



A Very Brief History of Salute to Women

As we're staring the Golden Anniversary of Salute to Women directly in the face (the 50th anniversary will be in 2024), it's appropriate to consider the genesis of this particular piece of YWCA and Lafayette history in the context of the larger lens of the 1970's feminist movement.

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) states that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This amendment was introduced to congress in 1923, and had been unsuccessfully presented to every session of Congress between 1923 and 1970. Endorsed by the National Organization for Women (NOW), lobbying for the ERA was made a priority by NOW and it was finally passed in 1972. Passed doesn't mean ratified, though, and it's important to note that the ERA was officially ratified (approved by at least 38 states) [IN 2020](#). Let that sink in for a minute.

Anyway - back to the 70s.

The mid-70s saw a sea change in the perception of women as "the fairer sex" and all the negative connotations that carries, and indeed, the women's lib movement was so powerful that in 1975 Time Magazine awarded its "Man of the Year" accolade to "American Women." It was in the midst of the rising tide of feminism that the first Salute to Women event was held.

The Lafayette Women's Political Caucus noted that the women of Lafayette weren't being acknowledged for the work they were doing in the community. They conceived the idea of an awards dinner dedicated solely to recognizing the work that women did — often behind the scenes — to improve the communities in Tippecanoe County. The Purdue Women's Caucus joined this effort and the first event was held on March 15, 1974.

Salute became a yearly event and for the first two-and-a-half decades the American Association of University Women, Lafayette Business and Professional Women, Lafayette Altrusa Club, the Association for Women in Communications, the American Business Women's Association, the Association of Women Business Owners, and YWCA Greater Lafayette joined Purdue and the Lafayette Women's Political Caucus in coordinating the event.

In 2000, YWCA became the sole sponsoring organization, and has continued to shepherd this Greater Lafayette treasure to this day.

As we look forward to this year's event, the Golden Anniversary, and the next 50 years, it's important to recognize that Salute to Women is truly a *community* event that exists solely to shine a spotlight on the good work women do and the importance of that work. It is a big undertaking every year, both in time and resouces, but YWCA will continue to give this gift to the community as long as there are women to honor. Your support of Salute helps to not only ensure continued events, but shows our mothers, sisters, and daughters that their time and talent are appreciated and worthy of celebration.

Attend. Sponsor. Share. Like. Donate. Nominate. All are actions that you can take to ensure the legacy of great women in Greater Lafayette.



Salute to Women - June 22

We had an overwhelming response to our call for nominations for this year's cohort of Salute to Women honorees. We are pleased to announce that the following exceptional women will be honored this year!

- Sallie Dell Fahey • Courtney Murtaugh • Angie Klink • Sujatha Ramani
Cassandra Salazar • Ebony Gilbert • Jaime Malenchik • Valerie Clark**

We had a sell-out crowd last year, so please get your tables and tickets early to avoid disappointment! We are back at the beautiful Stables Event Center this year and we are looking forward to celebrating with these amazing women!

Want to do more than attend? We are actively seeking sponsorships for this event. Join Purdue Federal Credit Union, IU Health, Old National Bank, and others in uplifting women's voices and talent in YOUR community! [Click here for sponsorship opportunities.](#)

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Talk about being bowled over...

We had a remarkable turnout for this year's Clay Bowl Giving Project! We are so very grateful for everyone who turned out to support YWCA. Particular thanks go to:



Alpha Chi Omega • Zenephia Evans • Fawn Clements • Staff and Board of YWCA Greater Lafayette



When one of our Domestic Violence clients succeeds, we all do. Your support of YWCA Greater Lafayette helps to ensure the future of the work we do. Stories like this are the reason we show up every day:

From one of our case advocates: A STRIVE graduate and DV survivor shared that through the STRIVE program, she was able to build up enough confidence to attend the high school graduation of her youngest child despite her abuser's opposition. She said that she sat with her head held high and enjoyed every minute of it and even had the courage to stand up in front of the audience and share how proud she was of her son's accomplishments. She said that she would not have been able to do this without the unconditional support of her STRIVE family.

With your generosity, we can help even more women and children have the safe, stable lives they deserve. Give your gift today!

Donate

YWCA Around Town



Nohemi representing DVIPP at the Frankfort Police Department Town Hall for new arrivals.



Youth Voice Day was a huge success! Floyd had the opportunity to introduce Derrin from ProAct Indy who facilitated the workshop. This event was in partnership with ProAct Indy, YWCA, and Tippecanoe County.



Norah, Legal Advocate (center), had another successful semester with her interns!



YWCA team at the Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Tippecanoe County Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month proclamation on April 3rd...



...and again at the Victim's Rights Proclamation on April 24th.



Linsdey, Floyd and Nohemi making a difference at the DRT Summit.



Nohemi out at the Carroll County Youth Summit and April 13.

CURRENT ASSOCIATION AND SHELTER NEEDS

YWCA Greater Lafayette welcomes donations, and we accept a wide variety of items to help keep our buildings maintained and our programs and services impactful. Please visit the [Shelter and Association Needs](#) page for more information regarding donations and a current list of needs, or shop our [Amazon Wishlist!](#)

Urgent needs this month include:

- **Box fans**
- **Paper plates and cups**
- **Full-size body wash**
- **Deodorant**
- **Razors**
- **Laundry soap (five-gallon buckets preferred), softener, and dryer sheets**
- **Coats (all sizes)**
- **Winter gloves**
- **Size 5 diapers**

Upcoming Events

[June 22 - Salute to Women](#)

YWCA Greater Lafayette is on a mission! For almost a century we have been the leader in serving our community as we work to eliminate racism and empower women. Your gift will help support ongoing programs focused on protecting and promoting dignity, peace, justice, and freedom for women and families

within the Greater Lafayette community and throughout Indiana's central region. We simply could not do this important work without you! Give today and change tomorrow!

[Make a Donation](#)

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