

# YWCA Greater Harrisburg

## February 2016 Newsletter

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## Message from the CEO

The Groundhog has spoken! Spring in on the way, but for some it can't come soon enough. For some individuals experiencing homelessness, winter is not just a nuisance – it is a **life threatening circumstance**. The YWCA Greater Harrisburg continues to **shelter women and children** directly off the streets during the coldest winter months in our **Winter Overnight Shelter** – a responsibility that we took on without a dedicated source of funding.

We made the decision to shelter this very vulnerable population 6 years ago, because there was a **need identified in the community**. Doing so was motivated by a passion for our mission, and **compassion for the women and children in our community with no place to go**. For me, our Winter Overnight Shelter is a stark reminder that there are those in our community who do not have a safe, warm place to go home to – so we open our doors to welcome them here.

While national statistics continue to show a decline in homelessness, over the past 3 years we have continued to see an **average of 8-10 women and/or women and children each night** for Winter Overnight Shelter. We work very hard to bring our guests into more permanent housing programs and services. Not only do we worry about the trauma that individuals experience as a result of homelessness, but also the **impact on the community** as a whole. A growing body of research demonstrates that **communities save money by providing supportive housing** to people experiencing homelessness. Research shows that providing housing to homeless individuals results in **reduced utilization of publicly funded services** such as police, emergency rooms and correctional facilities.

While the message may seem bleak, it is a **testament to the fortitude of our staff, boards and volunteers** through Rotary and Leadership Harrisburg who worked to help us continue this service on a shoestring budget. I will celebrate three years with the YW this year, and I am still moved by the **outpouring of kindness and generosity** that exists within our community. Our Winter Overnight Shelter is one small example of what we can do together to make this community great.



Mary Quinn, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Quinn".

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

greater harrisburg

# END Department: In a Nutshell



Members of the END Department receiving an award from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities

The **Economic and Neighborhood Development (END)** Department at the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg provides **employment services and job readiness training** that will lead consumers to employment, increased income, residential stability and greater self-determination.

Outreach efforts to promote END programs are conducted at community events, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. Business Development involves building relationships with local employers to assist with their staffing needs. Currently, the END Department is comprised of the following five programs:

- **YW-Works** offers employment-readiness seminars (Business Ethics, Career Planning, Interview Skills, and Applying for the Job Online), resume development, and job searching services to individuals who are homeless.
- The **Supported Employment program** utilizes an evidence-based approach to helping people with disabilities or complex barriers participate in the competitive labor market.
- The **Center for Employment, Education, and Entrepreneurial Development (CEEED)** partners with other agencies to provide comprehensive services to the Allison Hill community.
- In **YouthBuild**, unemployed and undereducated young people work toward their GED while learning construction skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people.
- **Illness Management Recovery (IMR)** is an evidence-based curriculum designed to empower consumers to manage their recovery and mental health.

## The YWCA Stands in Support of Local Muslim Communities



Over the past several months, the YWCA has stood firmly in **support of local Muslim communities** who are facing Islamophobia, and has sought to educate the public in order to **counteract hate and intolerance**.

Following CEO Mary Quinn's initial public statement, "Islamophobia and Xenophobia are Not Welcome Here," the YWCA issued **"10 Things You Can Do to Support our Muslim Neighbors"**. These are practical steps that each of us can take to counteract hate and intolerance in our communities. The YWCA has also distributed **"Hate Has No Business Here,"** a poster for businesses and organizations to put up as a visual display of support.

We encourage you to join us in standing with our neighbors, and making our community a safe and welcoming place for everyone!

The YWCA's "Hate Has No Business Here" poster

# Past YWCA Events

## Diversity Forum on Islamophobia

The Diversity Forum under YWCA leadership has continued to grow, averaging **100 or more attendees** each month. This quarter our theme is **Standing With Our Neighbors**, which kicked off in January with the [Diversity Forum on Islamophobia](#). Local Muslim activist and YWCA Board member **Samia Malik** was our guest speaker, engaging the audience in a very honest conversation about Islamophobia – and we were all challenged to stand in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors.



Guest speaker Samia Malik addressing the audience at the January 21 Diversity Forum

The February [Diversity Forum on Welcoming Refugees](#) combined personal stories from refugees who live in our community, as well as professional perspectives from agencies who work to resettle and support refugees in Central PA. We will wrap up this quarter with the [Diversity Forum on Welcoming Immigrants](#) on **March 17th**, and you can [click here](#) to register!

## Black History Month Reception

The YWCA was pleased to hold a special **Black History Month Reception** on February 29th, sponsored by **McNees, Wallace & Nurick LLC**. Free and open to the public, the focus was on learning about and celebrating **Black History in Harrisburg and the YWCA's role** in that. A special collection of **archived photos, newspaper clippings and documents** on display told the story of the YWCA's long history of working for racial justice in the Greater Harrisburg region.



Calobe Jackson, featured speaker at the YWCA Black History Month Reception

**Calobe Jackson** was the featured speaker for the event, who shared from both his historical expertise and personal experience about the significant events that have taken place for Black History in Harrisburg – and in particular, the YWCA's role in that. We also heard from **Mayor Papenfuse**, who unveiled the YWCA's [brand-new Race Against Racism route](#) – which **connects the YWCA's mission with the city's history**. Developed in partnership with the **Historic Harrisburg Association**, executive director **David Morrison** spoke to their role in this project.



# Upcoming Events

## 27th Annual Tribute to Women of Excellence Awards Dinner

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Hershey Lodge, 325 University Drive, Hershey  
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Join us for our **27th Annual Tribute to Women of Excellence**, where we will honor **34 outstanding women** who dedicate time and talent to making a difference in Central Pennsylvania!

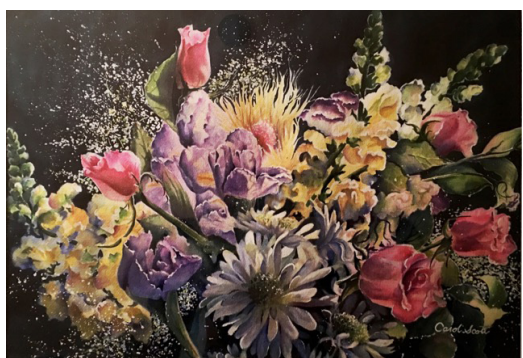
[Click here](#) for more information, to register or to donate! For more information, contact Special Events Coordinator **Erin O'Dea** at 717-234-7931 or [codea@ywcahbg.org](mailto:codea@ywcahbg.org).



The Tribute to Women of Excellence Class of 2015

A huge thanks to our **Signature sponsor, Highmark Blue Shield**; our Visionary sponsors, PPO&S, the Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Hershey Entertainment & Resorts; our Leader sponsors, Capital BlueCross, PSECU, Giant, Pennsylvania National Insurance, M&T Bank, PinnacleHealth, The Hershey Company and the Rite Aid Corporation; our Advocate sponsors, Saul Ewing LLP and McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC; our Honoree Reception sponsor, Boyer and Ritter; our Media sponsor, Harrisburg Magazine; our Entertainment sponsor, BRP; our Presentation sponsor, PSAV Presentation Services; and our Jewelry sponsor, Mountz Jewelers, for making this event possible!

## Cards with Heart Artist's Reception



The 2016 Cards with Heart painting, *Opening*, by Carol Scott

Friday, April 1, 2016

The Millworks, 340 Verbeke Street, Harrisburg  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Please join us for our 2016 Cards with Heart Artist's Reception, sponsored by Harrisburg Gastroenterology. The reception will feature this year's artist, Carol Scott and this year's artwork, "Opening." Attendance is free and will include free appetizers from The Millworks. Come out for a fun night of great food, artwork and helping us kick off Cards with Heart!

Every year, the YWCA holds our Cards with Heart campaign, which involves the sale of a greeting card showcasing the work of a local female painter. These cards are sold for a limited time during the spring and summer, with the inside of the card being blank so the card can be used throughout the year. Cards will be sold for \$5 this year, and every card sold goes toward a night of safe shelter for a woman and her child here at the YWCA.

Special thanks to our Signature Sponsor, Partners in Women's Health, and our Reception Sponsors, Harrisburg Gastroenterology and The Millworks.

## 12th Annual Race Against Racism



Saturday, April 30, 2016  
Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg  
7:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg is pleased to host its **12th Annual Race Against Racism** to promote **awareness of racism and injustice** in our community and raise vital funds to support our racial justice programs.

This year we are excited to unveil a **brand-new route** for our race, which forges a **deeper connection between our mission of eliminating racism and the history of our city**. This new route is built along Harrisburg's 6th and 7th Street corridors and will start and end at [Soldier's Grove](#).

Following the Race will be a **Humanity Festival** featuring culturally diverse entertainers, food, vendors and fun activities for children of all ages. If your organization is interested in hosting an exhibitor table at the festival, please complete and submit our [Exhibitor Registration Form](#).



YWCA staff at the Race Against Racism

Take a walk (or run) with us through the city's past and register [here](#) or consider supporting the Race with a [sponsorship](#)!

For more information, check out our FAQ page or contact Special Events Coordinator, Erin O'Dea at 717-234-7931 or [odea@ywcahbg.org](mailto:odea@ywcahbg.org).

Call **(717) 234-7931** for more information on upcoming events at the YWCA!