

Rhonda Walker Biography

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PROFESSIONAL

Rhonda Walker has been waking Detroiters up with weekday news for nearly 10 years with her incredible energy, enthusiasm, impeccable style and passion for her hometown. Currently, she is the Weekday Morning and Noon News Anchor on the NBC affiliate in Detroit, MI on WDIV-TV Local 4. In addition, Walker hosts, writes and produces "4 Your Children", a dynamic, compelling segment targeting parents and children, which airs three days a week. Walker also provides daily newscasts and video blogs for the Local 4 News website www.clickondetroit.com. Walker hosts special programming and local events on Local 4 including the annual and nationally televised America's Thanksgiving Parade®, Arts Beats & Eats, the 35th Ryder Cup Matches (2004), Major League Baseball's All-Star Game (2005), Super Bowl XL (2006) and the North American International Auto Show Charity Preview Special.

Prior to joining Local 4 in July 2003, Walker worked with WJBK Fox 2 News Detroit for four years (1998 - 2002). During that time she took Detroit by storm with her intelligence, professionalism, infectious personality and hard work ethic. While working at Fox 2, Walker shared her vast and creative talents as the unprecedented weathercaster and traffic reporter during their four-hour morning newscast. At Fox 2, she was a busy multi-tasker whose list of duties included anchoring, as well as writing and producing a successful style segment.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

With a huge passion for broadcast journalism Walker is equally passionate about community service. Throughout her life Walker has been committed to serving the Detroit area community. She currently holds an Advisory Board position with Lula Belle Stewart and an active member of the Renaissance Chapter of the Links, Inc. She is a Partner with Cornerstone Schools, member of the Winning Futures Mentor Collaboration, Board Member for Tomorrow's Child Michigan SIDS and the President of the Rhonda Walker Foundation (www.rhondawalkerfoundation.org), a foundation for at risk and promising inner city teen girls. Walker's desire to evoke a positive momentum in communities and individuals is clearly evident.

To date, Walker logs nearly 100 appearances a year as a motivational speaker, host or volunteer with community projects and by sharing her time and enthusiasm in support of charities and corporate outreach efforts such as: Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (5 years), Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan "Angel Awards" (6 years), March of Dimes, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys Hope Girls Hope, NBA's Read to Achieve program, Detroit Youth Foundation, Youthville, The Skillman Foundation, Detroit Medical Center, DMC Lions Club (3 years), Michigan Minority

Business Development Council (MMBDC) (4 years), NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, Macomb County Branch – NAACP, North Oakland County Branch - NAACP, Midnight Golf Program, Jackets for Jobs, Healing the Hearts of Children (4 years), YMCA, YMCA Teen Success Fest (4 years), Community Network Services (3 years), Sparky Anderson's 'CATCH' Foundation (6 years), Spectrum Child Care Coordinating Council, The Children's Miracle Network, The Guidance Center, Rose Awards, Detroit Area Youth For Christ, Metro Youth Day, Franklin-Wright Settlements, Inc., Golightly Career and Technical Center Academy, Make-A-Wish Foundation, The Urban Wheel Awards, Friends of African and African American Art - Bal African, St. John's Open Arms, St. John's Hospital Abstinence Education Program, United Way, Ronald McDonald House, American Heart Association, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Michigan Opera Theatre's Young Professionals, NABCO (National Association for Breast Cancer Organizations), NABAS (National Association of Black Auto Suppliers), NABA (National Association of Black Accountants), The Heidelberg Project, New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Metro Bridal Tasting, Michigan State University, New Horizons, Macomb County Head Start, Pi Tau Omega Chapter AKA Teen Group, Wayne County Executive Office, Black Airline Pilots National Conference Youth Program, Michigan Women's Business Council and believe it or not, many more.

AWARDS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Walker is frequently recognized for her outstanding contributions and service to the community. She was the recipient of the "Winning Futures" Community Involvement Award and the "Metro Detroit Mentor Collaboration" Mentor of the Year Award for launching the Rhonda Walker Foundation mentoring program and her personal service as a mentor to dozens of teen girls. She has received The Salvation Army Distinguished Service Award; the Detroit Fire Department Community Service Award; the "National Association of Black Women" Community Involvement Award; The Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Legacy and Philanthropy Award; Life Directions "Mary Ball Advocacy Media Award"; nominated for an Athena Award; the Franklin Wright Settlement "Spirit of Giving Award" and the R.A.R.E. Foundation, R.A.R.E. Award, given to "Everyday Heroes" who make a significant contribution in their field of work.

RHONDA WALKER FOUNDATION

Walker also recognizes the importance of reaching out to young people in the community and makes it a personal and professional priority to support various organizations which benefit children. She participates with many career and self-esteem building programs in Metropolitan Detroit schools and community organizations. Walker's deep passion for inspiring children prompted her to establish the Rhonda Walker Foundation in 2003 to serve teen girls. The active organization, in its fourth year, supports inner-city teen girls from throughout the Detroit Public School System. Walker is extremely hands-on, in every aspect of the foundation. She holds the title of President, plans and teaches activities, participates in monthly programs and outings, including her annual 'Camp I Can' confidence building summer camp. Walker is able to use her tremendous exposure and resources to enhance and uplift - having a significant impact on countless young lives. The foundation's mission: To empower inner-city teen girls towards becoming strong, confident, successful and moral future leaders. Visit www.rhondawalkerfoundation.org for more information.

PERSONAL and EDUCATION

Rhonda Walker is a native Detroiter and has held residence in Michigan her entire life. She is a member of Hope United Methodist Church in Southfield and a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications. She is married to former University of Michigan football standout and ten year veteran of the National Football League, Derrick Walker. They reside in suburban Detroit...No children yet!

HOBBIES

In her spare time, Walker is an avid golfer and fitness buff. She also enjoys attending sporting events, such as football, basketball and tennis with her family.