Women Vision SC

etv

2019 Honorees

Karen Alexander
is the founder of the Auntie Karen Foundation. Her love of arts inspired her to leave her position with Xerox Corp. to start the foundation, which works to “empower, enlighten and educate through the arts.” Alexander’s creations include a young entrepreneur’s conference, a concert series for young people and an online children’s series. She is also the creator of 14 original characters and the author of two books.

Hope Blackley
served as Spartanburg County Clerk of Court for nearly nine years. She began her career as a preschool teacher before becoming a child victim advocate. In 2004, Governor Mark Sanford appointed Blackley as the Crime Victims’ Ombudsman for the state. In her role as Spartanburg County Clerk of Court, she successfully championed legislation to clear the way for a new building, which is slated for completion in next three to four years. More recently, Blackley joined Congressman William Timmons’ office as district director.

Elaine T. Freeman
founded the ETV Endowment from her dining room table. For more than 40 years, the member organization has funded programming and supported South Carolina Educational Television and South Carolina Public Radio. Freeman retired in 2008 after 31 years as executive director but still remains active in support of programs such as “South Carolinians in World War II.” Freeman is also a major force in the Spartanburg community. She served on the board and headed the fundraising campaign for the Charles Lea Center, which serves adults and children with special needs. Her vision helped establish the Ellen Hines Smith Home, which later merged becoming the Hope Center for Children.

Jennifer Gutierrez-Caldwell
has been described as a change-agent. As director of Youth Services at Pendleton Place in Greenville, she works to keep children safe and support families in crisis. Gutierrez-Caldwell believes in the rights of people, especially those she says that don’t have a voice or a seat at the table. Before her work at Pendleton Place she was director of Diversity and Inclusion at Wofford College. As a daughter of immigrant parents, Gutierrez-Caldwell grew up in Los Angeles, but she chose to live in South Carolina, where she believes she can make a difference.

Heather Holmquest
serves as president of the Maritime Association of South Carolina, which represents 240 member companies operating in Charleston and across the state. She lived and worked in Chicago before coming to South Carolina, where she has observed a significant effort by men in her industry to support women in leadership. As a champion for workforce development, Holmquest is heading up a major campaign to create awareness of jobs and opportunities available in her field and related industries.

Pastor Nannie Jefferies
would often visit the jails to encourage and pray for her church’s members and their children. She is the pastor of Maranatha Free Church of Jesus Christ. During her visits, Pastor Jefferies witnessed a feeling of despair and a lack of hope amongst the incarcerated women. Seeing this community need, she launched Angels Charge Ministry to offer transitional housing, case management and advocacy. Pastor Jefferies is a life-long resident of Spartanburg, where she says, “We are a community offering a hand up, not necessarily a hand out.”

Minor Mickel Shaw
grew up talking about business at the dinner table with her family. She says her parents always had confidence in her and felt strongly about giving back to the community. Today, she is president of Micco LLC, a private investment company based in Greenville. For decades, she has been involved in numerous civic, educational, philanthropic and business activities in her community and across the region. Shaw is currently chairman of the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission; she also serves as a trustee and chairman for the Daniel-Mickel Foundation, the Hollingsworth Funds and the Duke Endowment, which is based in Charlotte.

Anita Prather-Singleton
grew up thinking she would study law and become a civil rights attorney. Instead she became a master story teller, author and educator. Her work has influenced civil rights and has preserved stories and history about the Gullah culture and South Carolina. Known as Aunt Pearlie Sue, Prather-Singleton has performed at prestigious locations, such as the World Bank and the White House. However, her roots remain in Beaufort, South Carolina. She is the founder of a musical performance group known as Gullah Kinfolk, and she has performed at many festivals in South Carolina and beyond.

Inez Tenenbaum
has held top positions at state and national levels. She was a two-term South Carolina Superintendent of Education and served a four-year term as chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Tenenbaum oversaw implementation of major legislation to protect children nationwide -- the 2008 Consumer Product Safety Act. She says her law degree from the University of South Carolina gave her the tools to be a more effective advocate. She currently practices law at Wyche, P.A., which has offices in both Columbia and Greenville.

South Carolina Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal (Ret.)
has a saying: “If you get a little something, leave the ladder down, and pull your sisters up the ladder with you.” Chief Justice Toal decided that as she achieved some prominence and broke barriers, she would reach down and pull her sisters along. And, she’s done just that. Chief Justice Toal became the first woman to serve as a justice on the South Carolina Supreme Court and then the first woman and one of the longest-serving chief justices in South Carolina history. She also served in the South Carolina House of Representatives. Chief Justice Toal is still active in her retirement mentoring women.

JoAnn Turnquist
held leadership positions with several Fortune 500 companies before she moved from the corporate world to the world of philanthropy more than a decade ago. As the president & CEO of Central Carolina Community Foundation, Turnquist heads up a $140 million dollar charitable organization with donors throughout the Midlands. When the thousand-year flood hit South Carolina in 2015, she helped Governor Nikki Haley establish the One S.C. Fund to provide grants to support disaster recovery projects across the state.