

YWCA Greater Harrisburg

April 2016 Newsletter

What's Inside:

Department Spotlight: Youth Development

Page 2

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Page 3

Upcoming Events

Page 4

Past Events

Page 6

Message from the CEO

Considering the YWCA Greater Harrisburg's location in the heart of Pennsylvania's capital city, the importance of **legislative advocacy** is not lost on us. The Capitol building has been abuzz with critically important policy discussions that would impact the crux of our mission – **eliminating racism and empowering women**.

One example of such policy is [House Bill 1948](#), a proposal that would ban abortions outside of rare medical urgencies for the mother after 20 weeks. The legislation even excludes cases of rape and incest. The bill would also abolish the practice of dilation and evacuation, a practice that medical experts say is one of the safest ways to perform an abortion in the second trimester. HB 1948 flies in the face of empowering women and fails to take into account that **each and every woman has a unique circumstance and health need**.

On a positive note, in early March, Governor Wolf signed an [executive order](#) to raise the minimum wage to \$10.15 for all employees working under the Governor's jurisdiction. The Governor also called on the General Assembly to raise the wage statewide. It's our belief that **no one who is working should be living in poverty**; however, a working mother who earns the current \$7.25 an hour minimum wage will be unable to rise above. Women represent nearly **two-thirds** of minimum wage earners, which is a troubling statistic and one that we strive to improve here at the YWCA Greater Harrisburg.

Governor Wolf also recently signed two [executive orders](#) prohibiting any agency under his jurisdiction from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity. One executive order pertains to commonwealth employees and the other to the commonwealth grants and procurement process. The LGBT community experiences **higher rates of sexual assault** than individuals who identify as heterosexual. Addressing the issues of inequality and discrimination faced by this community is taking a step towards **reducing the amount of unjust violence** experienced by the LGBT community.

While we're proud of the efforts being made in the Commonwealth to improve the quality of life for women in our community, we recognize that much more needs done. **The YWCA Greater Harrisburg stands committed to working on behalf of the women and children that we serve.**



Mary Quinn, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Quinn".

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Greater Harrisburg

Department Spotlight:

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The YWCA Child Development Center, which is a **STARS 3** childcare facility, offers families a safe, high-quality, curriculum based program so they can feel reassured when their little ones are in our care.

Each year, we look forward to the Spring so we can spend time outside enjoying the warm weather. Recently, our K4 classroom released the **butterflies** that they watched grow from caterpillars in their butterfly garden.

Preschool also welcomed its newest classmates, two **Guinea pigs** named Cinnamon and Rosie.

The Older Toddlers recently participated in an All About Me lesson and created a **"Selfie" board** where they each posted their own profile. All of our classrooms have been engaging in activities like gardening, taste testing and colorful spring art.

Every other Thursday, the kids get a chance to move, dance, jump and play on the **Jumpin Jitney bus**. Additionally, the school age program has a volunteer reading specialist that works with students twice a week, and every Wednesday we host a retired teacher to provide the kids with a science themed lesson.



Youth Development Director Chantal Fae Rukundo Karaara and teacher Shakena Tate with Youth Development students

For more information on our Child Development Center, please contact Andrea Bowes at (717) 234-7931 ext. 3027 or abowes@ywcahbg.org.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is celebrating its 15th anniversary with the theme **“Prevention is Possible.”** Sexual violence occurs in every community. Nearly **1 in 5 women** and **1 in 71 men** have experienced rape or attempted rape at some point in their lifetime. In addition, **1 in 4 girls** and **1 in 6 boys** will be victims of sexual assault. Prevention is possible, but only if we all work together.

The YWCA's Violence Intervention and Prevention Program provides **comprehensive, free services** to victims of sexual assault and their non-offending loved ones, including: a 24-hour crisis hotline, 30-day emergency shelter, relocation assistance, counseling, medical and legal accompaniments, emergency protection from abuse orders, and civil legal services for victims. In addition, our **Prevention Education** team provides programs and trainings to youth, young adults, and professionals in the community on topics such as sexual harassment, healthy relationships, body rights, and bystander intervention.

By promoting **healthy relationships and safe behaviors**, we can ensure that every person is treated equally and with respect. Each person needs to do their part to make prevention possible. Start by modeling healthy relationships and behaviors at home, work, and in the community, and intervene to stop harmful behavior. It's also important to **believe and assist** survivors. To learn more about sexual assault, how to respond to survivors, and our sexual assault services, contact the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program at **1-800-654-1211**.

YWCA Completes Third Annual "Let's Talk" Series

On April 12 the YWCA completed its third annual [“Let's Talk: A Conversation about Race”](#) cohort for Regional Leaders. This **dialogue-to-change process** utilizes six facilitated discussions to unpack how racism manifests itself, and to provide tools for **deconstructing racism**.

The YWCA commends the **10 regional leaders** who, along with YWCA CEO Mary Quinn, completed the 6-week program. Having honest conversations about race and racism is challenging but absolutely critical to our mission of “eliminating racism” – and this group rose to the task.

In recognition of the completion of this Regional Leaders Cohort, you are invited to join us for a [closing reception](#) to learn more about the “Let's Talk” program and hear reflections from the cohort. Speakers will include **CEO Mary Quinn**, facilitators **Pat Gadsden and Tara Leo Auchey**, and several of the participants. The reception is **free and open to the public**, and a light lunch will be served. [Please RSVP](#) by May 2nd.



The 2016 'Let's Talk' Regional Leaders Cohort discusses race and racism

Upcoming Events

12th Annual Race Against Racism

April 30, 7:30 AM

We are pleased to host the 12th Annual Race Against Racism, a **5k run/walk** to promote **awareness of racism and injustice** in our community. The event is taking place on **Saturday, April 30**, and raises vital funds to support the YWCA's racial justice programs.

This year we are excited to unveil a **brand-new route** that is built along Harrisburg's 6th and 7th Street corridors and will start and end at **Soldier's Grove**. It follows the African-American Heritage Trail developed by the Historic Harrisburg Association, highlighting **30 locations significant to African-American history in Harrisburg**.



YWCA staff members at the 10th annual Race Against Racism

Following the Race will be a **Humanity Festival** featuring culturally diverse entertainers, food, vendors and fun activities for children of all ages.

Walk up registration will be available on the day of the Race starting at **7:30 a.m.**, the Kids Fun Run will begin at **9:00 a.m.** and the 5k will begin at **9:30 a.m.**

For more information, check out our [FAQ page](#) or contact Special Events Coordinator, Erin O'Dea at 717-234-7931 ext. 3056 or odea@ywcahbg.org.

Night of UnWINEding

May 2, 5:30 PM

Join the [YWCA Junior Board](#) from 5:30-8 p.m. on **Monday, May 2** for a *Night of UnWINEding* sponsored by [Saul Ewing LLP](#)!

The event, hosted by [Spring Gate Vineyard](#), will feature a **themed gift basket silent auction** and an exclusive premier of Spring Gate Vineyard's **Minty Mojito Wine!** Proceeds will benefit the [YWCA's Camp Reily](#), an authentic, outdoor summer day camp experience for children ages 6 through 12.



Tickets are **\$20** online in advance and **\$25** at the door. All registrants will be entered to win a **free week of camp** at Camp Reily!

Click [here](#) to register today!

Camp Reily Open House

May 19, 5:30 PM

The YWCA has introduced some exciting new changes to its [Camp Reily summer camp program](#) and brand!

Please join us out in the sunshine, under the trees on **Thursday, May 19 at 5:30 PM** for free camp food and refreshments, activities for the kids, guided tours, information on summer camp and live entertainment by [Shawan And The Wonton](#).

We'll be taking [summer camp registrations](#), and Camp Reily **t-shirts** will be available for purchase at \$15 for one adult t-shirt, \$25 for two adult t-shirts and \$10 for one children's t-shirt. Children who register for summer camp at the Open House will receive a free t-shirt!

Come learn more about the new and improved summer camp experience for 2016! [RSVP today!](#)



About Camp Reily

The YWCA has been holding its **annual summer day camp** at Camp Reily for almost **90 years**. Campers are offered an **authentic** camp experience by a professional staff for an **affordable** price, with the average day consisting of camp songs, field sports, swimming, arts and crafts and so much more.

The YWCA has been lucky enough to make much needed **improvements to our camp facility** over the past few years due to generous grant funding. Camp Reily now has an enormous sports field, updated restrooms and a paved road to make your trip to camp more comfortable.

Along with great facility updates, exciting changes have been made to the summer camp program as well! This year, we are rolling out an **all new camp format** that includes guest speakers and weekly field trips that correspond with **new weekly themes!** Parents may now also **select the individual weeks** they would like to register for, without the commitment of signing up for an entire summer. Finally, registering for Camp Reily is now easier than ever before, with the registration process **entirely online.**

Summer camp is available for **ages 6 (completed kindergarten) through 12 years old.** Please visit www.ywcahbg.org/campreily to view a list of [summer camp FAQs](#), check out the fun weekly themes and register online today!



Past Events



Harrisburg School District middle and high school students at GirlTalk

Girl Talk Youth Summit

The 6th Annual GirlTalk Youth Summit took place on March 9 and hosted **more than 200 students** at the Harrisburg Hilton. The GirlTalk Youth Summit is a one day conference planned by a group of high school students through a partnership between the YWCA and the **Harrisburg School District**. This year, middle and high school students were invited to participate in **workshop sessions** that featured topics such as reproductive health and wellness, college tips, healthy relationships, beauty on a budget and financial literacy.

The 2016 sponsors included [PinnacleHealth System](#), Harrisburg Hilton, BELCO Community Credit Union, Highmark, Harrisburg Kiwanis Youth Foundation and Keystone Contracting, Inc.

Tribute to Women of Excellence

On March 16, the YWCA, Signature sponsor [Highmark Blue Shield](#) and nearly **500** community members had the pleasure of honoring **34 extraordinary women** at the 27th annual Tribute to Women of Excellence (TWE) awards ceremony.

The Carolyne L. Smith Legacy Award winner, **Dr. Carol Corlett Howard**, gave an incredibly moving speech about effecting community change. Emerging Leader, **Alison Bach**, presented a lively Dr. Seuss-style speech paying homage to the incredible women who have come before her.



The Tribute to Women of Excellence Class of 2016

Thanks to these amazing women, our community supporters and Visionary sponsors PPO&S, the Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Hershey Entertainment & Resorts; Leader sponsors Capital BlueCross, PSECU, Giant, Pennsylvania National Insurance, M&T Bank, PinnacleHealth, The Hershey Company and Rite Aid Corporation and Advocate sponsors Saul Ewing LLP, McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC and Boyer and Ritter, we raised **\$55,000** that will benefit our programs for women!



Participants at the April Diversity Forum

Diversity Forum

On March 17, it was fitting that the Hadee Mosque hosted the Diversity Forum on **Welcoming Immigrants**, as we closed out our series on **Standing With Our Neighbors**. The slate of speakers shared from both their professional expertise and their personal experiences, addressing the immigration process in the U.S., specific barriers that immigrants face, and how we can take action to support immigrants in our community.

Our next series, graciously hosted by Central Penn College, focuses on **criminal justice** and kicked off on April 21. The speakers provided attendees with a social context on why people of color, poor people and other marginalized communities enter the criminal justice system at much higher rates, and urged us to advocate for systemic changes. We look forward to continuing the conversation at the next Forum on **May 19!**

Cards with Heart Artist's Reception

On April 1, the YWCA kicked off the sale of our 2016 Cards with Heart during the Artist's Reception at The Millworks. Approximately **120 guests** enjoyed appetizers, drinks and good company at the reception.

This year's **Cards with Heart** artist **Carol Scott** attended the reception with her friends and family and generously donated her artwork for the silent auction. An anonymous donor matched the \$800 winning bid to bring the total sale price to **\$1,600!** A donated framed picture featuring 13 years of past Cards with Heart was also auctioned.



Staff member Kayla Krebs and Friends Board member Jennifer Collins selling Cards with Heart at the Artist's Reception

Through card sales and the two silent auction pieces, the YWCA raised just under **\$3,000** for our [Housing and Homelessness Services Program!](#) We'd like to give special thanks to our Signature Sponsor, [Partners in Women's Healthcare](#); our Reception Sponsors, [Harrisburg Gastroenterology](#) and [The Millworks](#); and our Supporting Sponsors: B.R.P. Entertainment; Full Circle Vitality Group; Hello Gorgeous Consignment Boutique; Hershey's Ice Cream; Dr. Rina Singh; Sun Motor Cars; and Cheryl Grandon, UMS Banking.

Cards with Heart is a YWCA Greater Harrisburg annual campaign, where a painting by a **local female artist** is chosen as the front of a greeting card that is available for purchase at multiple community locations. Cards are \$5 each and all proceeds benefit the YWCA's **Emergency Shelter** for women and children who are homeless or escaping abuse.

To purchase Cards with Heart online or view a list of local outlets that sell Cards with Heart, please visit www.ywcahbg.org/cardswithheart.

