rock she clung to in all her decisions, she said. One thing her mother always stressed was the importance of education.

"Faith and the education of my children enhance the quality of life for everyone," said Blore, the 1995 California Mother of the Year, of what her mother taught her.

As a living memorial to her mother, Blanche V. Edwards, Blore founded the

Fifth Grade Essay Contest with American Mothers, Inc. in 2004. Each year since, American Mothers has sponsored the contest for all fifth grade students or the equivalent, in the public, private, and home school environment. The contest theme is "What My Mother Means to Me."

Fifth grade was chosen as the age for the contestants because that is an age when children have knowledge about writing and can begin to recognize all their mothers have done for them, said Blore. She hopes the contest encourages children to reach out to others and think

beyond themselves. The contest rules were purposely set up so that the essay must be hand-written to allow children to set aside electronic devices when working on this project and be clear of distractions.

There has been a national winner every year since 2004. The essays are always poignant and reflective of the great love and care of the mothers of this country.

"Family structure is the most important foundation of our country," said Blore. "It's so enriching to see how many have contributed to this mothers' tapestry."



CONVENTION PARTNERS, DONORS AND FRIENDS

American Mothers expresses deep gratitude to our generous partners, donors, and friends. Your investment has helped us make a positive difference in the lives of women and children and we thank you!

CONVENTION PARTNERS

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Barbara and Ralph Thompson

MOM TO MOM

SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Connell Branam, Oklahoma
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Anita Webb, Oklahoma

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Lizzy Conroy, Virginia
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Stephanie Rogers, Utah
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Mary Sawatzke
Michelle Schroff
Gerre Schwert
Deb Stanaland
Joyce Stevens
Kim Hoey Stevenson
Michelle Wall
Holly Wortmann
Peggy Wilson
Sabrina Wisner De-Witt

JESSE BALL DUPONT FOUNDATION

Jesse Ball duPont was a financial supporter of the American Mothers Committee in the 1960s. Because of her love for the organization, American Mothers is eligible to receive grants from the Jesse Ball duPont Foundation.



Special thanks to Howard Lancet Photography, Royce Flowers of McLean, Virginia, Joyce Stevens, the Puerto Rico Association of American Mothers, The Maryland Association of American Mothers and to our advertisers: Ethan Allen, Connell Branam, Dorothy DeVore, Gretta Sloane, Rebecca Latham, McLaughlin Ryder Investments, Inc., Patty and Richard Payne, Mikayla's Miracles & Blessings Foundation, Lela Sullivan, Kathy Walker, Sabrina Wisner DeWitt, and the DC, Illinois, California, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, Puerto Rico and Utah Associations of American Mothers, Inc., Vermont Maple Syrup, VF Architects, Rosaura Ferrer

American Fidelity
Foundation
a different opinion



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Joyce Stevens, Nebraska

Lela Sullivan, Oklahoma

Deanne Taylor, Utah

Ruth Ann Warner, Virginia

Anita Webb, Oklahoma

Gwen Webb, California

Sabrina Wisher DeWitt, Montana

Mollie and Henry Wolthuis, Oregon

Linda Zenger, Utah

LEGACY GIVING

The American Mothers Legacy Giving Program offers an opportunity for members and friends to invest in a lasting legacy by making a one-time or ongoing financial commitment to support motherhood. The Endowment of American Mothers is a portfolio of professionally managed accounts which fund the programs of American Mothers. We welcome you to join us in growing the American Mothers Endowment. Joan Braitsch, Endowment Fund Chairman



JOAN BRAITSCH
Endowment Fund Chairman



Pictured is Erica Michael, Lauren Michael, Lisa Nieves, Illinois Association President and Lynette Stuart.

*The Illinois American
Mothers Association
proudly presents*

**THE 2019 MOTHER
OF THE YEAR**

Lynette Stuart

**& THE 2019 NATIONAL
5TH GRADE ESSAY
CONTEST WINNER,**

Lauren Michael



Congratulations

Brenda McDaniel

2019 Oklahoma Mother of the Year

Honoring all Nebraska



MOMS



Proudly sponsored by the Nebraska Mothers Association



*"All that I am,
or hope to be, I
owe to my
angel mother."*

- Abraham Lincoln

Mom,
Cheers to our third
American Mothers
convention together!
Your unconditional love
and support mean the
absolute world to me,
and you will forever be
my best friend. From
the bottom of my heart,
thank you!

Love, Rebecca ("Robin")



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Wanda Otero Flores

2019 NATIONAL MOTHER OF ACHIEVEMENT
2019 PUERTO RICO MOTHER OF ACHIEVEMENT

.....

The 301 members of the Puerto Rico Association of American Mothers congratulates you, Wanda, in this honor. You are a true reflection of resilience and courage. We echo you in stating...

"Don't complain about the dark times - there are blessings in darkness, God is doing something that can only happen in the fire of affliction".



The Moms of Puerto Rico will always honor you, dear Geny.

And to you we dedicate these words:



A true friend is the one who never leaves your heart, even if you leave your life for a while. Even after years apart, you pick up with that friend right where you left off, and even if that friend dies is never dead in your heart. Fly high, Geny, cover heaven with your laughter and your positiveness, your charm, your big hugs, and your care for those in need. You have reunited with the Angels. You are not dead, but gone before, advanced a stage or two upon that road which you must travel in the steps I trod. (Aristophanes) Yolanda

UTAH MOTHERS ASSOCIATION

RECOGNIZES AND CONGRATULATES THE
2019 UTAH MOTHERS HONOREES



Amy Kroff
2019 Utah Mother of the Year®



2019 Utah
Mothers of Achievement

Catherine Whittaker,
Orem

Janice Kapp Perry,
Provo
Utah Honorary Mother
of Achievement

Jenneice Beckstrand,
Providence

2019 Utah
Honorees



April Gutzwiller,
Kaysville

Cheryl Awerkamp,
Sandy

Amy Kroff,
Alpine

Lisa Sheffield,
Ogden

Meg Ferry,
Corrine

Jeanette Bennett,
Cedar Hills

Susan DeYoung,
Ogden



My beloved wife Raquel – I am so happy, here in Heaven, for the honor you have been awarded as the 2019 Puerto Rico Mother of the Year. You are so deserving of such honor because your courage in life, your devotion as a mother, as a loving wife, and as an achiever have been recognized after my departure. I do not want you to be sad, and do not cry: on the contrary, send me your laughter, your joy on your daily prayers for me. I will always be with you and will comfort you. Do not fear to changes, for the one I have completed has brought me peace. I will be waiting for you in Heaven!

Your Husband, Chente (1934-2017)

A GIFT FROM ROSAURA FERRER, 1993 PR MOY, SISTER-IN-LAW



DR. RAQUEL QUINONES

***2019 Puerto Rico
Mother of the Year***

.....

Congratulations, our dear Raquel, for your selection as the 2019 Puerto Rico Mother of the Year. Your contributions and continued hard work as a professional counselor and professor have positively impacted our mothers in Puerto Rico. We honor you and bless you!



MY PRIDE AND
JOY: MY FAMILY

“Families are the compass that guides us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter.” —Brad Henry



Congratulations

YOUR ARE TRULY REMARKABLE MOTHERS!



SUSAN BRAGER-WELLMAN
NEVADA MOTHER OF THE YEAR



CINDY TRUSSEL
NEVADA MOTHER OF ACHIEVEMENT

Nevada Association of American Mothers, Inc





*District of Columbia
Metro Area
Congratulates our 2019
Honorees*



Carol Muleta
Mother of the Year 2019

Host of “Parenting 411” WOLB AM Radio, Baltimore, MD; Co-Founder Gardener Parenting Consultants, VA; Certified Parent Educator, Maryland; President *Return on Intelligence*, VA; Trustee, The Kingsbury Center for Tutoring, Washington, DC

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mother of Achievement 2019

Mayor of Washington, DC since 2015; 32,000 new jobs in 2016 and new job training programs; \$100 million toward an unprecedented number of affordable housing units; Transparent and open government; One of the strongest economies in the country; 1st time mom May 2018

*Celebrating DC Metro Area State Association
April 23, 2015 Proclaimed American Mothers, Inc® Day, Washington, DC
71 Years of Honoring Mothers Annually Since 1949
6 of those inspiring women include:*

<p>1949 Mary McLeod Bethune Advisor to US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Colleague of Eleanor Roosevelt Founder National Council of Negro Women, 1935</p>	<p>1974 Phyllis Brown Marriott 1974 National Mother of the Year Honorary National President Established American Mothers, Inc.® Endowment</p>
<p>1994 The Honorable Corrine (Lindy) Boggs 1994 National Mother of the Year 9 term Congresswoman from Louisiana Ambassador to the Vatican</p>	<p>2000 Joan H. Braitsch AMI National President 2013 – 2015 Boy Scouts of America Award of Merit Trustee International Sorority & Honor Roll</p>
<p>2005 Barbara Harrison NBC4 TV News Anchorwoman for 30 Years Founded <i>Wednesday’s Child</i> National Adoption Initiative</p>	<p>2007 Virginia E. Hayes Williams <i>Top 50 Women Entrepreneurs</i> Mother of DC Mayor Anthony Williams</p>

Area
1



Celebrating
Cynthia Bowman

2019 Alaska Mother of the Year

Area
1



Congratulations, Michelle!
Michelle Lacy,

2019 Arizona Mother of the Year

Area
1



Congratulations to
Susan Tatsui-D'Arcy

Author, Educator, CEO
2019 California Mother of the Year

Area
1

Susan Brager
— — — — —
2019 Nevada
Mother of the Year



Area
1

Congratulations, Kimberly Merrill!
2019 Oregon Mother of the Year



Area
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Maria Ilac

2019 Washington Mother of the Year



CONGRATULATIONS

Erin Konecky

— Lincoln, Neb. —

2019 Nebraska
Mother of the Year!

Proudly sponsored by the Nebraska Mothers Association

