



**NEWS**  
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## **Three Regional YMCA Teachers to Receive the Devotion to Children Adella W. Cumbie Teacher Appreciation Award**

**WASHINGTON, Nov. 5, 2019**—Dr. Reynard Eglin, Jr., district executive director of youth development operations for the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, announced that the Y’s longtime community partner, Devotion to Children will honor three YMCA teachers at their upcoming gala on Friday, November 22. Each year, the organization presents the Devotion to Children Adella W. Cumbie Teacher Appreciation Award to a current preschool teacher or director with at least five-years experience in a Head Start or preschool program. The educator must demonstrate a passion and sense of purpose to their classrooms inspiring children to become curious learners for life. The individual must also be dedicated to helping children and families from challenged backgrounds.

This year, at their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Red, Heart & Soul Gala, Devotion to Children will present the award to Sheila Howell of YMCA Capital View, Laurie Johnson of YMCA Silver Spring and Reggie Vaval of YMCA Fairfax County Reston.

The award is given in honor of Adella W. Cumbie, a North Carolina preschool innovator who became a Head Start teacher the first year of the program. Adella passed away in 2013. She was the mother of local businessman Stephen Cumbie. The award was created to continue to support Adella’s vision of providing educational opportunities to children of preschool ages irrespective of their background. It accomplishes this by recognizing and rewarding individuals in the world of early education that emulate the qualities that were near to Ms. Cumbie’s heart and were reflected through her actions. The award is given to those who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments as a preschool teacher.

“Our Early Learning Teachers provide the physical, intellectual, social and emotional foundation for hundreds of children to develop lifelong skills and a love for learning,” said Eaglin. “Sheila Howell of YMCA Capital View, Laurie Johnson of YMCA Silver Spring and Reggie Vaval of YMCA Fairfax County-Reston are cause-driven leaders who personify the values of the YMCA and provide a child-centered learning culture for all children. It is through their dedication to children and families that the YMCA is nurturing the potential of every child in our care throughout the Metropolitan region. Our Youth Development Department strives to provide safe, caring and inclusive spaces for all children to grow and thrive.”

Eaglin continued, “On behalf of the Youth Development Team and the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, I salute Sheila, Laurie and Reggie for helping to build a solid foundation for

children so that they can become all that they dream to be. I thank you for being the difference in the life of a child.”

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Red, Heart & Soul Gala on November 22 begins at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton in Tysons Corner. For tickets and additional information, go to [www.devotiontochildren.org](http://www.devotiontochildren.org).

For more information on the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org).

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#### **About the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington**

Founded in 1852, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is one of the D.C. area's premier social service agencies, and an expert in the design and delivery of innovative programs for every age group. A 501(c)3 nonprofit, the Y's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, and physical development of individuals, families and communities, according to the ideals of inclusiveness, equality and mutual respect for all. YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is an organization of 17 associated branches that deliver programs and services across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org).

#### **About Devotion to Children**

Devotion To Children is a 501©3 non-profit organization based originally in Falls Church, Virginia, now expanded to Reston, Virginia. Since DTC's establishment in 1994 it has transformed the lives of many children and their families by uniting corporate leaders, donors and volunteers to raise funds and awareness for the lack of affordable quality childcare.

DTC has collaborated with many like-minded organizations to provide childcare and educational services for needy families and their children. Both working and unemployed families need access to affordable, quality preschool, daycare, and educational services which are unavailable to them without outside assistance. Devotion identifies those needs and works to fulfill them. For more information, visit [www.devotiontochildren.org](http://www.devotiontochildren.org).