



Drake Phifer

Brenda Lawrence

Rev. Eric Burr

Sonya Jackson-Myles

Hugh Mahler

Torch of Wisdom Foundation honors local heroes

The Torch of Wisdom Foundation will host its 6th Annual "Honoring Local Heroes: Changing Tomorrow Today" awards banquet on Friday, Nov. 18, from 7. to 10 p.m. at the Great Lakes Culinary Center located 24101 W. Nine Mile Rd in Southfield. The "Black No-Tie" affair will honor several awardees for their contributions to improving communities on the local, state and national level. This year the foundation will recognize the following:

• **Trailblazer**

Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence
U.S. House of Representatives (D-MI 14th District)

• **Cultural Arts**

Drake Phifer
Multimedia Entrepreneur, Event Producer,
Community Advocate
Urban Organic

• **Community Enrichment**

Rev. Eric Burr
Pastor
Second New Hope

Sonya Jackson-Myles
Founder & Author
The Sister Accord

• **Scholarship**

Hugh Mahler
Founding Partner
Starting With One Scholarship

Congresswoman Lawrence will be recognized for her work as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Phifer is being honored for his exemplary community and cultural advocacy and his impact on the metro Detroit music and art scene. Burr is being recognized for his work providing housing to single women and children and social services to communities in need. Myles seeks to empower women all over the world to love and lift each other up. Mahler is a tireless volunteer who is very passionate about education and works to provide opportunities and scholarships for less fortunate young men.

Comerica Bank, DeCarolis Dental and Public Service Credit Union are serving as premier sponsors for this year's event. Tickets for the event are \$60 per person. The 6th Annual Honoring Local Heroes is chaired by Beverly Cousin, Debra DeBose and Rosemary Williams. Yolanda Durfield is board chair and president of the Torch of Wisdom Foundation.

The Torch of Wisdom Foundation was established in 1993. It provides grants to support scholastic achievement and community service programs. The focus is to raise funds for scholarship (academic achievement); programs that heighten awareness of the arts and expose the talents and works of local and nationally known artists; and for initiatives that strengthen and enrich our communities. "Honoring Local Heroes" is one of the organization's signature events.

Tickets can be purchased at www.towfinc.org or by calling (248)-327-6815.