

# ywindow

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca

fall 2011  
greater harrisburg

## october is domestic violence awareness month

*It bridges economic differences. It doesn't care what color you are, how much money you earn, or what job you do. Read on to find out what costs our economy \$5.8 billion a year.*

One in four women in the United States has experienced domestic violence at some point in her lifetime (CDC & NIJ, 2000). This violence is characterized by a pattern of controlling and manipulative behavior, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and financial abuse. One Pennsylvania woman dies every 5 days as a result of domestic violence.

Think about those statistics for a second. Think about the enormous cost - to our families, our children, our communities.

According to research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the financial costs of domestic violence exceed \$5.8 billion each year, including nearly \$4.1 billion in medical and mental health care services. An additional \$1.8 billion is lost through indirect costs such as lost wages and reduced productivity, as abused women

lose an estimated 8 million days of paid work annually (CDC, 2003; NRCDV, 2011).

The current state of our national economy also affects domestic violence

and options available to victims. While poverty, unemployment, and economic recession do not cause domestic violence, they can increase the severity and frequency of abuse. Economic hardship can also reduce a victim's ability to escape a violent relationship, by exacerbating difficulties in finding a job, keeping a job, and establishing financial independence and economic security. Across the country, domestic violence centers are reporting an increased demand for shelter and other emergency services, while at the same time many are seeing decreases in their program funding (NRCDV, 2011).

This year, the YWCA will host multiple events throughout Dauphin County to raise awareness of domestic violence in our community. October's events include a very special presentation

by Mildred Muhammad – domestic violence survivor and ex-wife of the convicted, now executed DC Sniper – who will share her incredible story of survival at the Forum on Saturday, October 15th and a candlelight vigil on the steps of the capitol on October 26th.

While the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg seeks to increase awareness and prevent domestic violence year-round, the month of October helps to focus national attention on this critical issue while we join with communities throughout the country in remembering those who have died as a result of domestic violence, honoring those who survived, and working together to prevent domestic violence and to

provide an effective and coordinated response when it occurs.



For information on all the events taking place throughout October, visit [www.ywcahbg.org](http://www.ywcahbg.org)

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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 800.654.1211

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

## programs and services

Childhood Programs

Housing & Homelessness Services

Violence Intervention & Prevention

Legal and Visitation Services

Community Programs

We already build a foundation for healthy relationships and self-esteem with extensive Prevention Education programs in schools and we already host a one-day forum for girls through our GirlTalk youth summit.

This year we will be relaunching TechGyrls. This is a 14-week after-school program, for school-aged girls, designed to broaden girls' knowledge and interest in technology fields, and help them develop the confidence to use technology tools, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The combined goal of these initiatives is to provide girls with the skills, mental strength and vision for a productive future, to prevent them arriving at the YWCA in crisis, down the line. Springing off the platform established with these programs, we intend to develop a comprehensive Girls Empowerment Program.

Facing the future also means responding to the changing needs of our community with the services we provide. Helping our children become ready for Kindergarten; helping our veterans find jobs; empowering women to make healthy choices in relationships and life; providing support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; helping women and men remove the obstacles to stable, secure, sustainable housing and employment.

These remain our priorities and we couldn't achieve any of those things without you. To our donors, our board members and volunteers, **thank you** for your continued trust and belief in us, and in our ability to do the work we do.

**Thank you** for being active, engaged members of this community.  
And **thank you** for your support of our clients and this agency.

# MESSAGE

## from the CEO

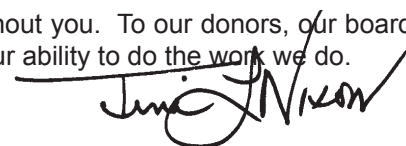
Facing the Future was the theme for our annual meeting this year. Despite the threat of budget cuts, the YWCA retained level funding for most of its programs and services. However, demand for our services continued to increase with domestic violence and YW Works employment readiness seeing the sharpest increases.

The number of children seen by our advocates increased by 74% this year. A shocking and very REAL statistic. These children are the future of our community but in order for them to face their future, they need to be healed. They need opportunities, they need real role models, and they need the tools to succeed. We want to equip them for the future that they deserve and we want them to see a future filled with possibilities.

The range of services we provide continues to diversify. Demands on our staff continue to grow. Many of them have seen their roles and responsibilities expanded, just so that we can continue to maintain our reputation of providing high quality, comprehensive services to a community in great need.

### So what does facing the future mean for us?

Well, it means focusing even more on programs for young women. We already address some of the common pitfalls and issues faced by adolescent girls via our Club Ophelia with proven success.



## fall activities benefit camp...

The lazy days of summer haven't been so lazy for the members of the YWCA Junior Board. Our activity planning has continued to keep us busy throughout the summer months and into the fall. As this newsletter goes to print, the Junior Board is ramping up for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Fall Fest at Camp Reily. Last year's inaugural event was a great success, and we're very excited to host the event again. Fall Fest is a fundraiser that focuses on a beer tasting, with guests having the opportunity to sample a number of different microbrew beers and cider – many of which are seasonal for fall. Local musicians provide entertainment and there is plenty of yummy food to accompany the beer. Fall Fest is a great opportunity to showcase Camp Reily, the YWCA's 27-acre wooded property that provides over 160 inner-city children an opportunity to enjoy a rural camp experience each week during the summer months. We would like to thank our Gold Sponsors for this year's event: KBM Industries, Inc., and Saul Ewing, LLP, as well as our Silver sponsors: Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz; Harsco; James Smith Diettrick & Connelly and the Pennsylvania Automotive Association.

In addition to hosting fundraising events, the Junior Board continues to look for other ways to be involved at the YW. We're excited about a new series of activity nights that we are hosting for the children of residents staying

at the YWCA. On August 9, we held a Kids Game Night at the YW. Our volunteers enjoyed romping around with the toddlers as well as coloring and playing card games with the older children (and some mothers!). Coming up this November, we've planned a reading night where volunteers will read stories with the children. The Junior Board received a generous donation of books from the Junior League of Harrisburg and will be giving each child that attends a book to take with them. And we're already planning similar events for next year – in addition to more game and reading nights, we're hoping to do a cooking night where we work with the kids to prepare a simple but yummy meal. If you think you'd like to help with any of the activity nights, email [tiyenne\\_greene@yahoo.com](mailto:tiyenne_greene@yahoo.com) to be added to our volunteer list.

The Junior Board is in the midst of choosing new board members for next year. A number of qualified young woman have applied and we're excited to welcome new faces to our board for 2012.

### join the junior board

To make an impact on a local child's life or for more information about the Junior Board, contact Board President Emily Bensinger at [ehbensinger@gmail.com](mailto:ehbensinger@gmail.com).



Some of our enthusiastic young campers enjoying the reopened pool and outdoor facilities at Camp Reily.



## “You are all stakeholders...”

*Tina Nixon, Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the contributions and ongoing support of the YWCA's board members, volunteers, donors and staff, who gathered in the Highmark Room on September 20, 2011 for the annual meeting.*



Tina gave an emotional thank you to outgoing board members and 2-term Board President Valerie Corbin Ketchen, who becomes Immediate Past President, before introducing Dr. Kim Phipps, who succeeds Valerie.

Using the opportunity to highlight some of the YWCA's achievements over the past year and lay out plans for the future, Tina emphasized the YWCA's commitment to continue meeting the diverse needs of our community by providing comprehensive services. She also laid out plans to build on the current success of the Club Ophelia program and GirlTalk youth summit and establish a comprehensive Girls Empowerment Program.



During the evening, the YWCA acknowledged the outstanding contributions of local community leaders who have impacted the organization and its clients with the presentation of community service awards.



Jill Ruhl was honored for her contributions to Children's Activities. Ms. Ruhl has coordinated the Club Ophelia program at Melrose Elementary since it began 2 years ago.

Recognized for his work highlighting the diversity of our community, promoting inclusion, and battling poverty, Dr.

Hector Richard Ortiz received the Ella Frazier Award.

For their ongoing sponsorship of the YWCA Mother's Day Card Campaign, Partner's in Women's Healthcare received the President's Award. Mother's Day cards are sold for approximately the cost of a night of shelter - \$10 each, and every penny of that money, thanks to their support, goes towards housing homeless women and children. Their ongoing commitment to this campaign translates literally into several thousand nights of safe shelter for many hundreds of women and children.

A new award was bestowed this year in the name of long-term board member Carole Forker Gibbons. To honor years of steadfast support, Bill Tull on behalf of the Harley Owners Group and The Ladies of Harley accepted the award. They have delivered baskets of candy and a trailer full of shelter supplies around Easter in a convoy of Harleys, to the excited children at the YWCA for well over a decade.

Also honored, for their advocacy work were Diane Moyer from the PA Coalition Against Rape and Nicole Lindemyer from the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Ms. Moyer's work has resulted in increased penalties for drug induced rape, extended the civil statute of limitations for child victims of sexual abuse, created a standardized rape kit for the Commonwealth and created a statewide plan for the community supervision and management of sex offenders.

Ms. Lindemyer analyzes and drafts legislation, lobbies the legislature, encourages civic engagement in the political process, and more. The impact of their work on all women cannot be underestimated.

Tina concluded the meeting with an impassioned thank you. *“You are all stakeholders in our local community and in this organization. Your interest in and commitment to both, mean a great deal to me personally, and to our community clients, who ultimately benefit from your ongoing support and commitment.”*

*"when the person you love becomes the one you fear you are scared to the core of your being"* Scared Silent: The Mildred Muhammad Story

listen and be inspired as she shares  
her powerful story of survival...

**MILDRED D. MUHAMMAD**

domestic violence survivor, author, victims'  
advocate and ex-wife of the convicted, now  
executed DC Sniper, John Allen Muhammad.

presented by

**YWCA OF GREATER HARRISBURG**

**SATURDAY | the forum**  
**october 15 | 2:00PM**

in partnership with Victim/Witness Assistance Program



eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**



For tickets call Devan at 724-2248.

**the power to style**  
**2011**

THURSDAY | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM | WEST SHORE  
OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> | 12:30 FASHION SHOW | COUNTRY CLUB

**The Only Fashion Show To  
Exclusively Feature Local  
Women-Owned Boutiques!**

TICKETS \$100 | PROCEEDS BENEFIT YWCA  
TABLES OF 10 | VIOLENCE INTERVENTION &  
AVAILABLE | PREVENTION PROGRAMS

## bringing the holiday spirit to those in need

The holiday countdown has clearly begun. While for many this is a time of joy and thanksgiving, for others this season is a source of anxiety, disappointment, shame and insecurity. Many of the families enrolled in our programs and services are unable to afford gifts for their loved ones and are left wondering how they will provide even the basics for their family. While we are deciding which toys and electronics to buy for our children, among the needs and wishes on our clients' lists are items such as a winter coat, diapers, boots, bedding, hats and gloves.

The YWCA Holiday Giving Program is designed to provide individuals and families currently enrolled in YWCA housing, or employment readiness programs with a helping hand during this festive season. These families are working hard with their case managers to remove the obstacles to stable, sustainable employment and permanent housing.

Last year nearly 400 women, children and men were "adopted" for the Holidays! This year we need your help again. There are several ways to get involved:

1. Adopt an individual or family and purchase items from their personal wish lists.  
*(Each of our clients may specify 2 needs and 1 wish for a goal of three gifts per person)*
2. Start a group in your organization or community to collectively adopt one woman, one child, one man, or a whole family.
3. Purchase gift cards to WalMart, Giant, Target or a local restaurant.
4. Donate your time to help unload and sort gift donations or wrap gifts.

You can make a difference in the lives of women, children and men in our community who are working to get their lives back on track. Join the YWCA Holiday Giving Program today by calling Devan at 717-724-2248.



volunteers and happy children all benefitting from the holiday giving experience.

### 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! Questions? Please call Pamela at 724-2241.

# with a little help from **our friends**

As we head into fall, the Friends Board is pleased to recognize our outgoing officers: President Julie Sullivan, Vice President Debra Yates and Treasurer Erin Hoynes. Through your leadership in serving as officers on the Friend's Board, you have demonstrated your commitment to the YWCA and have paved the way for our continued success in the coming year. Thank you!

Congratulations to our new officers, President Debra Yates, Vice President Cheryl Sakalosky and Treasurer Michelle Piscioneri. We also welcome new board members Kara Arnold, Amy Gambill, and Debbie Tramontin.

## **new president outlines goals**



It seems appropriate, at this time, to introduce you to the new President of the Friend's Board, Debra Yates. Deb has been a member of the friend's board for several years and has served as Past Chair of the YWCA Power of Style Fashion Show as well as Past Chair of the YWCA Holiday Giving Campaign. Deb has also contributed numerous volunteer hours towards making many other events successful.

In addition to her frequent volunteer and philanthropic activities, Deb is also a full-time licensed aesthetician, medical skin care specialist, and practice administrator for Skin Rejuvenation & Laser Center, Plastic Surgery Center, Ltd in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

Deb has been a national speaker at various plastic surgery conferences on medical skin care, services and practice management. She was honored as American Business Women Association's Top Ten Business Women in 2010 and is Past President of American Business Women

Association, Camp Hill Chapter. She has been voted 2009, 2010 and 2011 Harrisburg Magazine Simply the Best for Medical Spa and skin care services and was honored as 2007 Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business.

Being a successful business owner, however, is only part of Deb's commitment to the community. She is a Past-President and current newsletter editor for the Society of Plastic Surgical Skin Care Specialists, a committee member of [www.projectbeauty.com](http://www.projectbeauty.com) and past advisory board member to New Beauty Magazine.

Debra is a volunteer and program facilitator for the Look Good...Feel Better program through the American Cancer Society and a volunteer for the Phoenix Society, World Burn Congress to help burn survivors through "Creative Cosmetics and Color Analysis".

Deb's hobbies include spending time with her husband, Dr. James Yates, as well as family and friends. She enjoys trying new restaurants, wine and traveling. In her "spare time", Deb enjoys curling up with a good book on her Kindle with her cat "Teddy Bear" by her side or working on a new knitting project.

**upcoming events**

Mildred Muhammad at the Forum • October 15th  
Power of Style Fashion Show at the WSCC • October 20th  
Candlight Vigil on the Capitol steps • October 26th  
Pursuit of Justice at the YW • December 1st

**thank you to all the sponsors of the rain-delayed  
race against racism**

Platinum	John Crain Kunkel Foundation; WGAL 8; PSECU
Gold	Tyco Electronics; Target; The Hershey Co.; Penn State Harrisburg
Silver	Sodexo; Messiah College; UPS
Bronze	PAA; Humana MarketPoint; Hershey Entertainment & Resorts; Giant Food Stores; Deloitte Consulting LLP
Community	K&L Gates LLP; CBHNP; Susquehanna Bank;

visit [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.*