

ywindow

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

summer 2010
greater harrisburg

race against racism

The Racial Justice Program is a Hallmark Program of the YWCA. It's clear mission is to impact our community with meaningful change and measurable results. The YWCA does not intend to simply raise awareness of the issues, we intend to promote real change. Our goal is not to pave the way for the future, it is to create the future, a better future. (ywca USA)

The YWCA holds the conviction that racism undermines a person's quality of life. Far from being harmless, it denies a person opportunity, dignity, security and freedom. On April 24th, the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg hosted the sixth annual Race Against Racism. Over 800 walkers and runners converged on City Island to raise awareness and to emphasize the importance of equality and harmony in our diverse local community. Included in the pack were over sixty children who completed the 5k course! Thank you to our top sponsors WGAL 8, PSECU, The John Crain Kunkel Foundation, Penn State Harrisburg, Target and The Hershey Company.



(Racers cross the Walnut St. Bridge during the 5k run.)

Before the race, Sergeant Kristal Turner-Childs and BlueCross fitness trainer, Gina McDonald led participants through warm-up excersizes. The Bumbada Drum Group got everyone to the starting line with great drum beats. Valerie Corbin Ketchen (YWCA Association Board President) and Tina Nixon (YWCA CEO) welcomed the crowd before Lori Burkholder (WGAL anchor) sent the racers off with the blast of a horn.

The highly coveted Team Challenge Cup went home with Deloitte Consulting LLP, which amassed a team of more than 70 colleagues, family and friends! After the race, everyone enjoyed beautifully prepared and displayed ethnic foods, catered by Sodexo.

The entertainment was diverse too. God's Army of Tenacity provided inspiring gospel voices, Hip Hop the Clown painted faces and made balloon animals, while a Chinese cultural troupe and Hip Hop Group demonstrated

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(Sodexo catered the race against racism.)

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mission

The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

1101 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103
Phone 717.234.7931 Fax 717.234.1779
Kids on Campus 717.901.3637
Legal Center 717.724.0516
24-hour hotline 0800.654.1211

www.ywcahbg.org

programs and services

Childhood Programs

Day care on east and west shores
Before and after school programs
Camp Reily
REACH wrap around services

Housing & Homelessness Services

Emergency shelter
Bridge housing
Transitional housing
Permanent housing
Lifeskills education
Children's case management
Employment services
Homeless veterans' re-integration

Violence Intervention & Prevention

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Hotline
Court and hospital accompaniments
Support groups
Individual counseling

Legal and Visitation Services

Domestic Violence Legal Center
Visitation Center

Community Programs

South Allison Hill Weed and Seed
Community Technology Center
CEEED Center for Education, Employment and Entrepreneurial Development
Supported Employment

MESSAGE
from the CEO

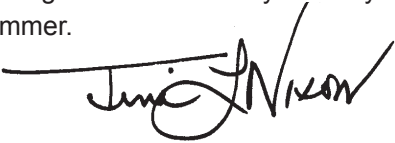
In the past several months I have been honored with a number of awards, including the Wally Amos Community Service Award, the Urban Connection Heritage Award, the Dr. Martin King Luther Jr. Leadership for Change award and, most recently, the Frank Grady Outstanding Professional Award, presented by the United Way of the Capital Region in May. To have my work -- and our agency -- recognized by my peers is of course gratifying, but ultimately, these awards reinforce two things:

First, the awards underscore the importance of collaboration. Collaboration first and foremost of YWCA staff and Board members, who are so dedicated to fulfilling our mission and investing in our clients, and without whom I could not do my job. And, collaboration in a broader sense -- the spirit of alliance fostered by the majority of local agencies serving our population. In forging partnerships, we avoid duplicating services, something I am deeply conscious of, while extending the range of available programs to even the most marginalized members of our diverse community.

Second, I am reminded of the growing numbers of people in our community who are still in desperate need of services and programs to give them the confidence and skills they require to get their lives moving in a positive direction.

Threatening our ability to fulfill our obligation to the underserved is the potential of further budgetary cuts. I will continue to publicly encourage Governor Rendell and other elected officials to finalize the State budget in a timely manner and impress upon them the result inaction will have on thousands of recipients of various social services. I am also currently working with my team on strategies and contingencies to avoid staff layoffs while ensuring that every client continues to have access to essential services.

While summer brings a renewed sense of freedom and optimism, we remain focused on the challenges ahead. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy summer.



supported employment

In March 2010, the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg's newest program opened its doors. The Supported Employment Program helps people with severe mental health disabilities to obtain competitive work in the community and provides support to ensure success in the workplace. By using a personalized vocational approach, YWCA employment specialists assist people in reaching short- term and long-term goals related to employment. Individuals are offered assistance in finding and maintaining jobs that capitalize on personal strengths, interests and motivations.

Research shows that 6 out of 10 individuals with a mental health disability can work a job in the community if he/she is provided with the right types of services and support. (Bond et al., 2001) YWCA employment specialists listen to individual preferences and interests and seek out jobs in those areas. For those who are unsure about potential job fields, employment specialists provide guidance and answer questions about what job is a good match.

"Supported Employment is so effective because as an Employment Specialist I am able to personalize the job search to meet the unique needs of each consumer and

enable them to use employment as a means to meet their recovery goals," says Marlai, Employment Specialist.

**THANK YOU 2010
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Saul Ewing
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Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Company

race against racism (continued from page 1)

their moves until the event adjourned just before Noon. The purpose of the Race Against Racism is two-fold: to bring our diverse local communities together in a fun and challenging event to promote unity and raise a voice against intolerance, and secondly to generate funding for racial justice projects in our community, including annual trainings for educators, religious leaders, social workers, volunteers, political figures, and corporate employees to expand knowledge about the current issues of racial justice and the reality of prevalent "isms" in our everyday world. cultural bridges to justice will once again conduct this year's trainings. Co-facilitators jona & Sandy will provide practical anti-oppression and racial justice information. On October 5th & 6th participants explore a framework

and common language to discuss race and racism. Please call Maria at 724-2250 for more information or to register for this two-day training.



(Hip Hop dancers entertain the crowds)



In its second year, the Junior Board of the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg boasts 15 members between the ages of 18 and 35. The Junior Board seeks to promote awareness and support of the YWCA's mission with the assistance of young professional women in the Harrisburg community. The board welcomed a number of new members in 2010; the combination of their enthusiasm with the experience of returning members enabled the board to jump right into this year's activities.

Camp Reilly, the YWCA's summer day camp, is a priority project for the Junior Board. This year members wasted no time getting the fundraising started for their second annual camp cleanup. In March, the Junior Board partnered with Isaac's Deli for a fundraising evening. Isaac's agreed to donate 25% of the proceeds from friends of the YWCA who dined at the Paxton Street and Lemoyne Isaac's locations to the Junior Board. Individuals spent over \$900, from which the Junior Board was given \$235. That's a lot of sandwiches!



(Association Board President Valerie Corbin-Ketchen lending a hand at the Camp Reilly clean-up.)

In April, the Junior Board took a more sophisticated approach and sponsored a fundraising happy hour at Privado in downtown Harrisburg. Friends, co-workers and fellow board members sipped martinis shaken up by celebrity bartender (and YWCA CEO), Tina Nixon. Privado generously donated all

tips from the evening to the Junior Board. A raffle was also a feature of the event. Guests could purchase raffle tickets and 'bid' on a variety of prizes donated by local businesses. In addition to raising more than \$800 for the Junior Board, partygoers discovered that Tina makes one mean Cosmo!

These efforts raised funds necessary to undertake the camp cleanup in May. The cleanup depends on volunteers, but it takes more than elbow grease. Two big ticket projects Board members wanted to tackle were painting the enormous deck spanning two sides of the camp lodge, and purchasing additional outdoor seating. Thanks to a couple of Junior Board members who went above and beyond, both of these projects were accomplished prior to the cleanup – and at no cost! More than 20 volunteers worked on everything from planting flowers to scrubbing toilets; from organizing sporting equipment to spraying poison ivy. The cleanup fell on a beautiful spring day, the work was rewarding and the positive impact on the camp noticeable. The volunteers left with a great sense of satisfaction knowing their efforts will benefit more than 120 inner-city children who attend the camp this summer.

Clearly, it has been a busy year for the Junior Board, and the pace is not slowing. The Board members are beginning to plan for a fall event and will continue to attend the numerous events in support of the YWCA as the year goes on. If you would like more information about the Junior Board or know someone who may be interested in joining in 2011, please contact Board President, Nicole Stezar at nicolestezar@yahoo.com.

housing programs offer a new start

THE 6TH ANNUAL

The POWER of Style

You Can Find It HERE

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2010

WEST SHORE COUNTRY CLUB

INVITATIONS COMING SOON!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PAMELA RHOADS
AT 717.724.2241 OR PRHOADS@YWCAHBG.ORG

The YWCA Bridge and Transitional housing programs offer shelter to homeless women and their children. Applicants must work closely with case managers to develop goals and objectives aimed at removing any obstacles to sustaining employment and permanent housing. These one-year and two-year programs require participants to attend a series of life skills classes to better prepare them for self-sufficiency. Chris and Martha (names have been changed) are both single mothers who entered the YWCA housing program due to homelessness.

a bright future

Chris and her 4 year old daughter entered the Bridge Housing Program while Chris was five months pregnant with her second child. She struggled with bad credit and money management. After her child was born, Chris attended YWCA parenting and finance classes and worked hard to educate herself. She followed her welfare requirements and was a shining star at the YWCA.

One day she received a letter regarding subsidized housing; it stated that she had been denied due to a poor credit report that reflected unpaid hospital bills. Having gained a new level of confidence with the support of her case manager, Chris decided to appeal the decision. She corrected her credit report and proved that she had insurance at the time of her hospitalization.

The Bridge Housing Program is a one-year program, but thanks to her hard work and dedication, Chris achieved self-sufficiency and moved into her own apartment with her children in less than 11 months!

a fresh start

Martha entered the Transitional Housing program in February 2010. She had three young children with her,

(*'housing' continued on p.6*)

housing programs

(continued from page 5)

a fourth was at the Milton Hershey School. She was desperate to find a way to provide for her family. While at the YWCA, Martha successfully completed a series of life skills classes focused on self-sufficiency, as well as parenting classes. While staying at the YWCA, one of Martha's children was accepted into the Head Start Program and her two other children finally received services necessary to address their special needs.

It took Martha less than six months to gain her independence and accomplish her immediate goals. She moved into her own apartment and is now able to provide a safe home for her children.

CEO wins award

In May, Tina Nixon, CEO of the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, received the Frank Grady Outstanding Professional Award. Named after the United Way of the Capital Region's Executive Director from 1972 to 1986, this award is presented to an individual who shows an exemplary commitment to service in our community as well as, leadership, creativity and accomplishment. Tina is the youngest leader to receive this honor.

In her seven-year tenure as CEO, Tina has not only been instrumental in growing the budget from \$4.6M to \$5.2M, but also in ensuring that the YWCA has a consistent presence in the community.

YWCA program offerings have expanded considerably in response to diverse client needs. In 2006, our YW Works employment readiness program expanded to include a VETS employment program and in 2008, the YWCA further expanded Veterans services to include transitional and permanent housing. Just last year, the YWCA initiated

(‘CEO’ continued on p.8)

celebrate diversity committed to equality

Eliminating Racism

working towards racial justice

cultural bridges

empowerment racial justice

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg

2010 Fall Training
October 5th & 6th
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

For more information **contact** Maria Memmi at
717.724.2250 or mmemmi@ywcahbg.org

join us for the YWCA Annual Meeting September 21, 5:30 p.m. for the presentation of the

The Reily Award - for significant contributions to children's activities through personal energy and time.

The Ella Frazier Award - for work toward the elimination of racism and the promotion of diversity in Central Pennsylvania.

Jane Addams Peace Award - for the promotion of peace through community action and serving as a living example(s) of quite courage.

YWCA President's Award - for a significant contribution to a YWCA program, service or resource development.

Sarah Alyce Wright Award - presented to a YWCA Board or Committee member who has made significant contributions to the YWCA in advocacy or public policy.

Please contact Devan at 717.724.2248 or ddrabik@ywcahbg.org.
org for information or visit www.ywcahbg.org.

with a little help from our Friends

A warm welcome to all our members from the Friends of the YWCA Board, the YWCA volunteer auxiliary board, responsible for assisting with fundraising and outreach efforts.



Congratulations to the entire Friends of the YWCA Board who helped make this year's American Journey "Cookout at Camp Reily" event a smashing success. Ann Kroh and Shirley Miller deserve a big thank you for chairing this fun kick off to summer at Camp Reily. Thank you to our top sponsors: Petroleum Products, Harsco, William & Susannah Rothman,

Connie Foster and Dr. James & Deb Yates. Over \$20,000 was raised, which will contribute to the much needed repair of the camp pool and make over 100 campers from Harrisburg's inner city very happy.

On April 13th, the Mother's Day Card Artist's Reception was held at Stage on Herr in Harrisburg's midtown district, to celebrate the work of artist Barbara Passeri-Warfel, who designed this year's Mother's Day card. Thank you Jean King for chairing the campaign.

It is already time to start thinking about the 6th Power of Style Fashion Show. Mark your calendars! This year's event will be held on Thursday, October 21st at the West Shore Country Club. The much anticipated show features local West Shore boutiques Baby Bug and Me, Creative Elegance, Higashi, Leaf of Eve, Maggie Adams, Presence, The Plum, Tara's Bridal, and Underneath It All. Liz Delaney and Melissa Menke will be chairing the event. All proceeds benefit YWCA domestic violence programs and services.

The Friends of the YWCA Board is pleased to welcome the following new Board members this year: Madhavi Ravi Dukkupati, Mary Kate Henry, Sue Hetrick, Deborah Krekstein, Michele Piscioneri, Tanya Rhen, Cheryl Sakalosky and Marie Schleicher. We look forward to the energy and talent they bring.

In addition to planning and volunteering at many YWCA events, including the Holiday Giving Program, Mother's Day Card Campaign, Power of Style Fashion Show, American Journey event, and numerous in-house celebrations for the women and children who call the YWCA home, Board members invite and encourage friends, family, colleagues and long-time supporters to become "Friends of the YWCA". While we cannot offer gym facilities or classes, your contribution does help to secure the future of the wide range of programs and services offered to the women, children and men in need in our community. Please consider becoming a Friend of the YWCA!

- Junior Membership \$10, Individual \$15 Family \$25.



(American Journey attendees enjoyed live music and delicious food, while browsing the silent auction.)

For information about any of the events listed above or Friends membership, call

Devan at 717-724-2248 or email ddrabik@ywcahbg.org.

CEO wins award *(continued from page 6)*

(the Supported Employment program to assist individuals with mental health and/or drug and alcohol abuse issues in securing employment.

During last year's budget impasse, Tina advocated tirelessly on behalf of the YWCA. The YWCA was forced to layoff six employees and cut the hours of five others in order to maintain services and all programs to those in need. Though she rarely talks about it, Tina has overcome significant adversity in her own life to be the woman she is today. She has turned her otherwise negative experiences into values and principals that she lives by and instills in her twelve year-old twins.

Tina maintains deep faith in the belief that all people are worthy of a second chance (a conviction her mother held

and modeled throughout her life). It is a quality that makes her such a dedicated and genuine leader. Her experiences have both prepared her for her leadership position and made her a more sympathetic advocate for those who have no voices of their own. When leaving a parking garage this month, Tina said she was hugged by a woman who thanked her for saving her life.

"She said I saved her life by simply responding to a call," Nixon said. "That's why I do what I do."

We are fortunate to have such a well-respected, talented and dedicated leader. The Frank Grady award reflects very positively on Tina's accomplishments -- and the YWCA.

Help and support are available if you suspect someone you know has been sexually assaulted.
For more information please call the YWCA at 1.800.654.1211

go to www.ywcahbg.org for more information about upcoming events

upcoming events

annual meeting • september 21

racial justice training • october 5th & 6th

power of style fashion show • october 21



The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg is a 501(c)3 organization, affiliated with the YWCA of the USA and is a United Way Agency. The YWCA is certified under the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Agencies' Standards of Excellence.

ywca of greater harrisburg
1101 market street
harrisburg, pa 17103