

# ywindow

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca

fall 2010  
greater harrisburg

## south allison hill celebrates national night out

On a warm Tuesday evening in early August, the South Allison Hill neighborhood joined with millions of people across North America to celebrate National Night Out. National Night Out is designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and are fighting back.



*(Volunteers donated their time to paint children's faces at The National Night Out event in Allison Hill.)*

This annual event coordinated by the PA Weed and Seed site in Harrisburg, was held in South Allison Hill. A crowd of a couple hundred children and adults gathered to witness a showcase of local talent from after-school and youth programs. Churches, community organizations and businesses provided free food and crafts. Local law enforcement was represented by the Harrisburg Police Department, Dauphin County Adult Probation and the National Guard. The event provided a valuable opportunity

for law enforcement officials to talk to and interact with local residents.

Weed and Seed works to engage government, law enforcement, residents, the faith community, non-profits and businesses. The Weed and Seed team comprised of these community stake holders meets monthly to address community issues. The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg is the lead agency in this collaboration. Building community attachment, commitment and pride is an important part of the work that Weed and Seed is seeking to do. One in two South Allison Hill residents moved into the neighborhood in the last five years and a similar percentage state they want to move to the area in the next three years. Community building events such as National Night Out are a great way to welcome these new residents.

- Jason Rissler, Weed and Seed Coordinator



*(Free food, games and crafts were offered to community residents.)*

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# MESSAGE from the CEO

## mission

The YWCA 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 1.800.654.1211

[www.ywcahbg.org](http://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

Many of you know the YWCA has a proud and compelling history of over 150 years of service, but as I write this column I'm not sure that as many know about the work the YWCA has done in the area of eliminating racism. I thought I would take this opportunity to provide you with a brief history of our efforts and highlight a new and exciting initiative that we have developed with community partners.

First, a look back: in the 1930s the national YWCA encouraged state associations to speak out against lynching, for interracial cooperation, and for the protection of basic civil rights. In 1936, the YWCA hosted the first co-ed intercollegiate, interracial student conference in North Carolina. In that era many cities had two YWCAs -- one with African American membership and one with White membership. Harrisburg had the Ella Frazier Branch and the Harrisburg Branch. In 1946 -- eight years before the US Supreme Court ruling against segregation -- a YWCA charter was established to prohibit segregated branches. In the 1960's, the YWCA's mission included one imperative, which read, "The Association will thrust its collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary."

More recently, YWCAs in Central Pennsylvania have hosted an annual Race Against Racism, a 5K run/walk. The awareness-raising event in Harrisburg features ethnic foods and diverse entertainment. Funds generated by the event are used to support racial justice programming at the YWCA, such as Cultural Competency Trainings.

On Sunday, September 12 at a 9/11 commemoration service held at St. Stephen's Cathedral, the newly established COMMUNITY RESPONDERS NETWORK (CRN) was launched. This initiative represents the hard work and dedication of YWCA of Greater Harrisburg staff, a committed group of community agency and faith-based organization representatives, and concerned citizens. The purpose of the CRN is to provide guidance in dealing with

the immediate impact of incidents of intolerance based on such things as age, gender, sexual orientation, race, creed or cultural heritage.

CRN will respond to injustice or intolerance targeted at an individual or group within the community by:

- Assuring that the police and PA Human Relations Commission are aware of the incident
- Providing support, information and referral of services to the victims(s) of a hate crime or incident of bias.
- Serving as the community's moral voice, reinforcing the common understanding that intolerance is unacceptable.



## holiday giving is underway

As the holiday season fast approaches, it is once again time to kick off the YWCA Holiday Giving Program. Last year, your generous donations enabled us to fulfill the holiday needs and wishes of over 400 women, children and men who benefit from the comprehensive range of programs and services provided by the YWCA, including housing, counseling, employment readiness training, legal services, life-skills classes and homeless veterans' services.

This year we need your help again. There are several ways for you to participate:

- o Adopt an individual or family and purchase items from their personal wish lists. (Each of our clients may specify two needs and one wish.)
- o Purchase gift cards for the following stores: WalMart; Giant; Target; Toys R Us, gas cards or gift cards to local restaurants.
- o Donate your time to help unload and sort gift donations or wrap gifts.

For more information or to join the CRN, please email [info@pacommunityresponders.org](mailto:info@pacommunityresponders.org)

As you can see, we have a rich history of working toward the elimination of racism. The Harrisburg YWCA is dedicated to continuing this work. I hope that you will join us in our efforts to ensure that every member of our community feels safe and valued. Please keep an eye on our website ([www.ywcahbg.org](http://www.ywcahbg.org)) for more information about related events.

- o Start a group in your organization to collectively adopt one man, one woman, one child, or a whole family!

Please consider supporting the Holiday Giving Program and making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Contact Devan at 717-724-2248 for more information or to adopt an individual today.

- Devan Drabik, Resource Development Assistant



# junior board update

Labor Day has come and gone, nights are getting cooler, and leaves are starting to turn – all signs that summer is on its way out and fall is knocking on the door. Looking for a way to get your autumn started right? How about sipping beer near a crackling bonfire? Or enjoying some yummy food while listening to a local musician, all outside in the crisp fall air? If that sounds good to you, the Junior Board of the YWCA hopes you'll join them for a FALL FESTIVAL at Camp Reily.

The Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 2 from 4pm to 7pm. You'll have the opportunity to sample a number of different microbrew beers and enjoy dinner outside. Local musician Nina Scarcia and guests will be playing, and the evening will be topped off with a bonfire.

Support for the Fall Festival is generously provided by Gold Sponsor Bybel Rutledge LLP, as well as Silver Sponsors the Metzler Family Foundation and Summers, McDonnell, Hudock, Guthrie & Skeel, LLP.

The Fall Festival raises funds for the YWCA Greater Harrisburg's Junior Board. The Junior Board dedicates its efforts to programs of the YWCA including Camp Reily, a 27-acre wooded property with a lodge and pool. The camp provides an opportunity for over 160 inner-city children to enjoy a rural camp experience each week during the summer months. If you've never been to Camp Reily, this is a great opportunity to see the wonderful resource the YW provides to local kids.

Tickets to the Fall Festival cost:

- \$35 per person
- \$30 each for 2-3 people
- \$25 each for 4 or more people



You can purchase your tickets online at [www.ywcahbg.org/fallfest.htm](http://www.ywcahbg.org/fallfest.htm) or by sending cash or a check made payable to "YWCA Greater Harrisburg – Fall Festival" to 1101 Market St., Harrisburg, PA 17103. The deadline for ticket purchases is September 24. If you have any questions, call Pamela Rhoads at 717.724.2241.

- Lissa Richards, YWCA Junior Board

# supported employment success

Our new Supported Employment Program has helped over 100 consumers since its inception in February 2010. Supported Employment is an evidenced based program that assists individuals with severe mental health diagnoses to find, get and keep competitive jobs in the community. Of the individuals we have served so far, roughly 30% of them have already secured employment.

One such story involves a man named James. James has struggled with a lengthy criminal record, forty years of drug addiction, has been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS for the past twenty-three years, and other mental health issues throughout his life. Earlier this year he decided to turn his life around by surrounding himself with positive people both personally and professionally. He also expressed an interest in helping others and does so by ministering to homeless residents of Harrisburg, taking them food and water as he is able.

The first thing that I noticed about James was his drive. He understood how his past might affect him but he was determined to land a job. The first time we met we talked about what he wants to do with his life and how he wants to focus on a position where he can use his experience to help other people. We talked about a few options and set out goals for his job search.

About a week after I met James, I got a call from Tri County Association for the Blind, which works with various companies in the community to provide cleaning crews. They were looking for a new crew member for a full time opening and I immediately thought of James. I spoke to him about the opportunity and the next day we met for his interview. Within the hour, James had been offered the job and was asked to start the very next day! As we were leaving the first thing he said was "I've got to call my mom, she's going to be so proud!"

I recently spoke with James and he told me that he loves his job and all of the people he works with are really nice. I asked him what he thinks of the supported employment program;

"It's a wonderful opportunity for anyone to get back into the mainstream of society. It gives a person the chance to adapt to becoming more self sufficient with their medical, emotional, and self esteem needs. The program offers someone who is down and out a second chance. After feeling lost and left out of society, I was able to come to life with your help," James answered.

- Jennifer Gallagher, Supported Employment Specialist



(James applying some elbow grease!)

## human trafficking victim's story

Rose (not her real name) was the victim of a human trafficker from El Salvador. Believing that she was escaping a dangerous situation in her home country and giving her family a fresh start, Rose arrived in Harrisburg, PA in April 2009 to stay with a family "friend". This "friend" took advantage of her illegal status, exploited her lack of language skills, depleted her of financial resources and raped her.

The police referred Rose to the YWCA, where she received immediate safe shelter and crisis counseling. Rose then accepted a place in the YWCA Transitional Housing program where she has resided for the past 11 months. Rose has benefited from regular visits with a therapist and

a psychiatric nurse, helping her to overcome the PTSD, anxiety, depression and fear she has endured as a result of the violent assaults she suffered. She is further empowering herself by studying English; according to her teacher, she has made great strides in her language classes. Determined to give back, Rose also volunteers her free time taking care of an elderly Hispanic lady. She continues her transition to self-sufficiency with the support of her case managers and peers. She is working on achieving legal resident status and has applied for her green card. Her determination and ability to get back on her feet has inspired the YWCA staff and empowered other residents facing similar challenges.

- Magdeli Ramos, Career Coordinator

## 4th annual staff picnic a great success

The dictionary comes in handy when one wants to know the meaning of any given word, and I thought that I would look up picnic and educate myself. The Merriam Webster's Desk Dictionary says that "a picnic is an outing with food usually provided by members of a group and eaten in the open". Our fourth annual picnic was that and much more. Maybe the YWCA should ask Webster if we could expand on the current definition.

It was a beautiful August morning, as I drove up to Camp Reily, hardly a cloud in the sky and temperatures in the low to mid sixties. I managed to be the first one past the swimming pool, and up to the lodge, where the hotdogs and burgers were in need of some thawing, before the cooking team arrived. I was able to enjoy the sights and sounds, for being on the picnic committee as fun as it is, leaves little time for self - reflection, and nature watching. On this day, there were quite a few butterflies in their glorious colors, painting the canvas on a perfect day. Birds were everywhere and I saw a chipmunk running through the woods.

These things are what make the picnic so special - to get away from the office, and have a great day of fun, frivolity,

eating, socializing and even making a new friend or two. This year was no exception, with food that tempted every palate and covered various ethnic cultures represented by staff at the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg. The games were not just funny, they were hysterical, and I thank those brave enough to partake in the silliness that ensued. The V.I.P. staff took the most prizes in the games that were played, and I thought for sure that we would run out of prizes.

All of the winners were very happy, but this year it was more about reuniting with the staff of departments we do not see as often and having a great picnic experience. The pool was filled with the laughter of young and old (er), and we had a few brave souls for the egg toss.

Each year we seem to have more and more fun- and food- and we can show the best of the picnickers that we know how to eat in YWCA Picnic Fashion. Special thanks to all staff who brought food, and kudos to the picnic committee, who began planning this party well in advance. And of course, without all of you who participated, it could not have been such a successful outing.

- Wendy Prescott, Career Coordinator

## with a little help from our Friends

Greetings from the Friends of the YWCA Board, the volunteer auxiliary responsible for assisting the YWCA with fundraising and outreach efforts. Board members oversee a number of well-recognized YWCA fundraising initiatives including the holiday giving program, Mother's Day card campaign, Power of Style Fashion Show and the American Journey event, as well as in-house celebrations for the women and children who call the YWCA home.

It is once again time for our annual fashion show. Please join us for the 6th Power of Style Fashion Show on Thursday, October 21st. This year's event will be held at the West Shore Country Club and will showcase ten women-owned, local boutiques: Maggie Adams, Plum, Higashi, Presence, Leaf of Eve, Creative Elegance, Baby Bug and Me, Tara's Bridal and Underneath it All, and new this year, men's clothing from D. L. Stevick Clothier in New Cumberland. Tickets are \$100 a person and are selling fast. Reserve your seat today by calling 717-724-2248 or contact Devan at ddrabik@ywcahbg.org.

It is already time to start thinking about the Holiday Giving Program. Last year more than 400 women, children and men benefited from the generosity of our community. This year we need your help to make sure every family is matched with a donor. Please consider sponsoring an individual or family for the Holidays. Call 717-724-2248 for more information.

Friends Board members 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 ensure the future of the

mission critical programs and services offered to those in need in our community. You will also be assisting us with many YWCA events including Holiday Giving, Mother's Day Card Campaign, Power of Style Fashion Show, American Journey Event, and several in-house events for the residents of the YWCA. Please consider becoming a Friend to the YWCA.

- Devan Drabik, Resource Development Assistant

### a message to our donors

The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg respects the privacy of our donors and safeguards the confidentiality of all information related to your gifts. If you would like your monetary contribution to be kept anonymous, please let us know.

All monetary gifts are acknowledged with a letter that reflects the tax deductible portion of the donation. The official registration and financial information for YWCA of Greater Harrisburg can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Please consider making a general donation to the YWCA. Every dollar makes a difference!

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

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

## upcoming events

jr. board fallfest • october 2

racial justice training • october 5 & 6

power of style fashion show • october 21

pursuit of justice purse auction • november 30

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](http://www.ywcahbg.org) for more information about upcoming events**

ywca of greater harrisburg  
1101 market street  
harrisburg, pa 17103



*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.*

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