



PO Box 2787 ~ Southfield, MI 48037 ~ Telephone (248) 327-6815  
21819 West 9 Mile Rd. – Southfield, MI 48075 – Website: towfinc.org

*Changing Tomorrow Today ©*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Gwendolyn Powell at (313) 212-5881

**Michigan Women’s Foundation and Torch of Wisdom Foundation Partner to Make Change**

*Empowering high school girls to create change in their communities*

The Torch of Wisdom Foundation announced plans to partner with the Michigan Women’s Foundation to host Young Women for Change®, a youth leadership development and philanthropy education program. In September 2012, the first chapter in Oakland County will be organized, increasing the number of chapters to six statewide.

“I’m excited about this program because it provides each young lady the opportunity to develop, in her own way, the skills necessary for effective community leadership and service,” said Gwendolyn Powell, a retired educator of nearly forty years and the Torch of Wisdom program director. She emphasized that this partnership “is a match that totally enhances our goal to *change tomorrow today*, and it is imperative that we prepare young women to receive the baton of leadership.”

Some of the topics that will be covered during the ten-month program are leadership, team-building, philanthropy, social change, gender stereotypes, and media literacy.

“Both organizations are dedicated to creating change and shaping a future that opens doors and leads the way to opportunity for women and girls,” said Michelle Lewis Watts, director of programs and operations for the Michigan Women’s Foundation.

The application is available online at either foundation website: [www.towfinc.org](http://www.towfinc.org) (248) 327-6815 or [www.miwf.org](http://www.miwf.org) (313) 962-1920. Each applicant will be notified whether or not she has been accepted. Orientation will be held in September at 21819 W. Nine Mile in Southfield.

The Torch of Wisdom Foundation encourages young girls to take advantage of this opportunity to join the first Oakland County chapter of Young Women for Change, organized by the first minority women's foundation to own property in Oakland County for the purpose of better serving Oakland County and the Greater Metropolitan Detroit area. The other chapters are East Wayne/Macomb Counties (Detroit, Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods, St. Clair Shores), Greater Lansing, Kent County (Grand Rapids), Traverse City, and Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor).

For over 25 years, the Michigan Women's Foundation continues to be the only statewide foundation specifically dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. Established in 1993, the Torch of Wisdom Foundation supports organizations whose programs promote scholarship, cultural arts, and community enrichment.

Paulette Boggs is president and board chair of the Torch of Wisdom Foundation and Carolyn Cassin is president and CEO of the Michigan Women's Foundation.

###