



Inspiring and preparing youth to succeed through goal setting, mentoring, and scholarship programs.

The Home of RARE Everyday Heroes

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TICKETS ON SALE:



When: Friday, April 5.
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Where: The Gem Theatre (next to Comerica Park).

Just 50 general admission tickets are available for \$150 apiece to this "invitation only" event. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets today!

Silent auction items needed. Contact Shernitha Gray for more information by phone at **586-294-8449** or by [e-mail](#).

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Winning Futures board member **Jeff Hoover** is a partner at **Howard and Howard** law firm in Royal Oak. He concentrates his practice in the areas of business transactions and



February 2013

Inaugural Sam Cupp Impact Awards Given



Winning Futures presented its inaugural Sam Cupp Impact Awards at its fifth annual Corks and Forks charity wine tasting on Saturday, February 9, 2013. These awards celebrate the life and vision of Winning Futures' late founder **Sam Cupp**, who passed away unexpectedly last June. The awards were sponsored by [EOS](#).

All honorees have impacted their community through charity work, education, or creating opportunities for individuals to have their own business. The 2013 recipients are:

- **Company of the Year: SRG Global.** In honor of their corporate commitment to the community, SRG Global, a **Guardian Industries** company, received Winning Futures' Company of the Year Award. SRG Global is a global leader in coated plastic parts for the automotive, commercial transportation and household appliance industries. (Pictured at left.)
- **Business Woman of the Year: Linda Orlans, Principal, eTitle Agency.** Orlans is a respected attorney, entrepreneur, public speaker and community leader. She has built a successful enterprise of companies that includes

Business mergers, acquisitions and reorganizations; corporate finance, commercial lending; and real estate. He has assisted clients in structuring and negotiating acquisitions of other businesses, including acquisitions through bankruptcy sales; structuring and negotiating the sale of their business; assisting entrepreneurs in organizing and structuring new business ventures; documenting complex commercial lending transactions; and negotiating and documenting work-out transactions on behalf of commercial lenders.

Hoover received both a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Business Administration from **Eastern Michigan University** in 2001 and 2004, respectively. He received his J.D., magna cum laude, from **Thomas M. Cooley Law School** in 2007. Hoover was also on the Academic Dean's List all three years of law school and earned several advocacy and writing awards in both intra-school and national moot court competitions.

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT



Hamilton Chevrolet is a founding sponsor of Winning Futures. In fact, Winning Futures' late founder, **Sam Cupp**, was a co-owner of the dealership. Hamilton Chevrolet recently became one of our "Corporate Care Partners," a program where area businesses adopt a mentoring class for a day and employees work as academic and

Orlans Associates, PC; eTitle Agency, Inc.; Orlans Moran, PLLC; Gross Polowy Orlans, LLC; and Atlantic Law Group, LLC. She serves on many boards and has been involved with the launch of **Beyond Basics** and the **First Words Society**. (Middle.)

- **Business Man of the Year: Michael Ansley, President and CEO of Diversified Restaurant Holdings, Inc.** DRH operates 45 **Buffalo Wild Wings** and **Bagger Dave's** restaurants in Michigan, Florida, Illinois and Indiana. Ansley also serves on the Board of Directors of the **Michigan Restaurant Association** and the **Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan**. (Right.)

[Click here to see photos from the event.](#)

Jamie Vassel Joins Winning Futures' Team

Winning Futures' newest team member is **Jamie Vassel**, a two-year MNA **AmeriCorps*Vista** member. At Winning Futures, she serves as a classroom manager and mentor recruiter. She helps with program facilitation, setting up the rooms, scoring, and prep work for programs at Warren's **Community High School** and **Warren Mott High School** as well as at Madison Heights' **Madison High School**.



Vassel also serves at **Davenport University** campuses in Warren and Livonia. There, she sets up service projects for students to participate in. She also helps with the Michigan Service Scholars, helping the students find volunteer opportunities. So far, with Vassel's guidance, Davenport's campuses have "adopted" six local families. She has also arranged a "Toys for Tots" bin and collected over 60 toys. She also set up a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service where the Davenport community volunteered at the **Forgotten Harvest** food bank.

Please join us in welcoming Jamie to the Winning Futures team by e-mailing her [here](#).

Alumni Corner: Adam Poterek

Q: When did you graduate from High School and Winning Futures?

A: 1998.

Q: What did you do after high school?

A: I went to Macomb Community College for a couple of years while working.

one of our schools.

Hamilton Chevrolet has earned the **General Motors** Mark of Excellence award 8 times since 2002. The dealership opened in the Village of Warren in 1956 and offered customers new Chevrolets and all makes of used vehicles. Hamilton has built its reputation over the years on one important life lessons: Follow the "Golden Rule" of treating others the way you would like to be treated.

[Visit Hamilton Chevrolet online today](#) or call them at **586-264-1400**. To learn more about the "Corporate Care Program" and how to become involved, phone **Taquaryl Franklin** at **586-698-4387** or e-mail her [here](#).

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Q: What line of work did you go into?

A: I went into sales in the fitness industry and then was recruited to come to work at Quicken Loans as a Mortgage banker.

Q: Who was your facilitator and mentor?

A: Laurie Tarter.

Q: Do you still keep in touch with your mentor?

A: Yes, over Facebook and e-mail.

Q: Do you have anything you would like to say about your experience in the Winning Futures program?

A: Before Winning Futures I had the thought that many of my teachers had the perception that I wasn't capable of accomplishing school, let alone my dreams. Winning Futures got me engaged and made me think about what I wanted out of life. It challenged me to go deep and after being one of the scholarship winners it made me realize that if I applied myself and went after something I could see success. It really helped mold me into the person I am today.

Winning futures also gave me the opportunity to come back after high school and speak in front of larger groups and I enjoyed doing that. Looking back I don't think it is just a coincidence that I am now speaking in front of large groups and inspiring young adults as a Senior Director here at Quicken Loans on a regular basis.

Furthermore, I cannot really put into words the benefits that I received having a teacher in Linda Reinhardt and a mentor in Laurie that really believed in me. At the time my parents were going through a divorce and I felt as though my teachers had given up on me. Had I not been a part of Winning Future I really feel that I would not have graduated. I truly believe in the program. Thank you!

Tips for Parents: Overcoming Obstacles



Parents - Here is a great tip for helping your teens deal with overcoming obstacles:

Everyone faces obstacles in their lives, but overcoming them isn't impossible, just more difficult if they aren't anticipated. This activity demonstrates the difficulty of overcoming obstacles if you do not plan for them. [Read more.](#)