



our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
greater harrisburg

message from the CEO

In 2014 the YWCA Greater Harrisburg celebrates 120 years!

We have come a long way since a group of like-minded church women met to form a Christian outreach organization in 1894.

From our humble beginnings at 710/712 North 3rd Street providing noon rest space and reading rooms in a nine-room house, and our first residence program, renting rooms to working women for \$5 a month, the YWCA has become a force for change; empowering women and transforming the lives of 22,000 individuals each year.



Anniversary Sponsor HIGHMARK

This year we celebrate all those who have made it possible. We celebrate our corporate partners and individual donors; we celebrate the successes of our clients and look forward to highlighting some powerful stories of transformation; and we celebrate the hard work of a dedicated staff.

We cannot thank you enough for your ongoing commitment to this organization. We are making a difference, but for us to continue being a force for change, in this milestone year, please consider increasing your level of support. Visit our [anniversary page](#) to find out more about becoming an anniversary donor.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Pursuit of Justice raises funds for Legal Center

Nearly \$19,500 was raised at the 6th annual Pursuit of Justice Purse Auction held on Dec. 5 at the YWCA.

More than 70 guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music by the Steve & Doug Trio while placing bids during a silent auction of handbags and accessories by such top designers as Rebecca Minkoff, Tori Burch, Michael Kors and Judith Ripka.



Cathy Boyle and Steve Turner served as guest auctioneers during the 6th annual Pursuit of Justice Purse Auction.

Guest auctioneers Steven V. Turner, Esq., and Cathy Boyle, Esq., kept the bidding fast and furious during the live auction of handbags by Bottega Venetta, Marc Jacobs, Rebecca Minkoff and Kate Spade, and also a Neiman Marcus Day of Beauty.

Thank you to the auction's many contributors and sponsors, including Prada Sponsors James and Linda DeAngelo and Carmen and Tonia Finestra, and Chanel Sponsor Claraval & Claraval.

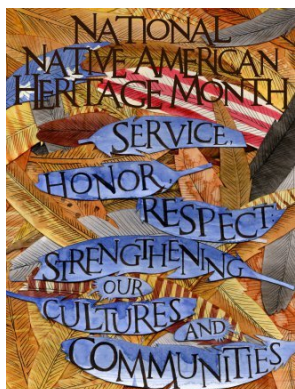
Proceeds from the Pursuit of Justice benefit the YWCA's Legal Center, which provides free legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in cases dealing with protection from abuse, custody, divorce, support and immigration.

In fiscal year 2012-13, the YWCA Legal Center represented 1,621 clients in 1,893 cases. [Click here](#) to read about **"Susan," an immigrant from Africa who, with the help of Legal Center staff, is working to become a legal resident of the U.S.**

racial justice @ the ywca

YWCA celebrates Native American Heritage Month

November was dedicated to Native American Heritage Month, during which we honored the history and cultures of the many different native tribes of North America, with a focus on the principal tribes that are native to Pennsylvania – the Susquehannock, Lenape, Munsee, Iroquois, Erie and Shawnee.



For a potluck on Nov. 20, staff members brought traditional dishes representing each tribe and participated in learning activities, including a true/false quiz that exposed misconceptions about Native American peoples.

To round out the month, the article "The Truth about Thanksgiving" was distributed to staff as that holiday approached.

While taking time for gratitude and spending time with family is at the heart of this celebration, it is important for us to understand the origins of this holiday which are

rooted in the genocide and oppression of Native peoples and are markedly absent from our textbooks, elementary school plays and conventional wisdom. Seeking justice today requires us to acknowledge this shameful part of our history.

YWCA to launch 'Let's Talk: A Conversation about Race'

On Feb. 4, the YWCA Greater Harrisburg will launch a pilot project entitled "Let's Talk: A Conversation about Race." Using a model successfully implemented across the nation, this six-week series of facilitated conversations will help participants 'unpack' the ways that racism manifests itself at the personal, organizational and systemic levels, and develop an action plan to deconstruct racism in their respective spheres of influence.

The YWCA has invited a select group of key leaders in the Harrisburg region to participate in this crucial conversation. These leaders hold positions of influence in local government, business, education, criminal justice, social services and media. Our hope is that these leaders will join us in seeking to create a stronger, more inclusive community in which all people feel safe and valued, have equal access to opportunities and services, and are free from prejudice and discrimination.

For more information

For more information about our racial justice programs, please contact Amanda Arbour at AArbour@ywcahbg.org or 717-234-7931 x3057.

Generous donors make Holiday Giving a success



Hundreds of generous donors made the season bright for YWCA clients by participating in the 2013 Holiday Giving program.

The program, coordinated by the Friends Board, collected more than \$43,500 worth of gifts that helped make the holidays

special for nearly 500 women, children and men who are enrolled in YWCA programs.

YWCA clients identified two needs and one wish and were matched with generous donors from the community. Additionally, donors contributed items from our shelter wish list that included towels, twin bedding, toiletries, cookware, diapers and gift cards.

Friends Board members Toni Simmers and Alison Ballantine served as Holiday Giving co-chairs and were assisted by a large group of volunteers who helped organize, wrap and deliver the gifts. Thank you to everyone who helped make Holiday Giving 2013 a success!



The YWCA Greater Harrisburg is pleased to announce the Tribute to Women of Excellence Class of 2014!

- Sheilah Borne, Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- Barbara Bowker, PSECU
- Evita Vidot-Cotta, Community Action Commission
- Alison Detar, Gannett Fleming
- Danielle N. Prokopchak, Top Flight Media
- Vicki Gesford, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts
- Ann Gormley, PinnacleHealth
- Major Elizabeth A. Griner, The Salvation Army
- Kristin Harper, The Hershey Company
- Carlyn Hughes Chulick, Community Volunteer
- Barbara E. Jackson, Central PA Coalition United to Fight Cancer
- Tracy Jones, Tremendous Life Books
- Heather Z. Kelly, Mette, Evans & Woodside
- Dr. Sybil Knight-Burney, Harrisburg School District
- Giuseppina McCarthy, McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC
- Kathy Pepper, Lower Dauphin Communities That Care
- Robin Perry-Smith, MHA, Penn State Hershey College of Medicine
- Paula Sheaffer, Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- Ann Shields, Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties
- Rebecca Stevenson, Capital BlueCross
- Pearl Sweeting, Community Volunteer
- Rebecca Thompson Haner, Penn National Insurance
- Sharie Young, Highmark Blue Shield

Liz Larabee will receive the 2014 Emerging Leader Award, and Kathryn McCorkle is the 2014 Legacy Award recipient.

Tickets for the Tribute to Women of Excellence awards dinner are now available! Don't wait to reserve your seat for the 25th Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, March 25 at the Hershey Lodge. To reserve a table or an individual seat, please call 724-2248.

YWCA touts success of Workforce Initiative

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg recently held a press conference to share some of the successes of the Highmark Local Workforce Initiative, which in 2011 provided \$785,000 in grants to the YWCA and six other local agencies.

The \$50,000 grant the YWCA received through the Highmark Local Workforce Initiative helped to provide education and employment services to at-risk youth in the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg.

The program has served 154 individuals, 84 of whom remain active in the program. Nine participants have completed their GEDs, and five of them are continuing their education at Harrisburg Area Community College, Empire Beauty School or Central Penn College.

Two individuals have earned Certified Nursing Assistant degrees. Eleven individuals completed the manufacturing certification, 19 received Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification, and 20 obtained forklift certification. Fifty of the program participants are employed full time.



YWCA CEO Tina Nixon, left, with Stephanie Lee, YWCA workforce program participant, and Evan Frazier, Highmark's Senior Vice President of Community Affairs.

Keys to the success of the program were the tenacity of the program participants and the collaboration with the nine other workforce and education providers that comprise the Economic Development Coalition, which is housed at the Center for Employment, Education and Entrepreneurial Development (CEEED) on Derry Street in Allison Hill.

yw snapshots



State Rep. Patty Kim (D-Dauphin) held a Nov. 14 news conference on the steps of the YWCA to announce that she would be introducing a bill in the Pennsylvania House to increase the state's minimum wage to \$9 per hour and then to \$10.10 per hour a year later.



YWCA staffers peel potatoes for the YWCA residents' Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 18. More than 70 residents and their family members enjoyed the meal, which was served by volunteers in the YWCA's Highmark Room.



Fifteen-month-old Jaylon enjoys some turkey and mashed potatoes during the Grace M. Pollock Child Development Center's Nov. 27 Thanksgiving dinner.



YWCA CEO Tina Nixon is interviewed by WGAL-8 about the YWCA's YouthBuild Program. The YWCA was awarded \$900,000 over three years from the U.S. Department of Labor to facilitate the comprehensive youth and community development program.



The Tam Tam Foli West African Drumming Ensemble held a performance to benefit the YWCA on Nov. 23. The event featured drumming, dancing, a silent auction, and a drum raffle and raised more than \$1,600.



The holiday tree in the YWCA's formal lobby is decorated with cards sent in by donors to the YWCA's 2013 Angel Card Campaign, which has so far raised more than \$12,800 to benefit YWCA programs.

Upcoming Events

- MLK Day of Service on Allison Hill - Jan. 20
- Harrisburg Homeless Veterans Stand Down - Feb. 28-March 2

- Cards with Heart Artist's Reception - March 21
- Tribute to Women of Excellence - March 25
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month - April
- Pennsylvania YWCA Legislative Breakfast - April
- GirlTalk4 Youth Summit - April 15
- Race Against Racism - April 26

For more information about our events, please visit www.ywcahbg.org.

Please consider making a donation to the YWCA's 120th Anniversary campaign.

[Click here to donate online.](#)



Celebrating 120 years of eliminating racism and empowering women!

Anniversary Sponsor The Highmark logo consists of the word "HIGHMARK" in a blue, sans-serif font, with a blue shield icon containing a white "H" to its right.



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