



Members of the Syracuse Commission for Women:

*Victoria Coit
Gilda DiCaprio
Carol Dwyer
Louise Galvin*

*Sue Jakubowski
Ruth Kutz
Rosalie Pollman*

*Maria Revelles
Cindy Seymour
Merike Treier
Diane Turner*

The Women’s Commission, first established in March of 1986 by Mayor Thomas G. Young, exists as an advisory body to the Mayor on women’s issues and interests. The Commission consists of 11 women representing many professions, ages, and areas of the city. Women’s commission members are appointed by the Mayor to serve for a term of two years, and meet quarterly.

The purpose and goal of the commission is “to realize the rights of women of all ages to equal opportunity and participation in the affairs of the community; to ensure women of all ages freedom from discrimination based on gender and to assure them of the benefits of equal opportunity and the full utilization of their talents to promote their educational, health, economic and social well-being.”



**Syracuse Commission
for Women**

*Woman of the Year
Award*

March 28, 2012



Stephanie A. Miner
Mayor



Syracuse Commission for Women

Woman of the Year Award

Presented to an unsung heroine who has made a difference in her community, who has acted as a role model for other women, and who has otherwise enhanced the lives of the citizens of the City of Syracuse.

2012 Nominees:

Sister Dolores Bush and
Sister James Peter Riggeo

Margaret Charters

Lisa Chelenza

Veronica Clanton

Linda Donalson (Hicks)

Daryl Files

Michelle Walker

Deborah Ann Willis

2012 Woman of the Year
Linda Donalson

Linda Donalson (Hicks) was born in Syracuse in 1963. She graduated from Nottingham High School in 1981 and graduated from St. Lawrence University, where she studied sociology. She has worked for the Onondaga County Probation Department since 1999, and is currently working as a probation officer for juvenile offenders.

After losing her infant son, Kevin JaRon, in 2002, Linda noticed many infant burial plots did not have permanent markers, which are often very costly. Linda founded KJ's Angels for parents dealing with unexpected loss, to provide a network of support for grieving families and to raise awareness for SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). She also wanted to give families the opportunity to have a permanent place to honor their child's memory, as she was able to do when she lost her own son. Since 2004, KJ's Angels has assisted more than 150 families with burial and cemetery costs.

Over the years, Linda has also volunteered her time serving as a youth basketball coach in the city with the Youth Enrichment Opportunity Program, the Valley Junior Athletic Association and the Salt City Shakers.

Donalson Hicks is a member of the Bellgrove Missionary Baptist Church, where she sings in the choir.

From the nomination by Marett Seymour:

“She is a role model not to just to the families and youth she serves but also her co-workers and all those around her. Linda has touched many people’s lives without ever knowing the impact she made on them . . . I believe she is a true unsung heroine in the Syracuse community.”