

Tribute to Women 2012



Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, 2012 Honorary Chair
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., is the fourth president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a position she assumed in January 2003. She originally joined the staff in April 2001 as senior vice president and director, Health Care Group. Prior to joining the Foundation, Lavizzo-Mourey was the Sylvan Eisman Professor of Medicine and Health Care Systems at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as director of the Institute on Aging. She was the deputy administrator of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research now known as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality within the Department of Health and Human Services. While in government service, Lavizzo-Mourey worked on the White House Health Care Policy team, including the White House Task Force on Health Care Reform.



Suzanne McCroskey, 2012 Waxwood Award Recipient

Suzanne McCroskey has been a tireless volunteer for the YWCA Princeton for over a decade. Ms. McCroskey first became a volunteer at the YWCA Princeton due to her passion for the English as a Second Language Program (ESL). She joined the YWCA Board of Directors in 1998, assuming the leadership role of Secretary in 1999. She dedicated her time and talents on countless committees, including development, nominating, annual benefit, Tribute to Women, and Crafters' Marketplace. Suzanne has also devoted herself for over 15 years to Shiloh, an organization which provides a summer sleep-away camp experience to under-served and underprivileged New York City children. Professionally, she is former director of design for a NYC clothing company, is former manager for Blue Taboo, and owns her own graphic design business, MSM Graphics. Ms. McCroskey resides in Princeton, NJ with her husband.



Pina Albo
Munich Reinsurance America, Inc.

Pina Albo is the President of the Reinsurance Division of Munich Reinsurance America, Inc. As head of the division, her responsibilities include developing and achieving the strategic and business plans of the division and enhancing Munich Re's relationships and presence in the market. Ms. Albo has spent considerable time and effort as an advocate for women in the workplace. In 2010, she created the Munich Re Women's Network, a resource for more than 500 women at all levels of the organization to learn, share, and connect with one another. She was also a Co-Founder of the Munich Reinsurance sponsored bilingual day-care and after school care center in Munich, open to employees and non-employees to meet needs of community members. Ms. Albo has served as a mentor to numerous women wishing to advance their careers, successfully combining career advancement with family. She was named the 2011 Insurance Woman of the Year by the Association of Professional Insurance Women. Ms. Albo resides in Princeton, NJ with her husband and children.



Nola Bencze
Buchanan, Ingersoll, and Rooney, P.C.

Nola Bencze is a shareholder of Buchanan, Ingersoll, and Rooney, P.C. As the first in her family to graduate from college, Ms. Bencze has made it her primary goal to mentor young female attorneys throughout her career as a practicing attorney. She has served as a trustee of the New Jersey Bankruptcy Lawyers Foundation, seeking to raise money to deliver funds to those who may be behind in rent or lacking other basic necessities. She has served also served on the Board of Trustees of PEI Kids, an organization dedicated to serving the needs of sexually abused children, for 15 years and was appointed Board President in 2008. Ms. Bencze has two grown daughters and resides in Titusville, NJ.



Gloria Frederick
Institute of Wonderful Women Working for Empowerment

Gloria Frederick is the Founder and Executive Director of the Institute of Wonderful Women Working for Empowerment (IWWWE). As a result of Dr. Frederick's hard work through IWWWE, after just five years of operation, 51 grants have been awarded and more than \$80,000 of in-kind donations have been acquired to empower low-income, underserved women in need of health care training. Dr. Frederick also devotes her time as a trustee of the Family Guidance Center Corporation, promoting the housing and financial counseling program. As Co-Founder and Director of the Institute for Executive Leadership and Diversity at Rutgers University in the Office of Continuous Education, Dr. Frederick has developed training and research protocols for minority small business, faith-based, and other non-profit organizations. She is the mother of a grown son and resides in Ringoes, NJ with her husband.



Marilyn Grounds
Community Activist

Marilyn Grounds is a full-time volunteer, philanthropist and fundraiser. Her primary commitment has been to causes that benefit women and children, and in particular, their opportunities for education. In 1984, Ms. Grounds was elected to the Young Audiences of New Jersey Board of Directors and became Chair of the organization in 1985. After 24 years she continues to serve on the New Jersey and national Young Audiences Boards. She served as a Trustee for Princeton Day School, was elected Board Chair in 1990, and now holds the distinction of Trustee Emerita. Ms. Grounds became Board Chair for Planned Parenthood Association of Mercer Area in 2004, providing the leadership and imagination that launched their successful capital campaign. She was elected to the HomeFront Board in 2004, and currently serves as Board Chair. Ms. Grounds lives in Lawrenceville, NJ with her husband and is the mother of two grown daughters.



Nancy Healey

Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Central and South Jersey Affiliate

Nancy Healey has served as Executive Director of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Central and South Jersey Affiliate since its establishment in 2005. Ms. Healey is responsible for all activities of the affiliate including fundraising, community education, and overseeing grant programs. She is well respected in the breast cancer community and has been invited to share her knowledge and experience at many high profile events. Prior to leading Komen Central and South Jersey affiliate, she served as the Director of the Breast Cancer Resource Center of the YWCA Princeton. Ms. Healy has received numerous awards, most recently the Myrtle Wreath Award for significant community outreach in 2010. She and her husband reside in Pennington, NJ and have two children.



Marlene Lao-Collins

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton

Marlene Lao-Collins serves as the Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton. Annually, the agency provides more than 100,000 people in Mercer, Burlington, Monmouth, and Ocean counties with support related to housing, food, mental health, specialized children's services, addiction treatment and domestic violence. Ms. Lao-Collins has been a leader in policy development and advocacy, centering her work on issues of poverty, affordable housing, improving public education in urban areas, and immigrant issues. She co-founded the Mercer County Hispanic Association and the Latina Women's Council. She serves on the board of the NJ Advocacy Network to End Homelessness; St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton; the NJ Regional Equity Coalition; the anti-poverty Network of NJ; and the NJ Immigration Policy Network. She and her husband have two children and reside in Trenton, NJ.



Ferris Olin

Rutgers University

Ferris Olin is Founding Co-Director of the Rutgers Institute for Women and Art and Co-Curator of the Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series, the nationally recognized and award winning exhibition dedicated to showing the work of contemporary women artists. Dr. Olin is an art historian, women's studies scholar and librarian and the author of numerous publications, as well as a sought-after speaker on diverse topics in American cultural and visual studies. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Jersey City Museum, the Feminist Theorist Papers at Brown University, and the Neighborhood Narratives Project; serves on the Editorial Board for *Visual Resources*; and is past Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors of the College Art Association. She is the recipient of several distinguished awards, and in 2012 she will receive the Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Olin resides in Princeton, NJ.



Deborah Shepherd

Merrill Lynch

Deborah Shepherd serves as Managing Director for the Merrill Lynch home office in Plainsboro, NJ. Prior to joining Merrill Lynch, Ms. Shepherd served in the US Navy at duty stations overseas along the East Coast. Ms. Shepherd currently serves as a trustee for Young Audiences of New Jersey and McCarter Theatre. She has also dedicated her time to the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey, the Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. Ms. Shepherd has been recognized by the Executive Women New Jersey for professional distinction. She resides in Bucks County, Pennsylvania with her husband and their three children.



Denise Taylor

Great Looks 4 Less Hair Salon

Denise Taylor is the President and Owner of Great Looks 4 Less Hair Salon, a multi-cultural hair salon in Lawrenceville, NJ. With over 20 years' experience, Ms. Taylor opened her business in 2009 during tough economic times with the vision of serving everyone. As a proud member of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce and Mercer Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Taylor has made a name for herself in Mercer County. She dedicates her time and talents to countless local nonprofit organizations including Womanspace, Susan G. Komen, and the American Red Cross. She is also a member of the Junior League of Greater Princeton, serves on the advisory board of the Women's Initiative through HomeFront, and is active in the Lawrence Chapter of Women in Business. She is a 3-time runner of the New York City marathon. Ms. Taylor lives in Lawrenceville, NJ with her husband and daughter.



Melissa Tenzer

CareersUSA

Melissa Tenzer is President of a CareersUSA franchise in Princeton, NJ. Locally in Princeton, CareersUSA employs thousands of people each year through its woman owned certified, equal opportunity employer. Ms. Tenzer has expertise in the human resource field mentoring, educating, and redirecting job seekers in New Jersey. She believes in giving back to her community and is actively involved in Mercer County, serving as the vice-chairman of the board for Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce and as the Human Resources Chairman for Eden Autism Services. Her true passion is her business, helping the hopeful unemployed of Mercer County succeed professionally. Ms. Tenzer lives in Washington Crossing, PA with her husband and daughter.