

The 24th Annual Junior League of Miami  
Women Who Make a Difference

Presented by

**ELEMIS**  
LONDON

*Event Honorees*



Amanda Altman



Mayor Daniella Levine Cava



Tracy Wilson Mourning



Karen Throckmorton



# Amanda Altman

## 2025 Women Who Make a Difference Honoree

Amanda G. Altman has served as Kristi House's CEO for almost six years. Prior to taking the helm at Kristi House, she was a trial attorney in private practice where she tried many cases that resulted in multi-million-dollar jury verdicts. Before that, Amanda served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida where she represented the United States in federal civil litigation matters. This "Super Lawyer and Rising Star" recognized she wanted to dedicate her life to serving vulnerable children and families in crisis after having served in various leadership roles for community groups, including the Red Cross and the Junior League of Miami.

To that end, since 2019, Amanda has served as the CEO of Kristi House, one of Miami-Dade County's leading human services organizations. The organization serves in an exclusive role as the nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center responsible for cases in Miami-Dade County involving child sexual abuse and sex trafficking. Under Amanda's leadership, Kristi House serves 2,000 children and families per year. Key accomplishments Amanda has championed include:

- Renovation & Expansion of Main Children's Advocacy Center to facilitate a co-location agreement with the University of Miami Child Protection Team, creating a one-stop hub in Miami's Health District. This expanded center allows families to access essential services like medical examinations, forensic interviews, and intake services all in one location, significantly streamlining the process and reducing trauma for children. Accomplishing this required a near-complete, over \$2 million renovation of Kristi House's Main location.
- Multiple initiatives to expand Kristi House's Project GOLD human trafficking program, including the purchase of a new property and a grant to serve boys and young men who are victims of child sex trafficking.
- Acquisition of the Homestead Healing Sanctuary, a more-than-31,000 square foot property to serve as a one-stop center for victims of abuse.
- A Record-Breaking Fundraising Gala: Amanda led Kristi House's record-breaking fundraising gala on April 13, 2024 at the Loews Coral Gables Hotel, raising over \$1.35 million.

In March 2024, Amanda was honored with the Outstanding Nonprofit Leader Award from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce as part of the Equitable Businesswomen of the Year Awards, which recognizes women excelling in their professions and serving as inspiring role models. In June 2023, she received the Monsignor Walsh Outstanding Human Services Professional Award from the United Way, celebrating her dedication to shaping a compassionate social service system that empowers countless individuals in our community to lead healthy and productive lives. Additionally, Amanda earned the Outstanding Youth Advocate Award from the Global Innovation Foundation in March 2023, acknowledging her exceptional leadership and vision in providing comprehensive services for children and her passion for family advocacy. Previously, she was awarded the prestigious Rebecca Herndon Bush Award by the Junior League of Miami, recognizing her outstanding community service. Amanda also was named Volunteer of the Year by the Junior League of Miami.



# Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

## 2025 Women Who Make a Difference Honoree

Daniella Levine Cava was elected Miami-Dade County's first-ever woman mayor in November 2020. As mayor, she oversees a metropolitan government of more than 31,000 employees, serves nearly 3 million residents, and manages an annual budget of approximately \$12 billion. Mayor Levine Cava's administration is focused on building a stronger, more prosperous, more resilient Miami-Dade.

Born in New York and raised partly in Latin America, Mayor Levine Cava received her bachelor's degree in psychology with honors from Yale University and graduate degrees in law and social work from Columbia University. She made South Florida her home in 1980 to join her husband, Dr. Robert Cava, a Miami native and practicing physician. Daniella and Robert raised two children, Eliza and Ted, in Miami-Dade.

A social worker, lawyer, and nonprofit leader, Mayor Levine Cava entered the Mayor's Office following a 40-year career fighting for South Florida families. At Legal Services of Greater Miami, she served special needs children, low-income families and immigrants, and then went on to lead the Guardian Ad Litem Program, representing our most vulnerable children in the foster care and adoption systems. In the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, she created an innovative new intake system for child abuse cases with the Department for Children and Families.

In 1996, Mayor Levine Cava founded Catalyst Miami to help low- and middle-income families through service, education, and advocacy. Catalyst still thrives today and helps approximately thousands each year to become more self-sufficient and civically engaged.

She is the Past Chair of the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) and served as Council Member from 2015-2020. She has served on the Florida Bar Committee on Legal Needs of Children; the boards of League of Women Voters, Orange Bowl Foundation, North Dade Medical Foundation, South Florida Health Information Initiative, and several national boards. She's won numerous awards from various organizations including: the Commission on Ethics, Red Cross, American Society for Public Administration, ACLU, National Council of Jewish Women, League of Women Voters, among others.

She was first elected to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners in 2014, and re-elected in August 2018, to serve the people of District 8. As Commissioner, she rolled out programming to scale up small businesses and expand economic opportunity, protected the environment as our 'water warrior', increased the County police force for underserved areas, advocated for a more mobile, connected public transportation system, and worked to create affordable housing and revitalize neighborhoods. Her goal has always been to restore trust in local government.



# Tracy Wilson Mourning

## 2025 Women Who Make a Difference Honoree

Tracy Wilson Mourning believes in leading with love, whether she's fulfilling her role as a devoted mother, philanthropist, or mentor, using her gifts as a designer, broadcast journalist, motivational speaker, and writer.

In understanding her own journey and the impact of what it means for young girls to have mentors who help guide them to become healthy, emotionally intelligent, and compassionate women, Tracy founded Honey Shine in 2002. The Honey Shine program aims to encourage girls as they balance mind, body, and soul, by providing nurturing experiences, through workshops, summer camp, and after-school programming. The programming is curated to enlighten their paths, inform their decisions, and inspire their futures with confidence.

Tracy is also the founder and creative director of L.O.V.E, living on vacation every day. A lifestyle brand that encompasses all things that inspire a life that's lived in LOVE, including a collection of luxury loungewear and accessories.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, Tracy is a proud graduate of Howard University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in business from the Washington, D.C.-based HBCU. She is also a proud and active member of the Miami Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has served as Regional Judge for the White House Fellows selection process under the Obama Administration, Board Member of United Way Miami, and currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Overtown Youth Center/Honey Shine, Casa Familia, BASS Museum, and NBWA. Tracy is also very proud to have a public high school named in her honor, Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High Biscayne Bay Campus.

As co-founder of the Mourning Family Foundation, Tracy passionately raises awareness about the pressing needs of young girls, women, and all children through her community service and public speaking. Her efforts are often recognized, as she has received numerous awards from across the globe. She is incredibly appreciative of all of the recognition and does the work because she believes that it is her assignment, and she is grateful to be chosen to do so.

She is a proud mom to Trey, Myka, and Alijah - whom she calls her favorite people, and encourages them to carry on the family legacy of living in service while creating their own unique paths in life.

Tracy has been using her skills and resources to give back for nearly 30 years. A staunch advocate for the rights of women, and black people throughout the diaspora and other communities where she can be a voice, she credits a higher power for ordering her steps and guiding her life's legacy.



# Karen Throckmorton

## 2025 Women Who Make a Difference Honoree

Karen Throckmorton is a longtime Junior League of Miami sustainer and former JLM Foundation president whose contributions to the community go well beyond her work through the League. Born in Miami Beach, Karen received her B.A. from Duke University before receiving her Law Degree and later Masters in Law from the University of Miami.

Inspired by her mother Virginia Clements Peterson who loved our community, believed in service to others, and treasured the friendships made through the League, Karen joined the Junior League of Miami right out of college. She served on the JLM Board seven times and chaired a number of committees including Guardian ad Litem, Nominating, Program Development, Crime Prevention/Substance Abuse Lobbying, and Children in Placement foster care review.

Karen has said that chairing Guardian ad Litem solidified her focus on helping children in crisis. The committee handled termination of parental rights cases in order to free foster children to be adopted, and League members with Law Degrees litigated the cases in court. Other committee members became Guardians ad Litem who met often with the children and represented their interests in court. Karen described this experience as, "intense, rewarding, and life changing." Karen chaired the JLM Foundation Board in 2013-2014 and remains an active participant and supporter.

Now retired, Karen taught at the University of Miami School of Law for 12 years and received the Faculty Teaching Award in 2010. At the law school, she founded the STREET LAW program, a legal education outreach to several local high schools. She spent 20 years on the Board of Children's Home Society, and for several years fostered infants in her home. Karen spent ten years as a Cub Scout den mother. She has volunteered in the literacy program, READ ON, Miami, Inc. for many years, and currently serves on the Board of CARE Elementary, the Christian Academy for Reaching Excellence, in Overtown. Karen is also a joyful and active grandmother to four grandchildren.



## Overview

The Junior League of Miami (JLM) is hosting its 24th Annual Women Who Make a Difference (WWMD) luncheon on April 12, 2025. This year's celebration will honor four outstanding women who have made positive contributions to the Greater Miami community and carry out the JLM mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

## Our Purpose

Founded in 1926, JLM is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization of over 500 women throughout Miami-Dade County. JLM continues its 98-year commitment to volunteerism while working on projects that focus on women, children, and families. Our current focus is to reduce food insecurity for women and children at risk. Community Programs include Inn Transition, Done in a Day, Food Rescue, ICU Baby, and Miami Diaper Bank. JLM awards college scholarships and community grants to further our mission. Our work is financed solely through member dues, fundraising events, and the support of generous foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout our community. [Learn more about JLM.](#)

## Event Details

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 11 am - 2 pm  
Coral Gables Country Club, Coral Gables

## Website & Event Information

[www.jlmiami.org/wwmd](http://www.jlmiami.org/wwmd)  
[wwmd2025.givesmart.com](http://wwmd2025.givesmart.com)

## Contact Information

WWMD Co-Chairs: Lindsay Kerdyk & Tonya Merrem

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