

YWCA, Carolina Medicorp honor outstanding women

The YWCA of Winston-Salem and Carolina Medicorp Inc., presented the YWCA Leadership Award Luncheon to honor women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and achievement in the following categories: Career Achievement, Volunteer Service, Student Leadership and Lifetime Achievement. Also, an award was given to acknowledge an organization, either for-profit or not-for-profit, with

as the "Mother Teresa of Forsyth County." Along with the role of a teacher, Cruz wears the hats of wife, mother, healer, counselor, caregiver, volunteer, author, and boss. She performs all of these roles with dedication and success. She has received a number of awards from her peers and students for excellence in teaching, and yet, remains humble.

Volunteer — Lois Levin, volunteer mediator at Media-

Maier is an exemplary leader both in and out of the classroom. Along with her out-

sory board to oversee the daily operations. Today's Woman provides a full range of medical



Winners are flanked by YWCA board chair Sharon Ralston and YWCA CEO Florence Corpening. Student winner Rebecca Maier, volunteer winner Lois Levin, career winner Dr. Julia Cruz and corporate winner Linda Carter for CMI and Today's Woman Health & Wellness Center.



Sharon Delaney of WXII and Jeanne Robertson look on as Mayor Martha Wood and Florence Corpening present the Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of the late Mazie Woodruff to Woodruff's son Kenneth Woodruff and his daughter Kendra Woodruff.



Everybody takes a breather just before the start of the 1997 YWCA Leadership Award Luncheon. Standing center rear is keynote speaker Jeanne Robertson. The front row is event co-chair Patricia Wilson-Dosier, YWCA board member Lea Loftis and YWCA CEO Florence Corpening. Second row is YWCA board chair Sharon Ralston, YWCA aquatics director Jane Robinson, and YWCA board members Louise Strickland and Sheena Poe.

women healthy before, during and after their pregnancy. CMI CEO Paul Wiles and Today's Woman director Linda Carter accepted the award.

The YWCA added the student award to the event this year, and the response was overwhelming.

The competition was so close, the awards committee took the unprecedented step of requesting that awards be given to the two runners up Carmen Canty, a Glenn High School

senior, has a GPA of 3.88 and is a National Merit semifinalist and president of the Ebony club. She volunteers at Teen Line, a counseling hotline for teenagers, and as a math tutor.

Tameka Jones, a senior at Carver High School, is a Crosby Scholar, Human Relations Award Nominee, and student body president. She has a GPA of 3.77. In her spare time, Tameka volunteers at Samaritan Ministries, Carl H. Russell Recreation Center and Easton Elementary.

programs that are of particular benefit to its female employees or to women in the community.

The keynote speaker at this year's luncheon was Jeanne Robertson, author and award-winning humorist. Robertson is a Graham, N.C., native who lives in Burlington. She has

tion Services of Forsyth County Levin is behind the scenes of many organizations. As a volunteer mediator with Mediation Services for Forsyth County since 1984, Levin has resolved 95 percent of the cases she was assigned. Her involvement with the YWCA has



Mayor Martha Wood visits with Pam Frazier and Avon Ruffin before the event. Pam and Avon both volunteer with the YWCA Empowering Family Center.

become a nationally celebrated speaker by using her life experiences to encourage people to enjoy life and the humor in it. Robertson not only regaled the audience with her humor, which included a message about respecting the feelings of others, she charmed the audience both before and after the luncheon. Robertson worked

spanned 41 years and continues today, even though she is no longer an active volunteer. Lois has led the YWCA through times of significant change: first in 1978 and 1979, when, as board chair, she continued efforts to bring YWCA women on Patterson Avenue and YWCA women on Glade Street together. Their common goals



Pictured are outstanding community leaders Paul Wiles, CMI CEO; YWCA board chair Sharon Ralston; Student Award winner Rebecca Maier; Kendra Woodruff, who accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the Woodruff family; (front row) student runners up Tameka Jones and Carmen Canty; Volunteer Award winner Lois Levin; Linda Carter, director of Today's Woman Health & Wellness Center; and Career Award winner Dr. Julia Cruz.

her way through the lobby of the convention center welcoming people to the event.

Following are the 1997 winners:

Career — Julia M. Cruz, M.D., associate professor of hematology/oncology at Bowman Gray School of Medicine Cruz has been referred to

and vision ultimately fostered one YWCA for all women in our community. In 1992, she paved the way for the new Fitness Center and Chrissy Gallagher Pool as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Student — Rebecca F. Maier of Mt. Tabor High School

standing academic achievement, including a 3.95 GPA, Becky has dedicated her time to her school through activities such as student government, in which she is currently the senior class president. She has also been involved in athletics, including softball, track, and basketball.

Becky is a member of a variety of other school-related clubs, too. In addition, this remarkable young woman has given of herself to the community at large by volunteering with organizations such as Samaritan Inn, Crisis Control, and Brookridge Baptist Retirement Home.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to the late Mazie Woodruff

As the first African-American elected to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, Woodruff worked tirelessly on many community issues. Woodruff served the community in many facets including as a member of the boards of directors for United Way, Arts Council Inc., American Red Cross, and Goodwill Industries. In 1994 she was appointed to the N.C. Mental Health Study Commission. She worked on the Reynolds Health Center Advisory Committee, co-chaired the Citywide Neighborhood Coalition and Piedmont Triad Partnership.

Accepting the award on behalf of the family were Woodruff's son, Kenneth Woodruff, and his daughter Kendra Woodruff.

The Corporate Award was given to CMI for its efforts through the Today's Women Health & Wellness Center. Today's Woman is a health cen-

ter serving the Kimberly Park and Boston-Thurmond neighborhoods. Area residents were intimately involved in the planning (they did everything from choosing the name, to designing the logo and letterhead, to choosing the floor plan and interviewing staff) and will continue to serve on an advi-

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