



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

September 16, 2008, San Jose, California

CONTACT:

Kathy Linton
(408) 295-4011 ext. 217
klinton@ywca-sv.org
www.ywca-sv.org

YWCA of Silicon Valley's 18th Annual Luncheon

The YWCA of Silicon Valley will host its' 18th Annual Luncheon event on **Wednesday, October 29, 2008**, from **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**, at the **San Jose McEnery Convention Center**. The event serves as a major fundraiser, with proceeds going to support the programs and services of the YWCA of Silicon Valley. **Alfre Woodard**, accomplished actress and advocate for civil rights in South Africa, will be the **keynote speaker** at the event.

Alfre Woodard is a highly-acclaimed stage, screen and television actress choosing roles which focus on diversity. She is a four-time Emmy Award winner, a Golden Globe 'Best Actress' award winner, a recipient of the Screen Actors Guild Award, and a two-time ACE Award winner. One such ACE award was for her portrayal of Winnie Mandela in the HBO presentation *Mandela*, starring Danny Glover. She has worked with such honored actors and directors as Dr. Maya Angelou, Sissy Spacek, Morgan Freeman, Wesley Snipes and Holly Hunter, to name a few.

Ms. Woodard, along with Danny Glover, Blair Underwood, Mary Steenburgen and others, co-founded Artists for a New South Africa (ANSA) in 1989. ANSA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating the African AIDS pandemic and advancing democracy and equality in South Africa. ANSA also works to further civil rights and safeguard voting rights in the US. It supports the struggle against apartheid, assists AIDS orphans, and educates and empowers disadvantaged youth.

Over 40 companies and individuals are sponsoring this year's annual luncheon. More than 80 community volunteers are serving as Table Captains, inviting friends, family, and business associates to the luncheon. Total attendance for the event is expected to be over 1,800 Silicon Valley community members. This is a non-ticketed fundraising event; guests attend as an individual or sponsored guest. A donation appeal will be made during the event, requesting a donation of \$150.00 or more to support the on-going programs and services of the YWCA of Silicon Valley. To attend this event, contact events@ywca.org, or call (408) 295-4011 ext. 216.

The YWCA of Silicon Valley programs and services include: Child Care Centers, Rape Crisis Centers and Sexual Assault awareness and education programs, Counseling Services, Family Services, Youth Services, and a Social and Racial Justice education and advocacy program. ***Serving all of Santa Clara County for over 100 years, the mission of the YWCA of Silicon Valley is to empower women, children, and their families, and to eliminate racism, hatred, and prejudice.***

###