



our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
greater harrisburg

Ex-addict finds strength, support at the YWCA

Kicked out of a residential rehab and with nowhere else to go, Angelica sought refuge in the YWCA's Winter Overnight Shelter. She spent just two weeks at the YWCA, and in that time found the courage to begin turning her life around. [Click here](#) to read more about Angelica's journey toward recovery and success.



11th annual Race Against Racism set for April 25

The 11th annual Harrisburg Race Against Racism will be held Saturday, April 25 on City Island. The 5K walk/run promotes awareness of the issues that surround racial injustice in our community, and raises significant funds to support the YWCA's racial justice programs.

A Humanity Fest will follow the Race and will feature a variety of entertainment, activities for children, food trucks and exhibitor tables. A Kids Fun Run presented by The Hershey Company starts at 9 a.m., and the 5K Race for runners and walkers starts at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, to register for the Race Against Racism, or reserve an exhibitor table, go to www.ywcahbg.org



racial justice @ the ywca

YWCA, CRN host police trainings

The YWCA held the first of three law enforcement trainings, in partnership with the Community Responders Network (CRN), U.S. Department of Justice, Dauphin County Chiefs of Police Association and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs. Seventy police officers representing more than a dozen local police jurisdictions attended the two-day law enforcement training.



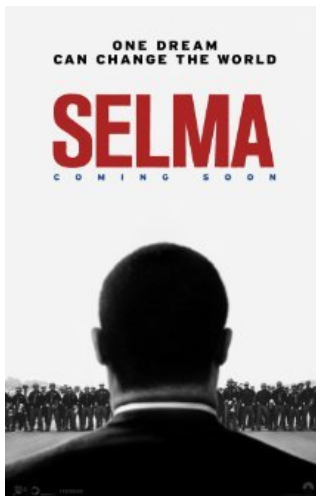
Entitled "To Protect and Serve in the 21st Century: Building Bridges with Diverse Communities," the training's focus is on providing officers with knowledge and skills to increase cultural competency, reduce racial profiling and cultivate better police-community relationships. The YWCA looks forward to continuing this initiative with our law enforcement partners.

'Let's Talk' series kicks off for regional leaders

The YWCA is holding its 2nd annual "Let's Talk: A Conversation about Race" series for a select group of regional leaders from Feb. 18-March 25. Facilitated by Pat Gadsden and Tara Leo Auchey, this year's cohort represents HACC, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, PennLive/The Patriot-News, Middletown Police Department, Central PA Food Bank, Nativity School, Parents And Children Together (PACT) and the YWCA Association Board. We are thrilled to see this crucial conversation spreading throughout our community, and encourage anyone who is interested in participating in or hosting a "Let's Talk" series to contact Amanda Arbour at AArbour@ywcahbg.org.

YWCA hosts book launch, lecture for Black History Month

Nearly 50 people gathered at the YWCA on Feb. 11 to hear Harrisburg author Marian Cannon Dornell share from her new book of poetry, "Unicorn in Captivity." Dornell's poems provide a unique glimpse into the history of race in Harrisburg through the powerful stories of those who were enslaved here, and her own experiences growing up black in a segregated city.



YWCA facilitates talk-back for 'Selma'

The YWCA partnered with the Midtown Cinema to facilitate a talk-back following a screening of the critically acclaimed film “Selma” on Jan. 29. “Selma” chronicles the tumultuous three-month period in 1965 when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition in Selma, Alabama. YWCA CEO Tina Nixon facilitated an engaging discussion along with Racial Justice Program Coordinator Amanda Arbour. Harrisburg activist Les Ford shared his personal experience of travelling to Selma to participate in the

march to Montgomery.

'Diversity Days' continue with school-age kids

Based on the success of last summer’s “Diversity Days @ Camp Reily” program, the YWCA and the Community Responders Network (CRN) are continuing this program for K-6th graders in the YWCA’s childcare programs. Carmen Henry-Harris engaged the kids on the topic of race by learning about different types of hair, talking about hair’s uniqueness and what it means to “go natural.” Tara Leo Auchey prompted a lively discussion on gender. We look forward to continuing to stretch these young minds as they think about diversity this spring!

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, the YWCA's Violence Intervention and Prevention Program is presenting "In the Know," an interactive sexual violence prevention series of workshops to educate the public about prevention, response and change. Participants will learn skills to prevent sexual violence and promote change within families, workplaces and communities.

■ **"In the Know: Human Trafficking in Central PA" - April 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** - The workshop will provide an in-depth examination of human trafficking in Central PA and detail the activities of the new Human Trafficking Response Team operating along Route 15 in Pennsylvania.

■ **"Professionals In the Know: Creating Safe Spaces for Employees and Consumers" - April 8, 9 a.m.-noon** - The workshop will provide tools and techniques that professionals can utilize in the workplace to promote safe environments for their employees and consumers.

■ **"Parents In the Know: Your Role in Protecting Children and Teens" - April 16, 5:30-7 p.m.** - The workshop will assist adults to recognize and question behaviors of other adults to decrease the vulnerability of children and promote the prevention of child sexual abuse.

The workshops are open to the public. Registration is required. Contact Sarah Lawver at slawver@ywcahbg.org or 717-238-7273 x3993.

Local vineyard to host Junior Board Happy Hour

Please join us on Wednesday, April 1 for the YWCA Junior Board's annual Happy Hour Fundraiser, "A Night of UnWINEding with the YWCA," sponsored by Maher Duessel and hosted by Spring Gate Vineyard.



The event will feature a tasting of Spring Gate's new sparkling wine "Pink Peignoir," refreshments, live music, silent auction and raffle items, and more!

Tickets are \$15, and all proceeds benefit the YWCA's Camp Reily. For more information, call 717-234-7931 x3056. [Click here to order tickets.](#)

Stand Down provides respite for homeless vets



Major General John L. Gronska (center), Commanding General, 28th Infantry Division, is photographed with members of the YWCA staff and PA National Guard during a visit in support of the Stand Down.

YWCA Greater Harrisburg staff, soldiers from the PA National Guard, members of Veterans of Foreign Wars District 18, along with numerous federal, state and local agencies, service organizations and hundreds of volunteers assembled to support the 9th annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down held at the Harrisburg Armory from Feb. 6-8.

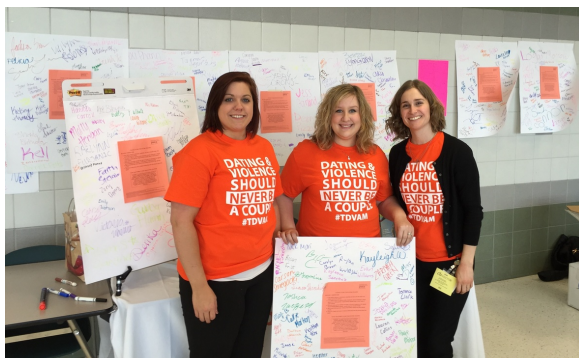
In the military, to “stand down” represents a time when troops can relax and receive needed services in

a safe area behind the front line. This year’s Stand Down provided this opportunity in a setting that promoted togetherness, healing and shared dreams for a better future.

The event provided more than 50 homeless and at-risk veterans with vital services provided by YWCA Veterans’ Services Department programs, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs programs, the PA Department of Labor and Industry, other state and local agencies, service organizations and volunteer groups.



yw snapshots



VIP staffers Samantha Hendrickson (from left), Taylor Sersch and Sarah Lawver are surrounded by the signatures of Central Dauphin High School students who signed a pledge to end teen dating violence during an event on Feb. 18.



In celebration of Black History Month, YWCA staff enjoyed a diverse array of home-cooked goodies during the 3rd annual Soul Food Cookoff on Feb. 27.



Kids strike a pose in a homemade photo booth that was part of the YWCA's Child Development Programs' Valentine's Day festivities.



The Friends Board hosted a Valentine's Day party for YWCA residents on Feb. 5. About 50 women and children who reside at the YWCA enjoyed a fun evening of dinner, raffle prizes, dancing and karaoke, and kids' activities.



Current and past Tribute to Women of Excellence honorees gathered on Jan. 22 for a reception to honor the TWE Class of 2015. From left are Ashlyn Jackson, Sheilah Borne, Margaret Delmonico and Dana Chilson.



Harrisburg artist Melanie A. Gaskins' original drawing "Daring to Blossom Differently" is the artwork featured on the YWCA's 2015 Cards with Heart. This year's campaign will kick off with a March 20 reception at City House B&B.

Upcoming events

- GirlTalk5 Youth Summit - March 18
- Cards with Heart Artist's Reception - March 20
- Tribute to Women of Excellence - March 24
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month - April
- Junior Board Happy Hour Fundraiser - April 1
- 11th annual Race Against Racism - April 25
- YWCA Denim Day - April 29
- 13th annual South Allison Hill Multicultural Festival - May 9
- Camp Reily Summer Camp - starts June 1



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