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2025 LEADERS OF DISTINCTION



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Co-Founder/Head of Quality,
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Area Director of Pharmacy,
The Rehabilitation Institute
of St. Louis



KATIE FISCHER
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ALEXIS HERSHEY
EVP, Chief Digital Officer,
Midwest BankCentre



MARGARET McDONALD
Founder & Principal,
Motive + Method



GABRIELA RAMIREZ-ARELLANO
Vice President, Entrepreneurship,
Cortex Innovation Community



CASSANDRA SANFORD
Co-Founder & CEO,
KellyMitchell Group



AMY SHAW
President & CEO,
Nine PBS



CAROL STAENBERG

Honorees were nominated by the community and selected by an independent panel comprised of members of YWCA's Academy of Leaders.

YWCA LEADER LUNCH COMMITTEE

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MARGARET McDONALD
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MOTIVE
CAROL STAENBERG
KATIE FISCHER
BANK OF AMERICA
AMY SHAW
NINE PBS
DR. MISTY FARR
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45 LEADER LUNCH

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Metro St. Louis

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025
MARRIOTT ST. LOUIS GRAND HOTEL



CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF REMARKABLE WOMEN!

Cheers to 45 years! This year, YWCA Metro St. Louis' Leader Lunch celebrates a powerful legacy—45 years of championing women and igniting change. We are the cornerstone of women's advocacy in this region, and we don't just remember our history—we make it.

Here's to courage, conviction, broken barriers, dreams realized, and empowered leaders. We honor the past, celebrate the present—and we step forward, TOGETHER.



STAND WITH US—CHANGE LIVES

Leader Lunch is YWCA's primary fundraiser, connecting businesses and community leaders to celebrate exceptional honorees while supporting programs that advance housing stability, early education, economic empowerment, and services that help survivors heal from sexual and domestic violence. **With your support, we can continue to provide these vital services and programs for women and families in need in our community.**



DID YOU KNOW?

- The inaugural Leader Lunch was held in 1979 and was originally called Limelight Luncheon.
- To date, including 2025, 482 women have been honored as Academy of Leaders.
- The first Future Leader was recognized in 1988.
- The Leaders in the Workplace program was introduced in 2003. Since then, more than 4,000 women have been recognized.

PLEASE JOIN US!

45 LEADER LUNCH

For 45 years, YWCA Metro St. Louis has proudly recognized the women whose professional and civic accomplishments strengthen our region. This inspiring celebration offers guests a chance to applaud this year's honorees, discover unique gifts at our exclusive Holiday Bazaar, engage in high-impact networking, and most importantly—support life-changing programs that empower women and families.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

10:00 AM | DOORS OPEN FOR HOLIDAY BAZAAR
12 NOON — 2 PM | LUNCH AND AWARDS

MARRIOTT ST. LOUIS GRAND HOTEL
800 Washington Avenue | St. Louis, MO 63101

TABLE FOR 10: \$2,000
INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$200
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



REGISTER ONLINE
[YWCASTL.ORG/LL45](https://ywcastl.org/LL45)

PLEASE REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 5, 2025

THIS AMAZING EVENT WILL SELL OUT!
RESERVE YOUR SEAT BEFORE IT'S GONE!
PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS OR SPONSOR TODAY!



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR RETURNS!

Discover a curated collection of local women-owned businesses offering a high-end shopping experience. From beauty and accessories to clothing, art, and more—find the perfect gifts to wrap up your holiday shopping. Come shop early and be a part of a vibrant community that celebrates women and the spirit of the season.

YOU CAN ALSO BID ON ONE OR MORE AMAZING EXPERIENCES DURING OUR SILENT AUCTION!

Complete list can be found at ywcastl.org/LL45



45 LEADER LUNCH

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