

# YWCA WOMEN OF THE YEAR

## Criteria for YWCA Women of the Year Categories

1. Consideration will be given to the ways in which the nominee exemplifies the mission and vision of YWCA as stated at the beginning of this form. The nominee's contributions and degree of impact of their achievements may be in their neighborhood, community, state, or nation. Women "behind the scenes" as well as those in the public eye should be considered for all categories.
2. The nominee must be a resident in, physically work in, or be making a positive impact in, Cass County, North Dakota or Clay County, Minnesota. Students attending educational institutions in Cass or Clay counties are also eligible.
3. If not selected as a Women of the Year recipient, an individual may be nominated either in the same or a different category in future years. Past Women of the Year recipients are eligible to be nominated in another category after 3 years.

## YWCA Women of the Year Categories

Please read through each category carefully and select the categories best suited for the nominee. *You may choose up to 2 categories. Businesses/Organizations are only eligible for the Leader in Women's Empowerment category.*

### Individuals

**Advocating for Equality:** Any woman whose work or community involvement brings respect, inclusion, and equal rights for all people. She challenges discriminatory practices and advocates to eliminate barriers, so our community welcomes all.

**Arts & Culture:** Any woman who contributes to creative arts or preserves the culture of Cass and Clay counties so that life here is immensely richer. She inspires an interest in local arts and culture while advocating for its preservation.

**Business & Entrepreneurship:** Women will be considered from all levels in the business world: business owners, managers, employees, and entrepreneurs. They may be employed by profit or non-profit organizations and serve as role models of passion, big thinking, taking risks, and getting it done.

**Communications:** Any woman doing exceptional work sharing the story of an organization, cause, or our community in any communications discipline, including advertising & marketing, public relations, and radio & television. She represents women as a powerful force in the field.

**Community & Volunteer Service:** Any woman who has graciously volunteered her time and talents to make a difference in our community and has impacted others through service. Her volunteer efforts pour energy into a cause and draw out the passion in others.

**Education:** Women who shape the future working as teachers, administrators, or support staff in childcare, elementary, secondary, higher education, non-traditional settings, or community education. She nurtures, empowers, and sparks her students to be more, do more, and serve more.

**Faith Community:** This woman has made a significant contribution in bringing the mission and vision of the faith community to life. She invigorates others to do ministry through her leadership.

**Health & Wellness:** Any woman working in physical, mental, or spiritual health who empowers the whole person through her energy, adaptability, and disease prevention efforts.

**Lifetime Achievement:** This woman must be at least 55 years of age and have demonstrated a long-term commitment to equality, empowering women and girls, and/or eliminating racism. She exemplifies integrity and displays compassion for humanity. Her work is not over and will impact others for years to come.

**Science & Technology:** Any woman who thrives in technology, engineering, and/or science and utilizes her talents to improve our community through exceptional work or by actively mentoring other women to join these important fields.

**Young Woman of Today & Tomorrow:** This young woman aged 15 to 22 is creating a brighter future for us all. She has demonstrated exceptional leadership, scholastic ability, volunteer service, or made bold achievements.

**Youth Advocacy:** Any woman who is an advocate for the health and well-being of youth; either by engaging in advocacy efforts on behalf of youth or working directly to make the future better and brighter by equipping our young people.

### **Businesses/Organizations**

**Leader in Women's Empowerment:** This business or organization has proven remarkable dedication to advance women by empowering them to thrive socially, economically, and professionally.