

September 5, 2013

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

Thank you for your consideration of being our guest and award recipient at the 10th annual ***YWCA Amy Kay Stubbs Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon***. Amy Kay Stubbs was a talented architect, cherished wife, devoted mother and past President of the YWCA of Greenville. Amy was a woman devoted to our YWCA mission of *eliminating racism and empowering women*. Some of the past recipients of the ***YWCA Amy Kay Stubbs Women of Achievement Award*** include such luminaries as Velda Hughes, Michelle Ray Shain, Deb Sofield, Diane Smock, Susan Wilkins, Betty Farr and many other leaders involved in the fight for women's rights.

Governor Haley, as the first female Governor of South Carolina, we would like to celebrate your distinction by presenting you with one of our most prestigious awards. As you were a part of the YWCA White House Project – an effort to help involve more women in politics – your Governorship has helped give new wind to the hopes of many women who are thinking about public service. We need more women to serve in government, and your leadership example will help them see possibilities for themselves.

The YWCA of Greenville has been dedicated to supporting women, children, and diverse populations for almost 100 years. The National YWCA is the oldest and largest multicultural organization in the world. During the early 1900s, The Jewish Community Center and The YWCA of the USA were the only organizations to accept members other than white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. Our country has come a very long way in these past 100 years and for that, we are happy and hopeful for continued changes. Our organization has always been dedicated to promoting **peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all**. In keeping with our mission of the *elimination of racism and empowerment of women*, we have several programs which serve a very unique and diverse population. We maintain a fine mixed income-model NAEYC accredited Child Development Center and provide an after-school program in partnership with the City of Greenville. Our YW Teens program helps shape young women into the best adults they can become. We provide workshops for women on topics that will increase their personal and professional capacity, in areas such as career development and financial literacy.

The ***Jimmie McQueen President's Award*** honors outstanding women who portray the admirable character of Jimmie McQueen. Jimmie McQueen was a past YWCA President, civil

for every woman

rights activist, and a leader in the fight for equal rights, equal pay for all people, regardless of color, religion and sexual orientation. Jimmie, along with several African American women and others, were leaders in the Civil Rights movement in Greenville. She was one of leaders in Greenville County School integration, as well as assisting the YWCA in having the first integrated dining room in Greenville County. Jimmie was known for her intellectual curiosity; and so she and several other woman of her generation began the first YWCA Study Group. This group read books and discussed "taboo" subjects for women – conversing on issues of race, non-western religion, sexual orientation and women's rights. These are just a few of her contributions to the YWCA and the Greenville community. In continuing with her legacy, and, over the next three months, we will be offering a series of subjects and discussions by our *Jimmie McQueen Society* including an open dialogue on the film, *THE BUTLER* and a class on women's heart health and its relation to menopause and aging. In developing and presenting these educational opportunities, our YWCA has always relied on partnerships with corporations such as Michelin on diversity, as well as other community businesses and United Way agencies.

The very first person to receive the Women of Achievement award was Maureen Abdalla. Maureen has been a community volunteer and employee of the YWCA for the past thirty-three years. Maureen was followed by Sharon Whitney, past YWCA President, community volunteer and employee of Bank of America. Last year we presented the award to Michelle Ray Shain, a lifelong philanthropist, YWCA past President, past YWCA Chair of the *Ann "Tunky" Riley Center for the Elimination of Racism* and past member of Greenville City Council.

Please know that your service carries special significance to the YWCA and women across our state. We would like to honor that achievement with our *Jimmie McQueen President's Award*. This invitation is for you to speak on behalf of women of diversity in leadership roles, and to be a recipient of your award at our 10th annual *YWCA Amy Kay Stubbs Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon*. This luncheon will be held in April 2013 at the TD Convention Center in Greenville. The event date is still flexible and can be worked to accommodate your schedule. This is our YWCA signature event and it draws approximately seven hundred supporters each year.

We hope you will graciously accept our invitation to this event for women and families across the Upstate.

Madame Governor, thank you for your consideration of our invitation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We look forward to your reply.

Best regards,



Ashley Cuttino
President, YWCA Board of Directors