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Michigan's Children Recognizes Denise Ilitch for Lifetime of Philanthropy, Service to Women and Children of Michigan

Business Leader Lauded for Untiring Advocacy Work, Charitable Support

Detroit, MI -- Michigan's Children, a nonpartisan and nonprofit voice for children and families, will honor Detroit-area **business leader and philanthropist Denise Ilitch** as its 2016 Honoree at a special Heroes Night celebration at the MGM Grand Casino on June 6, 2016.

"We are so proud to honor Denise Ilitch," said Michigan's Children Board Chair Kristen McDonald. "She has been an integral part of Detroit's business and philanthropic communities for 30 years as a dedicated business leader, a devoted community servant, a supporter of many charitable causes and a tireless advocate for women and children."

Also being recognized that evening will be U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell for her long support of Michigan's Children as an advocate and board member. She will introduce her good friend, Denise Ilitch, at Heroes Night.

Ilitch is president of Ilitch Enterprises, LLC and co-owner of 220 Restaurant Hospitality. She previously served as president of Ilitch Holdings, Inc., which manages such entities as Little Caesar Enterprises, the Detroit Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers and Olympia Entertainment. Ilitch was instrumental in the creation of the \$600 million side-by-side stadium project, Comerica Park and Ford Field, and served as co-chair for the 2009 Detroit crisis turnaround team.

For the past seven years Ms. Ilitch has been a regular panelist on "Michigan Matters," a CBS television program focused on relevant issues concerning the metro Detroit area. A strong supporter of continuing education, Ilitch established the Denise Ilitch Scholarship at Walsh College to help young women earn their advanced degrees. She currently serves as Regent on the University of Michigan Board of Regents. She also serves as trustee for the Skillman Foundation and on the Board for Horizon Global and the Harvard Kennedy School Women's Leadership Board. The University of Detroit Mercy Law School named her 2007 Alumnus of the Year.

Ilitch has served on the boards of several civic, business, professional, charitable and civil rights organizations. She is an ACLU advisory committee member, and a past member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Branch NAACP.

Michigan's Children's Heroes Night is a celebration of individuals, businesses and organizations whose community involvement and contributions have made a positive impact on the lives of Michigan's children and families.

The dinner program takes place at from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2016. Tickets are available online at <http://www.michiganschildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Heroes-Night-postcard-to-CI-v2-002.pdf>

This year's sponsorship levels include: Platinum (\$10,000), Diamond (\$7,500), Gold (\$5,000), Silver (\$2,500) and Bronze (\$1,000): Sponsors for 2016 are:

- **Platinum:** The Skillman Foundation
- **Diamond:** Denise Ilitch, Esq.; MGM Grand Detroit
- **Gold:** Ford Motor Company
- **Silver:** Anlaan Corporation, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Detroit Medical Center, Meijer, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, Rivet Community Fund, UAW-Ford, University of Michigan, Terry and Leslie Murphy, and Lauren and Phillip Fisher.
- **Bronze:** Clark Hill, the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, Horizon Global, John and Nancy Colina, PNC Bank, the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and Black Family Development Inc.

Previous Heroes Night Honorees have included Cynthia and Edsel Ford; the Detroit Medical Center and its former President Michael Duggan (now Mayor of Detroit); Marianne Udow-Phillips, Director of the Center for Health Care Quality and Transformation; and Sharon Claytor Peters, former CEO of Michigan's Children, to name a few.

Michigan's Children is the only statewide independent voice working to ensure that public policies are made in the best interest of all children from cradle to career.

Among its signature annual events are the highly regarded KidSpeak and FamilySpeak programs. These programs bring youth and family voices before policymakers and Legislators to make positive change in areas including the foster care system, family literacy, adult education and alternative education, and the early childhood intervention program *Early On*. Similar to these events, Michigan's Children's Youth-led Candidate Forums have helped create voter-interest and engagement in issues impacting children, youth and families.

For more about Michigan's Children, go to www.michiganschildren.org