



Classic Woman Awards 2011

MEET FIVE INCREDIBLE WOMEN WHO REPRESENT
THE BEST IN AMERICAN CARING AND GIVING

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With deep thanks and
profound admiration, we salute the phenomenal
honorees of our seventh annual Classic Woman Awards.

Making a better future by giving themselves to the present, they run organizations that provide comfort items to children in homeless shelters; encourage young people's appreciation of music by giving them new musical instruments; help poor women in Latin America support their families; give girls at risk for abuse self-confidence through athletics; and extend financial, educational, and emotional support to people undergoing bone marrow transplants.

Our honorees represent dozens of nominees across America who give heart and soul to causes like suicide prevention, animal adoption, and elder care. One is Jean Van Horn Cavanaugh of Great Bend, Kansas—87 years old and still giving. Piling disadvantaged students in her car to go to games, concerts, or the Kansas State Fair, she provides the guidance that helps them prepare for college education. Orlando Garcia credits Jean for helping him graduate from medical school last May: "She listened. She understood my desire to excel. She was always there for me."

HAIR: ANIKO KRAMER; MAKEUP: PATRICK BOLTINGHOUSE

Kendra Stitt Robins

Project Night Night

San Francisco, California

projectnightnight.org

Simply put, Kendra Stitt Robins helps homeless children have sweeter dreams. A former corporate attorney, Kendra “got bitten by the giving bug” while helping clients form nonprofit organizations. When she and her husband took an extensive trip with their then-18-month-old son, Cole, she noticed that he could fall asleep peacefully anywhere and wake up to a great day if he had consistent reminders of home: blanket, book, and stuffed animal.

On their return home, Kendra took spare comfort items for children out of her own household to a homeless shelter. She was promptly asked if she could provide more. Soon her neighbors pitched in, and Kendra realized, “Victims of domestic violence are lucky to be able to escape with their children, let alone their children’s favorite teddy bears. Adults need a roof over their heads and food on the table to feel safe; children need to know there’s nothing scary under the bed. A book, a blanket, and a stuffed animal make them feel secure.”

Founded in 2005, Project Night Night has provided those items, tucked in a canvas tote, to 125,000 children through the efforts of some 10,000 volunteers a year in every state.

Among the ways to get involved are by donating items or money, by hosting events, or by sponsoring a night-night package. Donors may ask that shelters in their own communities be served. Children, especially Girl Scouts, are among the organization’s most zealous volunteers, making no-sew blankets and fund-raising. One troop even made Project Night Night badges for their uniforms!

Kendra’s heart was warmed by a shelter worker’s story about a little boy who declined an offer to have the tag cut from his blanket—it was the first time he had ever received anything new.



Oscar de la Renta “Aria” armchair for Century Furniture.
Silver jewelry: Thistle & Bee cuff and earrings.

