



Youth Empowerment Project Luncheon of Champions

Honoring Champions of Empowerment
for our Youth and Community

Presented by the
Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust



May 7, 2026
Audubon Tea Room

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust

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Rusovich Family Foundation
T Parker HOST
Entergy New Orleans

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Pan American Life Insurance Group - Regions Bank
Southern Poverty Law Center

EVENT CHAIRS

Michael Hecht - Pete November
Deanna Rodriguez - Gregory Rusovich

11:00

Registration & Networking

11:55

Call to Seats

12:00

Invocation & Lunch Service Begins

Judge Calvin Johnson

12:05

Welcome & Opening

Michael Hecht

Deanna Rodriguez, CEO Entergy New Orleans

12:10

Mission Moment

Jerome Jupiter, YEP Chief Executive Officer

Darrin McCall, YEP President

12:30

Live Auction

Michael Hecht

Home in Provence Region of France donated by Beth Branch

12:40

Awards Presentation

Gayle Benson presented by Pete November & Jerome Jupiter

Cam Jordan presented by Michael Hecht & Darrin McCall

Chefs Donald Link & Stephen Stryjewski presented by

Deanna Rodriguez & Jerome Jupiter

Ochsner Health presented by Gregory Rusovich & Darrin McCall

1:00

Closing Remarks & Networking

Michael Hecht

SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to YEP Board Member and Development Chair **Suzanne Rusovich** for her leadership in serving as our Event Architect for our inaugural Luncheon of Champions.

Auction

Jodi Aamodt - Anderson & Michelle Baker - Beth Branch
Chef Scot Craig - Gretchen & Chef Edgar "Dook" Chase IV

Media

Kerri Westenberg

Venue

Steve Baker Designs

Dickie Brennan & Co. Catering at Audubon Nature Institute Venues

YEP Leadership

Jerome Jupiter, CEO - Darrin McCall, President

James Melohn - Dean Howard - Amanda Lindsey - Chabre Jones

YEP Development Team

Karen Johnston - Nicole Long - Nicole Woolfolk

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YEP's mission is to engage underserved young people through community-based education, mentoring, enrichment, and employment readiness programs to help them develop skills and strengthen ties to family and community.

Donate or Get Involved at
YouthEmpowermentProject.org

