

NBA Legend Eddie Johnson to Receive Inaugural Positively Powerful Ally Award on October 9, 2026

New honor recognizes men who champion the advancement of women through visible leadership, advocacy, and action.

PHOENIX, AZ, UNITED STATES, August 11, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Positively Powerful Development Corporation (PPDC) is proud to announce that NBA legend, Phoenix Suns icon, broadcaster, and philanthropist Eddie Johnson will receive the inaugural Positively Powerful Ally Award during the 17th Annual Positively Powerful Education Summit & Woman Awards on October 9, 2026, at The George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center in Phoenix.

The newly established Ally Award recognizes a man who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing women through leadership, advocacy, mentorship, and meaningful action. It honors those who stand alongside women, not quietly from the sidelines, but visibly, courageously, and consistently.

"When women leaders are supported by individuals and organizations who are willing to use their influence to open doors, create opportunities, and advocate for equity, communities are brought together. Lives are made better," said Dr. Joel P. Martin, PPDC Founder and CEO.

"Eddie Johnson is that kind of leader," continued Dr. Martin. "He has used his platform and access to be a major community champion, celebrity ambassador, and key fundraiser for Helping Hands for Single Moms, a nonprofit founded by Chris Coffman. As someone who was also raised by a single mom, I am deeply motivated to shine a light on Eddie and Chris' shared commitment, which is truly making a difference. That is why Eddie Johnson is the first man who will walk across the stage to receive the inaugural Positively Powerful Ally Award. I see great value in continuing the Ally Award for years to come."



Following an impressive 17-year NBA career, including becoming one of the most beloved players in Phoenix Suns history, Johnson has continued to make an extraordinary impact off the court. He has served as a community advocate and celebrity ambassador for multiple causes. Of special importance to him is Helping Hands for Single Moms, which assists low-income single mothers in attaining their college education and financial independence. Founded in 2001 by Minister Coffman, the organization has benefited greatly from Johnson's passionate involvement. He hosts the "Eddie Johnson & Friends" charity weekend benefiting Helping Hands for Single Moms, and has helped raise more than \$3 million for the organization over the years.



"I learned a long time ago that making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate is a blessing, and I have spent my adult life working to do just that," said Eddie Johnson. "With so many men in our state doing such incredible work, it is truly an honor to be selected as the first-time recipient of the inaugural Positively Powerful Ally Award."

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The work Eddie Johnson has championed exemplifies that when we invest in women, we uplift families, change communities, and impact future generations. He truly embodies our theme, Together, We Rise!"

*Dr. Joel P. Martin, Founder,
Positively Powerful
Development Corporation*

"The work Eddie Johnson has championed in the community exemplifies that when we invest in women, we can uplift families, change communities, and impact future generations," Dr. Martin added. "His service truly embodies our theme, Together, We Rise!"

The Ally Award will become an annual award, recognizing influential men whose actions help accelerate opportunities for women in business, education, entrepreneurship, public service, and community leadership. Johnson will be honored as part of the 2026

Positively Powerful Awards ceremonies, which include tributes to Women Leaders and the inaugural Corporate Leadership Award recipients, during a day dedicated to education, inspiration, and collaboration.

The 2026 Positively Powerful Education Summit & Woman Awards will bring together corporate executives, entrepreneurs, educators, nonprofit leaders, and community changemakers for impactful conversations on leadership, innovation, and opportunity. This year's Education

Summit & Woman Awards also coincides with the 100th anniversary of the George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, providing a historic backdrop for celebrating leadership and creating pathways for future generations.

Event Details

17th Annual Positively Powerful Education Summit & Woman Awards

Theme: Together, We Rise!

Date & Time: Friday, October 9, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: The George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, 415 E. Grant Street, Phoenix

Individual and Sponsorship Registrations are open. You can reserve your seat and sponsorship commitment on the event [website](#).

ABOUT POSITIVELY POWERFUL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Positively Powerful Development Corporation (PPDC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women through educational and transformational leadership development. Through innovative programs, strategic partnerships, entrepreneurship initiatives, and community engagement, PPDC creates opportunities that expand access, inspire achievement, and contribute to sustainable personal and professional success.

ABOUT THE POSITIVELY POWERFUL EDUCATION SUMMIT & WOMAN AWARDS

The Positively Powerful Education Summit & Woman Awards is an award-winning annual leadership experience that recognizes extraordinary women, allies, and organizations while providing education, inspiration, and meaningful connections that empower current and future leaders. Now in its 17th year, PPDC continues to advance its mission of celebrating achievement while creating pathways for leadership through education, conversation, collaboration, and opportunity.

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