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For Immediate Release

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***YWCA ANNOUNCES 22 AREA WOMEN  
TO BE HONORED AT ANNUAL EVENT***

Lawrence, MA —The YWCA of Greater Lawrence announced March 14 the names of 22 women who will be honored at its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Tribute to Women. At a luncheon each spring, the YWCA honors women from the Merrimack Valley from who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and contributed significantly to their communities. The Tribute to Women event is also the YWCA’s major fundraiser.

“Prepare to be inspired,” said Mary B. O’Brien, Executive Director of the YWCA. “We have a marvelous slate of 22 honorees this year,” O’Brien said. They represent more than eight fields, including business, law, banking, healthcare and education. “Clearly, there is no shortage of talented and committed women in the Merrimack Valley,” she added.

Pfizer, Inc., with one of its largest R&D facilities in Andover, is the main sponsor of the 2016 Tribute to Women. Former Massachusetts State Senator Susan Tucker, of Andover, is honorary chair of the event. Tucker represented the Second Essex and Middlesex district from 1999 to 2011 in the Senate, after a 10-year stint in the House of Representatives.

Hallmarks of the Tribute to Women are that the honorees come from all walks of life, their contributions are varied, and each is remarkable in her own way. Someone who is familiar with her achievements and contributions, usually over the course of many years, nominates an honoree. Since it began in 1983, over 1,100 Merrimack Valley women leaders have been honored. Those to be honored this year are:

1. Emely Barreto, Clinical Site Nurse Manager,  
Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
2. Kathryn Brough, Co-founder and Administrator  
of Operations, Budget Buddies
3. Maria Consoli, Assistant Vice President  
and Branch Mgr., The Savings Bank
4. Susan DeAngelis, Home Health Aide,  
Commonwealth Nursing Services

5. Lee Evangelista, Owner and VP of Operations, EJ Paving
6. Rose Faro, Co-Founder, MultiGrains Bakery Company
7. Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick, Retired Senior Vice President, Enterprise Bank
8. Barbara Grondine, School Committee, Greater Lawrence Technical School District, Retired School sychologist, North Andover Public Schools
9. Kimberley Guerin, Vice President/Branch Manager Eastern Bank
10. Kerin Hamidiani, Dental Program Coordinator, Northern Essex Community College
11. Dr. Jacqueline Harris, Executive Director, Supportive Care, Inc.
12. Brenda Holter, Registered Nurse/Breast Health Navigator, Holy Family Hospital
13. Tamar Kotelchuck, Director, Regional and Community Outreach, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
14. Heidemarie Kuc, GMP Training Manager, Pfizer, Inc.
15. Sheila Och, Deputy Director, Lowell Community Health Center
16. Tania Palumbo, Esq., Partner, Gomez and Palumbo, LLC
17. Sheryl Rudis, CFO and Associate Director, Professional Center for Child Development
18. Anita Saville, Co-founder and Executive Director, Budget Buddies
19. Rose Stewart, Stylist, Heather's Beauty Salon
20. Diane Tower, Owner and Hospital Administrator, Andover Animal Hospital/ Member, North Shore Women for H.O.P.E.
21. Aimee Tsakirellis, Director of Marketing, Cedars Mediterranean Foods/ Founder, Fundalina/Adjunct Professor, Merrimack College
22. Karen Van Welden-Herman, Chair, Andover Preservation Commission

The 2016 Tribute to Women will take place at Andover Country Club on May 12. For information about attending or supporting the event as a sponsor or advertiser, contact [smcneff@ywcalawrence.org](mailto:smcneff@ywcalawrence.org) or go to <http://ywcalawrence.org/getting-involved/events/tribute-to-women-4/>

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*Since it was founded in New York City in 1858, the YWCA has been at the forefront of movements to bring justice and equality to all. Its mission is to "eliminate racism, empower women". The YWCA is among the top 25 largest charities in the U.S., according to NonProfit Times, with total revenues of more than \$775 million. YWCA helps more than 2 million women and children each year in the United States. Worldwide, the YWCA serves 25 million women and girls in 120 countries. The YWCA of Greater Lawrence is a social change agency serving over 15,000 women and families annually in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore. [www.ywcalawrence.org](http://www.ywcalawrence.org)*