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celebrating the aspirations and accomplishments of women

WOMEN OF  
ACHIEVEMENT

improving the lives of  
children  
and youth

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trust it  
smile

insert: ywca winter programs

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# eliminating racism empowering women ywca

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### **Congratulations to the winners of the 2007 YWCA Women of Achievement awards!**

The dictionary defines the word achievement as “something accomplished successfully, especially by means of exertion, skill, practice or perseverance.” All of the women honored as “Women of Achievement” are accomplished. They are extraordinary in the way they have contributed to the lives of children and have embraced children’s potential.

These women are paving the way for the future. They are creating the future. A better future.

*Deborah L. Perry*

Executive Director


## improving the lives of children and youth


### **YWCA Northern Rhode Island**

514 Blackstone Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895  
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eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**

 publisher  
Deborah L. Perry

 editor  
Lisa Piscatelli

 website administrator  
Meaghan Lamarre

contributors:

*photographers*

Agapao Productions and Industrial f/X Inc.

*cover artist*  
Jill Lamere

*She Shines*  
514 Blackstone Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895  
p 401 769 7450, f 401 769 7454  
sheshines.org  
info@sheshines.org

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**how to** . . . . .

**contribute.** *She Shines* welcomes letters to the editor, articles, poetry, stories, graphics, photos and calendar events. Contact us if you have an inspiring story to tell or have a suggestion of someone to be featured. Only original contributions will be considered and may be edited due to space limitations. Include contact information including name, e-mail, address and phone number. Images provided electronically must be high-resolution.

**submit cover art.** The cover is reserved as a gallery of art in keeping with the theme of *She Shines*. For consideration, send in a photo by e-mail attachment or mail. This is a wonderful opportunity for local artists to show their work. A biography is published in conjunction with the "Artist Canvas" section of *She Shines*.

**advertise.** Visit sheshines.org to view the advertising media kit. *She Shines* reserves the right to refuse to sell space for any advertisement the staff deems inappropriate for the publication.

**receive the magazine.** *She Shines* is a free publication mailed to members and friends of YWCA Northern Rhode Island. To be added to the mailing list, a subscription form is available below and on the website sheshines.org. The magazine is also available at YWCA Northern Rhode Island and at various special events.

Send your name, title, organization/company, address, phone, e-mail, and comments to *She Shines*. Donations are appreciated and help to support this local magazine of women's issues.

Mail to: *She Shines*, c/o YWCA Northern Rhode Island  
514 Blackstone Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

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3rd annual Tools of the Trade Luncheon

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**10 women of achievement**  
Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Elizabeth Colon, Karen Davis, Judith Earle, Karen Gager, Lisa Guillette, Diana Hackney, Ghislaine Jean-Mahone, Maureen Macera, Pamela Martin-Mitchell, Denise Perry, Marcia Ranglin-Vassell, Hillary Salmons

**23 artist canvas**  
"I love working with collage. I start with a simple drawing and then make a pattern with tracing paper and cut it out of different textures/handmade papers. Then I glue the collage in place and when it's dry, I paint the rest of the image in with oils. I never quite know what it's going to look like until it is finished which is really fun." - Jill Lamere

..... *special insert*  
**YWCA Northern Rhode Island: winter programs**

**At YWCA Northern Rhode Island children are ever present** in the Early Childhood Learning Center, APPLE after school program, gym, and on the playground.

I have witnessed exceptional moments like the way an experienced preschool teacher redirects her Circle of Friends class without ever using the word no. Also the confident response of a teen mother from the Parenting In Progress program when asked about her dreams for her child's future, "she is going to have her own dreams."

Cover artist, and women of achievement honorable mention, Jill Lamere, enjoys creating books that do more than just read front to back. She likes for them to come alive in some way or to be interactive. "If I can surprise, delight and or enlighten a child, then I feel I have succeeded," Lamere says.

The women of achievement and women of honorable mention included within this special edition, improve the lives of children and youth. Their dedication directly impacts countless young lives today and in turn shapes our community for tomorrow. *She Shines* thanks them all.

Also, thank you to the nominators for sharing such inspiring stories. You are right. She shines. ✨

Share it.  
Trust it.  
Smile.

*Lisa*

Lisa Piscatelli  
editor

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# ywca honors women of achievement

YWCA Northern Rhode Island recognizes outstanding women  
improving the lives of children and youth in Rhode Island

**T**hirteen women were recognized for their exceptional skills working on behalf of children and youth at the YWCA Tools of the Trade Luncheon, held September 20th at Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln. Deb Ruggiero, winner of the 2005 and 2007 Metcalf Awards for diversity in broadcasting, served as the luncheon's emcee. Visit [www.WomenOfAchievementRI.org](http://www.WomenOfAchievementRI.org) for details.

Congratulations to the 2007 award winners. YWCA Northern Rhode Island appreciates the underwriters and attendees celebrating the following women of achievement: Diana Hackney, Denise Perry, Marcia Ranglin-Vassell, Judith Earle, Karen Davis, Lisa Guillette, Hillary Salmons, Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Elizabeth Colon, Ghislaine Jean-Mahone, Pamela Martin-Mitchell, Karen Gager, and Maureen Macera. See page 10.

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**Elizabeth Buffum Chase Center**

## TABLES OF TRIBUTE:

**Communities For People:** Communities For People is honored and pleased to recognize these community heroes. Each woman honored this day has demonstrated ideals to which we all strive, and makes Rhode Island a better place for our youth and families. We are also honored that one of these heroes graces us with her presence each day. Congratulations, Denise Perry!

**Make-A-Wish Foundation:** The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Rhode Island's mission is to grant wishes of children suffering from life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. It is our vision that people everywhere will share the power of a wish. On behalf of the Make-A-Wish community, and the amazing children that we serve, we salute you, Dr. Hackney . . . for an award well-deserved!

**The Met School:** Nancy Diaz Bain is an advocate for girls in secondary education. As co-director of The Met School, she supervises project-based learning programs for 750 students. In addition, she mentors principals and staff throughout seven buildings. Prior to this, Nancy has served as a teacher and principal at The Met. She strives to encourage and inspire young women to reach their true potential.

**Providence After School Alliance:** Since its creation in 2004, the Providence After School Alliance (PASA), an initiative of Mayor David N. Cicilline, has built a network of public and private community partners, after school providers, city departments and neighborhoods to work together to increase and expand quality after school programming for the city's youth. Congratulations to our executive director, Hillary Salmons, on being named a 2007 Woman of Achievement!

**Tiffany & Co.:** Tiffany & Co. would like to congratulate this year's winners for their accomplishments improving the lives of children and youth. We are happy to be joining in their celebration, as they receive the 2007 awards and are recognized at this third Tools of the Trade Luncheon. Best wishes to all!

**Urban League of Rhode Island:** Marcia Ranglin-Vassell, you have the gift of reaching out to people wherever they are. You constantly give of yourself 110%, leaving everyone better off than when they met you. May God continue to bless you and

your family. We are proud of you! We love you! - Congratulations to you, Van, Alethe, Van Jr. Eric and Terrence. Your Family and Friends.

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## SALUTE:

**Jodi L. Glass, Au.D.:** Doctor of Audiology. (Yes, Jodi from Take Back the Night, Clothesline Project, etc.). Years of loud music catching up with you? Problems following conversation in meetings? Think hearing aids are big, bulky, uncomfortable and just plain ugly? Think again! Complete audiological services - from comprehensive assessment to really funky hearing aids! Available statewide. [jlglass53@aol.com](mailto:jlglass53@aol.com) or 401-575-9951

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women of achievement  
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## honorable mention



**Beverly Brindle**, physical therapist  
Early Intervention Program  
Meeting Street



**Simmy Carter**, supervisor  
Early Childhood Institute  
The Providence Center

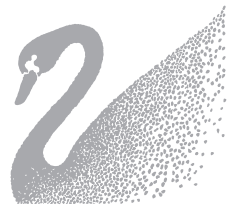


**June Clement**  
director and co-founder  
Puss N Boots Nursery School



**Nancy Diaz**, co-director  
The Metropolitan Regional Career  
and Technical Center, The Met School

honorable mention continued on page 7



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*The University of Rhode Island  
and the URI Alumni Association  
congratulate  
distinguished URI alumna  
Karen Davis '82, M.A. '93,  
recipient of the  
YWCA Women of Achievement Award.*



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**Rhode Island Foster Parents Association**



**Sojaili Gomez**  
community educator  
Childhood Lead Action Project



**Jill Lamere**  
writer, illustrator, publisher  
Minikin Press



**Ivette Luna**  
lead organizer  
Ocean State Action



**Kim Maine**  
director  
Sunshine Child Development Center



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honorable mention  
continued on page 8



**LISC**  
Rhode Island



Rhode Island Local Initiatives Support Corporation organizes capital, partnerships and other resources to support the development of healthy and sustainable communities across Rhode Island.

honorable mention continued from page 7



**Adeola Oredola**  
executive director  
Youth In Action

honorable mention continued on page 9

## Big Sisters of Rhode Island congratulates Karen Gager for her Women of Achievement award

Thank you, Karen, for your dedication, professionalism and constant caring for the well being of our Little Sisters



Big Sisters of Rhode Island

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## Congratulations to Elizabeth Burke Bryant and Karen Davis

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**Erika Read**  
volunteer coordinator  
The College Crusade of Rhode Island



**Pearl Salotto**  
facilitator, educator, author  
DJ Professional Pet Assisted Therapy



**Deb Rude**  
reading specialist  
B.F. Norton Elementary School



**Betty Virella**  
senior parent educator  
Connection for Children & Families

Hats off to the  
**YWCA of Northern  
Rhode Island**  
and to the 2007 Women of  
Achievement Award Winners

Woonsocket Professional and Technical  
Employees, Local 3851

Congratulates the 2007  
Women of Achievement recipients.

Michael E. Connolly, President

*Bravo!*  
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and  
SOJAILI GOMEZ  
...  
*Women of Achievement*

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**Susan Gershkoff**  
Counsellor at Law  
Licensed in Rhode Island and Massachusetts

Real Estate  
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“Dr. Hackney is the essence of a compassionate woman . . . it is not only her strength and elegance but her quiet competence and courage that I most admire. Her accomplishments are inspiring and she is making a difference in the world.”

– Raena L. Avalon, assistant executive director, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Rhode Island

photo by Agapao Productions

## Diana L. Hackney, Ph.D.

president and CEO

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Rhode Island

**K**nown for her passion, revenue generation, entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, vision and energy, Diana Hackney has extensive educational and managerial experience. She served as vice chancellor of student affairs at UMASS Dartmouth; vice provost of student life at Drexel University; vice president of student affairs at the University of Charleston and assistant dean of students at Shenandoah University. Hackney’s educational background includes a bachelor’s and master’s degree from James Madison University and a doctorate in

education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Hackney began her duties with Make-A-Wish Foundation of Rhode Island, an organization whose mission is to grant the wishes of children who have been diagnosed with life-threatening medical conditions, in 2002. At the time the agency was inactive. As head of the organization Hackney worked tirelessly to increase fund raising and volunteer programs. Today, as a result of her efforts and determination, Make-A-Wish continues to reaffirm children’s hope for the future. ✨





# Marcia Ranglin-Vassell

director, education and training  
Urban League of Rhode Island



**M**arcia Ranglin-Vassell is the director of education and training for the Urban League of Rhode Island. Ranglin-Vassell is responsible for coordinating public, professional and community education and training programs geared to eliminate racial discrimination and segregation in the state, and the achievement of parity for Blacks, other minorities, and the poor in every phase of life.

Ranglin-Vassell began her employment at the Urban League as a substitute teacher for Bridge Alternative School providing continuity in education for children suspended from the Providence School System. At the time, ninety percent of the students in the program were Black or Hispanic boys. Based on this experience she saw the need for, and was instrumental in, starting a program entitled Save Our Black Boys, a mentoring program designed to reduce drop out rates and increase graduation rates for boys of color.

Her previous employment included community outreach coordinator for the Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, where she provided food, clothing and shelter to disadvantaged families. Ranglin-Vassell has a bachelor of science degree from Rhode Island College and a diploma from Saint Joseph's Teachers College, Jamaica, West Indies.

“When Marcia walks in the rooms at the Early Childhood Learning Center of the Urban League of Rhode Island all the children come running to her. Children know when someone genuinely cares. They have found a true champion in Marcia.” – Charlene Kneath, education coordinator, Urban League of Rhode Island

photo by Agapao Productions



## woman of achievement

warmhearted



“It is difficult to determine just how many people EBC [Elizabeth Buffum Chase Center] has helped, directly and indirectly, over the years. I do know, however, that there are hundreds of women, children and young adults who are leading better, happier and more fulfilling lives thanks to Judy Earle.” – Mayor Scott Avedisian, City of Warwick

photo by Agapao Productions

# Judith Earle

executive director

Elizabeth Buffum Chase Center

Ten years ago when Judith Earle arrived at the Elizabeth Buffum Chase House it was a small women’s shelter housed in a dilapidated building. Although serving the acute needs of victims was vastly important, Earle knew that to make a difference in the incident rate of the enormously complex issue of domestic violence, she had to look at the impact it had on children and youth.

In response, Earle created a state of the art domestic violence and intervention service center. She established child therapy programs in partnership with local mental health agencies, included art therapy and drama-assisted counseling to support children’s attempts to express their reality, and has educated local schools about “best practices” in integrating children living in shelters.

Earle has also created curricula and brought trainings to middle and upper schools about dating relationships, has introduced anti-bullying programs to schools and has assisted school administrators in formulating policies to address these behaviors. ❖❖❖



“City Year is forever indebted to Karen for her dedication, commitment and generosity in selflessly giving of her time and talents. As some of you may know, taking in the responsibility of being the board chair of a non-profit is a full time job. It is a volunteer position that among other things requires drive, creativity, perseverance and resilience, lucky for us; Karen has displayed all of the qualities and then some!” – Jennie Johnson, acting co-executive director, City Year Rhode Island

photo by Agapao Productions

## Karen Davis

vice president of community relations  
Hasbro, Inc.

**K**aren Davis is responsible for the philanthropic programs of Hasbro, Inc which annually helps 6 million children in need worldwide. Davis also serves as the president of the Grants Makers Council of Rhode Island, where she is leading an initiative to have Rhode Island school children reading at grade level by grade three.

She is a founding member of the Rhode Island Women Ending Hunger Program, a founding member of World Vision’s Women for Africa Group and the immediate past board chair of City Year Rhode Island. Davis serves on a number of other non-profit advisory councils, development and event committees and has served as the vice-chair of the Rhode Island United Way Children, Youth and Families Impact Group, and Out of School Time Initiative chair. Davis has also served as a Girl and Boy Scout leader for her children.

Davis holds a master’s and a bachelor of science degree from University of Rhode Island and will be inducted into the College of Business Hall of Fame this fall. ❖❖❖





“Lisa Guillette has inspired me in two ways. She cares about foster parents and is a savvy business woman. Through her work, she helps to ensure that Rhode Island foster parents and children receive the supports necessary to retaining quality foster families, and to successfully recruit new foster families. As a foster youth, foster parent, and a member of the board at RIFPA, I am witness and am affected by all that she does.” – Michelle Saunders, director of workforce mentoring, AAA Southern New England

photo by Agapao Productions

# Lisa Guillette

executive director

Rhode Island Foster Parents Association

**A**s a champion for children in state care, Lisa Guillette was drawn to her job at Rhode Island Foster Parents Association because of its organizational mission, to provide education and other forms of support to families that provide substitute care, and to the community at large, in order to further the cause of children who cannot live with their parents.

Guillette has made tremendous efforts to promote child welfare policies by integrating her social work values and knowledge with her business training and management skills. She is a frequent voice for children, advocating on their behalf, whether speaking to elected officials and decisions makers, or by organizing rallies. By providing this type of support, Guillette has made a profound and lasting impact on the lives of children in foster care.

Guillette has a bachelor of arts degree and master of business administration from Providence College. She is the recipient of numerous awards including Rhode Island Parent Information Network *Community Champion* award and United States Congressional *Angels in Adoption* award. ❖❖❖



“Ms. Salmons’ tireless efforts on behalf of the young people of our city were critically instrumental in helping to build the momentum we now enjoy with this popular and immensely constructive program. Her current stewardship of the Providence After School Alliance continues to strengthen the organization.” – Mayor David N. Cicilline, City of Providence

photo by Agapao Productions

## Hillary Salmons

executive director

Providence After School Alliance

**S**ince 2005, Hillary Salmons has led the charge to improve the lives of middle school youth in Providence through increased access to high quality after school programs. Over the past three years, Salmons has led a team of ten staff members and dozens of key community partners to successfully build a foundation for her vision of a citywide after school system for middle school youth.

This system called “AfterZones” provides a variety of enriching programs for youth in the areas of art, sport, science and life skills. The program has begun to receive national attention and currently serves over 2,000 Providence middle school children. Salmons’ goal is to serve over 6,000 middle school children annually.

Previously, Salmons worked with HELP (Health and Education Leadership for Providence), a now defunct coalition focused on improving the health and education of the children of Providence. While there, she worked to establish numerous systematic health and education initiatives. Salmons has a master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor of arts from Harvard College.



woman of achievement

positive direction (informs public)



“Elizabeth Burke Bryant has become our state’s conscience for kids. She brings cutting edge data and passion for children together in a way that motivates policy makers and elected officials to act of behalf of children, especially our poorest children.” – Anthony Maione, president and CEO, United Way of Rhode Island

photo by Agapao Productions

## Elizabeth Burke Bryant

executive director

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

**A**s a leader of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, a policy and research organization, Elizabeth Burke Bryant has been an indomitable mover and shaker in the Rhode Island community, through the programs for children that she has led; through public polices and public investments in much needed social, educational, and medical improvements; and perhaps most especially, by bringing together our elected officials and other community leaders as one force working for the improved well being of children.

Her leadership in the areas of policy and advocacy in the state of Rhode Island has resulted in significant legislative victories for children and families.

Bryant received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Vermont and a law degree from George Washington University. Previous positions have included policy director for the City of Providence, housing court prosecutor, and consultant to Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, The Rhode Island Foundation and Women’s Prison Mentoring Project. ❖❖❖





# Ghislaine Jean-Mahone

director and co-producer  
Just a Step Productions, LLC



**A**rtist Ghislaine Jean-Mahone's personal mission is to produce work that stimulates and promotes community development, empowerment and awareness by focusing on such topics as racism, religion, pollution, and police brutality.

In October 2003, Jean-Mahone started The Cornbread Circle for The Met School's Black Box Theatre. This Providence based youth oriented program showcased the creative and factual perspective of high school students, with pieces ranging from personal poetry, to political commentary, to simply poking fun at neighborhoods and family.

Jean-Mahone and her colleagues received a New Works Grant from the Rhode Island Foundation and are currently creating a DVD/film that will provide urban youth with proactive, solution oriented information on such issues as health, education, the prison industry and mass media.

Jean-Mahone has performed for diverse audiences statewide and received numerous community awards. She is a member of the board of directors for the Rhode Island Black Story Tellers, a student mentor at The Met School, a member of the board of directors for La Providence, and also a founding member of the musical group Riders Against the Storm and comedy troupe In House Freestyle.

"We will come to see that the work that Ghislaine does is not only transforming the lives of the youth she works with and the audiences she engages; it is transforming society in general."

– Reza Clifton, publisher and editor, RezaRitesRi.com

photo by Agapao Productions

woman of achievement

heroine (direct service)

# Pamela Martin-Mitchell

service unit manager, North Smithfield  
Girl Scouts of Rhode Island



**P**amela Martin-Mitchell has been a volunteer for Girl Scouts of Rhode Island for the past eight years. She works closely with the field director to organize leaders for her community, recruit girls and promote programming. Martin-Mitchell began as a leader to North Smithfield Brownie Troop 315, and has successfully brought the troop to the senior level.

Two years ago, Martin-Mitchell and some of her colleagues from OSHA saw a need for young adults joining the work force to know their rights and how to keep themselves safe while on the job. As a result they developed a program for both Girl and Boy Scouts called Youth Worker Safety and Health Day.

She is also a volunteer for Girl Scouts SMART Committee (Science, Math and Related Technologies), which brings together approximately 100 representatives from many diverse fields with over 700 girls from ages 5 to 17 at Bryant University each May. This event gives girls of all ages the opportunity to be introduced to the many different fields of science, math and technologies.

“Her compassion, understanding and willingness to go the extra mile are extraordinary. The girls that she supports through girl scouting look up to and admire her. She has instilled in them the values of courage, confidence and character.” – Jeanne M. Rogers, field director, Girl Scouts of Rhode Island

photo by Agapao Productions



woman of achievement  
heroine (program development)



“Not only is Karen the picture of professionalism, but she is a top-quality human being. She is the embodiment of honesty, purity of heart and fierceness of devotion to what is right and principled. She is most ardent on the cause of girls...” – Priscilla Young, executive director, Big Sisters of Rhode Island.

photo by Agapao Productions

## Karen Gager

program director  
Big Sisters of Rhode Island

**K**aren Gager is a licensed clinical social worker with 22 years of experience in the field of social service and education, including 16 years with Big Sisters of Rhode Island. She has participated in workshop presentations at Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America Tri-Regional Conference, CHILDSPAN Conference, Rhode Island Mentoring Summit, as well as volunteer trainings at Big Sisters.

As program director of Big Sisters, Gager oversees seven mentoring programs, which support at-risk girls throughout Rhode Island. Gager manages her own caseload of Big Sister/Little Sister matches. She is also active with the Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership.

Gager is a graduate of Wheaton College and has a master's from Boston University. Her professional goals are to continue to raise the bar of quality mentoring programs; promote an environment in which teamwork is a priority; and continue to expand Big Sisters' programs.

# Maureen B. Macera, Ph.D.

superintendent  
Woonsocket Education Department



**M**aureen Macera has had a long and distinguished career in education, serving as a role model to many women, and working diligently to ensure educational opportunities and combat gender bias, conscious or unconscious, at all levels for nearly 40 years.

She has served as superintendent of schools for the Woonsocket Education Department since July 2006, having served as acting superintendent from November 2005 - June 2006. Prior to July 2006, Macera served as deputy superintendent. In those capacities, she has supervised all aspects of curriculum, grants, title programs, transportation and administrative staff. Before coming to Woonsocket, Macera worked for North Providence and Cranston public schools.

Macera has conducted research, written grants, published a number of articles and presented workshops and seminars, many of which have focused on the promotion of the development of women and girls emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically. Her educational background includes a bachelor of arts from Hiram College, master's degrees from Providence and Boston Colleges, a doctorate from the University of Connecticut, and post doctoral studies at the University of Connecticut, Providence College and Harvard University.

“Dr. Macera’s level of leadership is extraordinary. She is an outstanding thinker, visionary, role model, and mentor who is making a significant contribution to the field of education.

Woonsocket is very fortunate to have her.” – Deborah L. Perry, executive director, YWCA Northern Rhode Island





artist  
canvas

Upside  
Down

Illustrated above and on the *She Shines* cover, is a page from Jill Lamere's first children's book with Minikin Press. *Upside Down* won the 2006 Independent Publisher's award (best children's book, ages 6 and under).

Other books available at [www.minikinpress.com](http://www.minikinpress.com) are *The Wishing Star* and *The King's Crown*.



Jill Lamere  
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