



**ywca**

Greater Memphis

YWCA GREATER MEMPHIS PRESENTS

*The She Leads*

COMMEMORATIVE  
EDITION

**MARCH 22, 2026**

**SHE LEADS: A CELEBRATION OF  
LEGACY & LEADERSHIP**



# ABOUT THIS *Edition*

**The She Leads** Commemorative Edition celebrates the remarkable women whose leadership, service, and vision continue to shape and strengthen the Memphis community. Through their dedication, courage, and commitment to progress, these women have created meaningful impact across industries, neighborhoods, and generations.

This special publication honors our distinguished award recipients while also highlighting the voices, advocates, and changemakers who work each day to uplift others and expand opportunities for women and families. Their stories reflect resilience, purpose, and the power of leadership rooted in service.

As we gather to celebrate this moment, we recognize that leadership is not only about titles, but about influence, integrity, and the willingness to open doors for those who follow. The women featured in this edition embody that spirit serving as inspiration for future leaders and reminding us all of what is possible when vision meets action.





# A MESSAGE OF *Celebration and Gratitude*




The She Leads Commemorative Edition celebrates a remarkable group of women whose leadership continues to shape and inspire the Memphis community. Through their dedication, service, and commitment to excellence, these honorees represent the very best of what it means to lead with purpose and integrity.

Each woman recognized in these pages has made meaningful contributions within her field and throughout our community. Their work reflects a shared commitment to creating opportunities, strengthening institutions, and uplifting others along the way. Their leadership not only impacts the present but also helps pave the way for future generations of women to lead, serve, and succeed.

At YWCA Greater Memphis, we believe that when women lead, communities grow stronger. The She Leads Tea Party provides an opportunity to celebrate those who have demonstrated extraordinary vision, resilience, and dedication to improving the lives of others.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our honorees, supporters, and community partners who help make this celebration possible. Your continued commitment to leadership and service inspires us all and reminds us of the lasting impact that women leaders have within our city and beyond.





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*Tea Party*



DR. JAMILA SMITH-YOUNG

*Keynote Speaker*

FIRST LADY OF MEMPHIS



# Keynote Speaker

## SPOTLIGHT

DR. JAMILA SMITH-YOUNG

FIRST OF MEMPHIS



**Dr. Jamila Smith-Young**, DNP, MPH, CPNP-AC, serves as the First Lady of Memphis and is a dedicated healthcare professional, educator, and community advocate. A native Memphian, she is a Pediatric Endocrinology Nurse Practitioner at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, where she focuses on the treatment of diabetes and other endocrine disorders affecting children.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Smith-Young serves as an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where she mentors future healthcare professionals and contributes to research and education in pediatric health.

Dr. Smith-Young holds a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Baptist Health Sciences University, a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, a Master of Public Health from Walden University, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Beyond her professional work, she is the founder of Forward 901, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for youth and underserved populations in Memphis. As First Lady, she continues to use her platform to advocate for community health, education, and opportunities that strengthen families across the city.





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DR. GINA M. STEWART

*Faith & Community Impact Award*  
HONOREE



*Honoree*

# SPOTLIGHT

REV. DR. GINA M. STEWART

SENIOR PASTOR | CHRIST MISSIONARY BAPTIST



The **Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart** is the Senior Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, where she has served since 1995. She made history as the first African American woman to lead an established African American Baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County. A nationally respected preacher, teacher, and visionary leader, she is widely known for her faith-rooted leadership, prophetic witness, and commitment to community empowerment.

Dr. Stewart is the immediate past president of the Lott Carey Foreign Missions Society, where, under her leadership, the organization significantly increased its financial footprint, expanded global mission partnerships, and strengthened its commitment to justice, education, and women's empowerment. She currently serves as Chairwoman of the Religious Affairs Committee of the NAACP, as a trustee of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, and as Co-Convener of the Women In Ministry Conference.

She was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers and is a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award, presented by President Joseph R. Biden in recognition of her exemplary service and leadership.

A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Dr. Stewart has received numerous honors recognizing her leadership, service, and global impact. She travels nationally and internationally as a sought-after preacher and speaker, inspiring audiences with messages grounded in faith, justice, and the enduring power of sisterhood and service.





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OCPIVIA STAFFORD

*Visionary Healthcare Leadership Award*

HONOREE



# Honoree

## SPOTLIGHT

### OCPIVIA STAFFORD

PRESIDENT OF METHODIST SOUTH HOSPITAL  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF METHODIST LEBONHEUR HEALTHCARE



**Ocpivia Stafford**, PharmD, MBA, FACHE, is the President of Methodist South Hospital and Senior Vice President at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. In her role, she is responsible for overall hospital operations, strategic leadership, and financial health to ensure high-quality patient care.

She received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana; a Master of Business Administration (Executive) from the University of Memphis; and a Doctor of Pharmacy from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Her professional affiliations include the Tennessee Pharmacists Association, the Tennessee Society of Health-System Pharmacy, the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence, where she serves as a Master Examiner, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and the American College of Healthcare Executives, where she is a board-certified Fellow.

Her civic affiliations include Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, The Links, Incorporated, and she is an associate member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

She is married to James B. Stafford, IV, and is the mother of James B. Stafford, V, a third-year student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Lauren Olivia, a second-year student at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.





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DEBORAH CLUBB

*Legacy & Leadership Award*

HONOREE

*Deborah Clubb*



# Honoree SPOTLIGHT

DEBORAH CLUBB

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MEMPHIS AREA COUNCIL (MAWC)



**Deborah Clubb** is a prominent advocate for women's rights and safety in Memphis, Tennessee, and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Memphis Area Women's Council (MAWC). She has led the Memphis Area Women's Council since 2004, focusing on advancing policy changes that promote justice, equity, and safety for women across the community.

Prior to her advocacy work, Clubb spent more than 25 years at The Commercial Appeal in Memphis. In 1978, she became the first woman hired for the newspaper's business news staff and later served as an editor. In addition to her leadership at MAWC, she coordinates the Memphis Says NO MORE campaign, a community initiative dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault.

Clubb is also a co-founder of Women of Achievement, a coalition that has annually honored local women for their leadership and change-making contributions. She is actively involved in the Memphis Women's Legacy Trail, a project that documents and celebrates the history and contributions of women in Memphis. Her community leadership also includes creating the Erase Domestic Crime Collaborative and serving on the Operation: Safe Community domestic violence initiative.

She holds a bachelor's degree in English and history from Transylvania University and a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. She has been awarded the Victim Advocate of the Year Award (2010), the Voice for Victims Award (2013), and the Ruby Wharton Women's Rights Award (2014). Through her continued advocacy and leadership, Deborah Clubb remains a powerful voice for women's rights, safety, and equity in Memphis and beyond.





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BEVERLY C. ROBERTSON

*Happy Jones Award*

HONOREE

*Beverly C. Robertson*



# *Honoree* SPOTLIGHT

BEVERLY C. ROBERTSON

CO-FOUNDER & COO OF TRUST MARKETING



**Beverly Robertson** was named one of USA TODAY's "Women of the Century" in 2020. She is the recently retired President and CEO of the Greater Memphis Chamber and the current COO of Trust Marketing. She was the first woman and the first African American to ever lead the Memphis Chamber in its 185-year history.

Beverly has had a stellar and celebrated career in corporate and nonprofit leadership. Prior to co-founding Trust in 1991, she served as Vice President of Internal Communications for Holiday Inns Worldwide. While working at Trust, she was tapped to become Interim Executive Director of the National Civil Rights Museum (NCRM) at the historic Lorraine Motel. She later became President of the NCRM, where she served for 18 years, led the museum to global prominence, and successfully raised \$43 million for expansion, renovation, and endowment efforts. She has also done consulting work with the Association of African American Museums and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

She has received numerous awards and remains deeply engaged in driving transformational change in the Memphis community.

She and her husband, Howard, also own and operate Trust Marketing. Together, they have three adult children and are also grandparents.





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CASSANDRA WILLIAMS

*Financial Excellence Award*

HONOREE



*Honoree*

## SPOTLIGHT

CASSANDRA WILLIAMS

PRESIDENT OF HOPE CREDIT UNION



**Cassandra Williams** is President of HOPE Credit Union, a part of HOPE (Hope Enterprise Corporation and Hope Policy Institute), a family of organizations dedicated to strengthening the financial health and wealth of people in under-resourced communities across the Deep South. Since 1994, HOPE has generated billions in financing for community economic development, benefiting nearly three million people in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, while shaping policies and practices that have improved conditions in opportunity deserts nationwide.

Cassandra joined HOPE in 1999 as a commercial loan officer in the Mississippi Delta and has held numerous responsibilities throughout her career, including launching HOPE's retail operations in Memphis, HOPE's largest market, which serves more than 13,000 people daily. Most recently, as Chief Lending Officer, Cassandra provided executive leadership for teams responsible for commercial lending, small business lending, community facilities lending, and all facets of the New Markets Tax Credits program.

Before joining HOPE, Cassandra served as Assistant Vice President at Union Planters Bank in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Cassandra has represented HOPE on several boards and committees, including the Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Community Advisory Committee, and Clarksdale Collegiate Public Charter School. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and a Master of Business Administration, both from Delta State University.





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COL. CAROLINE  
MASON-BEASLEY

*Law Enforcement Leadership Legacy*  
*Award*  
HONOREE

*Caroline Mason Beasley*



*Honoree*

## SPOTLIGHT

COL. CAROLINE MASON-BEASLEY

MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Caroline Beasley** is a native Memphian who grew up in the Magnolia area on the outskirts of Orange Mound. She is a graduate of Melrose High School, Class of 1981, and earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Shelby State Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management from Creighton College.

Colonel Beasley has served with the Memphis Police Department for 39 years and currently holds the rank of Colonel assigned to Investigative Services – Violent Crimes. During her distinguished career, she was also featured as a lead investigator on several episodes of *The First 48*, which was filmed in Memphis from 2004 to 2010.

She is the proud mother of three adult children, two of whom serve as Sheriff's Deputies, and the grandmother of four beautiful grandchildren.

Lady Beasley also serves as First Lady of East Trigg Baptist Church, where she founded the church's first Women's Group during the pandemic. During that time, she created a weekly conference call that allowed women of the church to remain connected during a period when gathering in person was not possible. Through this effort, she provided encouragement, prayer, and support while also helping families stay informed about available food resources and community assistance.

She is married to her husband, Pastor Julius A. Beasley, who is also a police officer with the Memphis Police Department, holding the rank of Major and serving in Uniform Patrol.





*Continuing* THE LEGACY

The women honored in this commemorative edition represent the strength, vision, and dedication that continue to shape the Memphis community. Through their leadership, service, and commitment to uplifting others, they remind us that meaningful change begins with individuals who are willing to lead with purpose.

Their stories inspire us to continue building stronger communities, expanding opportunities, and empowering future generations of women to step forward with courage and conviction. As we celebrate their accomplishments today, we also look toward the future with gratitude for the leaders who continue to make a lasting impact.

The legacy of leadership lives on through those who lead, those who serve, and those who inspire others to do the same.





## *With* GRATITUDE

The She Leads: A Celebration of Legacy & Leadership Tea Party would not be possible without the generosity and support of the individuals, organizations, and community partners who believe in the mission of uplifting and celebrating women leaders.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors and supporters whose contributions help make this special celebration possible. Your commitment to strengthening our community and empowering women through leadership and service continues to inspire meaningful progress.

Your support allows us to honor the remarkable women recognized in this publication and to continue advancing opportunities for women and families throughout Memphis.

Thank you for partnering with YWCA Greater Memphis in this celebration of leadership, legacy, and community impact.





*Thank You For*  
**CELEBRATING**  
**WOMEN WHO LEAD**

Your presence and support help uplift the voices,  
leadership, and contributions of women who continue  
to shape and strengthen our community.



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