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Volume 5, Article 3

January 2012

## MAMIE EARL SELLS SCHOLARSHIP: TWENTY YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE YWCA OF GREATER CINCINNATI

We must “lift as we climb”. That was the philosophy of Mamie Earl Sells, a dedicated YWCA of Greater Cincinnati volunteer and board member. Her community philanthropy showed through her volunteer work in the arts, race relations, education, and social services. Committed to young people and avidly promoting programs that encouraged them to expand and improve their personal lives and career opportunities, her legacy lives on through The YWCA Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship.

This year – 2012 – marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year of scholarships being awarded to carry on Ms. Sells’ philosophy. Since 1983, more than \$50,000 has been awarded to assist area African-American female, high school seniors in their post secondary quest.

“This scholarship forever links them to the YWCA,” Sophia Gilligan Helms, YWCA of Greater Cincinnati, Development Associate tells AboutGreaterCincinnati.com, “wherever their studies and work takes them in life.”

Ten scholarship awards will be given out: one scholarship winner will receive \$2,500; two runners-up will each receive \$500; and seven honorable mention awardees will each receive \$100. The Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship winners will be



*The YWCA of Greater Cincinnati Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship has awarded over \$50,000 since 1983 to assist area African-American female, high school seniors in their post secondary quest.*

*(pictured left to right) Jessica Donaldson, 2011 Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship Winner and Jeannette Walls, best selling author and the 2011 Salute to Career Women of Achievement Luncheon Keynote Speaker*

honored at the YWCA Salute to Career Women of Achievement luncheon, May 9, 2012 at the Duke Energy Center, where they will meet the city’s most successful women leaders.

All of the 2012 recipients and their families will be recognized at a private tea held in April at the historic YWCA building in downtown Cincinnati. Prior to the tea, the recipients attend a workshop

where they are empowered through instruction on subjects such as “dress for success”, public speaking, and dining etiquette.

Applications for the 2012 Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship must be received by January 17, 2012. To be eligible for a 2012 Mamie Earl Sells scholarship:

- ◆ Student must be an African American female;

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## MAMIE EARL SELLS SCHOLARSHIP: TWENTY YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN (CONT'D)

- ◆ Student must be in the **top 1/3 of her high school class** and/or have a minimum scholastic **average of “B” (3.0)**;
- ◆ Student must be attending a high school in the Greater Cincinnati area;
- ◆ Scholarships will be awarded upon **proof of enrollment** at a post-secondary institution or college.

When selecting the award recipients, factors evaluated by the scholarship committee include academic record, ability to overcome hardship, high school class rank, ACT and/or SAT scores, application of special talents, involvement in extracurricular activities, and community service. Each year applications come in from over 20 local high schools and more than 50 young women apply.

The mission of the YWCA, the largest women’s organization in the world, is to empower women and eliminate racism. To that end, this scholarship, which is dedicated to Ms. Sells’ memory, honors not only her loyalty and service to the Greater Cincinnati community but also empowers future generations of women. Personally dedicated to the YWCA during the last decade of her life, Ms. Sells played a leadership role in developing the Salute to Career Women of Achievement, which is now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, and it is only fitting that the winner of a scholar-



*Several 2011 Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship finalists at the 2011 YWCA Career Women of Achievement Luncheon.*

ship bearing Ms. Sells’ name be saluted at an esteemed event that she helped to establish honoring women of achievement.

Ms. Sells’ life’s mission – “to lift as we climb” - lives on at the YWCA. The efforts of both are empowering the next generation of young women to become educated, successful career women – ultimately community leaders and role models of the future.

“This scholarship helps carry on that legacy and also honors her [Ms. Sells] philosophy to ‘lift as we climb’ ”, states Sophia Gilligan Helms, “meaning that we must act as role models and mentors to the young women of today and tomorrow.

Interested in more information

or a scholarship application? Go to [www.ywcacincinnati.org](http://www.ywcacincinnati.org) or call 513-361-2127.

#### About The YWCA of Greater Cincinnati

Today, the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati reaches more than 35,000 women and their families annually through critically needed programs that include two battered women shelters and transitional housing; intervention services for male abusers and at-risk youth; adult and family literacy programs; job readiness, placement, and case management programs for single mothers transitioning from public assistance; GED tutoring and classes; a breast and cervical health network; youth health and wellness programs; the Salute to Career Women of Achievement; and the Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship Fund.

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