

# YWCA Greater Harrisburg December 2015 Newsletter

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## Message from the CEO

This time of year, **many of us come together with family and friends**, sharing food and celebrating holidays – be it Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas or the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Whatever our tradition, many of us will spend time around dinner tables with those close to us sharing special dishes, laughter and love.

However, **the holidays are not a joyful time for everyone**. For some, this season triggers loss, heartache and loneliness. For some, it brings the stress of finding money to buy Christmas presents or put food on the table. For some, in our own communities and abroad, it is a painful reminder that they have no home. **This is a reality for many of the clients we serve** – whether they are fleeing domestic violence, seeking shelter from homelessness, or struggling with mental health or addictions.

At the YWCA, **we seek to not only provide safe shelter, but also a sense of care and community**. My message for those struggling this season is to know that **the staff at the YWCA would like to share our food, blankets, coats and the warmth of our welcome**. We will gladly bare your burdens – exchanging empty hearts and lives with the generosity of all we have to offer. **You are welcome in our YW home**. We cannot erase all the tragedy or injustice, but we can mend and support you through a **continuum of care**.

The holidays are also a time of reflection of our values and desires for the New Year. As I reflect on the last few months, I'm overwhelmed by the **goodness of others**. My message to board members, volunteers and generous donors is; **THANK YOU!** Without you, we would never be able to bring peace, joy and safety to others lives. My desire for the New Year is that we can continue in the **spirit of giving** and continue to **build on the foundation of acceptance and inclusiveness for all people**.



Mary Quinn, CEO

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

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

greater harrisburg

# Winter Overnight Shelter Program



Our Winter Overnight Shelter program is an **unfunded, lifesaving service** offered by the YWCA to homeless women who either cannot or will not utilize existing homeless programs during the cold winter months. It will run from **Friday, January 1, 2016 through Thursday, March 31, 2016**. Guests may enter the YWCA lobby from **8-9:30 PM**, though any guest who needs shelter after 9:30 PM may be escorted by police. They will be offered supplies to **take a shower and spend the night**. Blankets, pillows, towels and hygiene packets will be provided for each guest, and light snacks will be offered when available. Guests must leave the YWCA by **7 AM** the following morning, though guest exit time may be extended due to extreme weather conditions.

The YWCA will be **accepting donations** during the months that we offer the program. For a list of needs and additional details, please visit <http://www.ywcahbg.org/winter-overnight-shelter> or contact **Julie Hoskins, Housing and Homelessness Services Director**, at (717) 234-7931 ext. 3052 or at [jhoskins@ywcahbg.org](mailto:jhoskins@ywcahbg.org).

## Diversity Forum Brings Community Together

Since its re-launch under YWCA leadership in September, each month the Diversity Forum has brought together **over 80 people** from non-profits, businesses, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, government and the local community to **foster inclusive, action-oriented communities** through educational forums that promote and facilitate dialogue, best practices and solutions.



This fall, our focus has been on **how different forms of violence impact diverse communities**, so we have engaged in conversations on Domestic Violence, Community Violence - and **on December 17th we'll be talking about Structural Violence**.

The Diversity Forum is **free and open to the public**, so if you'd like to join us, please RSVP at [www.ywcahbg.org/events](http://www.ywcahbg.org/events) - and mark your calendar for the **third Thursday of every month at 8:00 AM!**

# Past YWCA Events



## Residents' Thanksgiving Dinner

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg had another opportunity to serve our annual “delicious” Thanksgiving meal to **over 80 residents**, due to the **generosity of staff, community donors and local volunteers**.

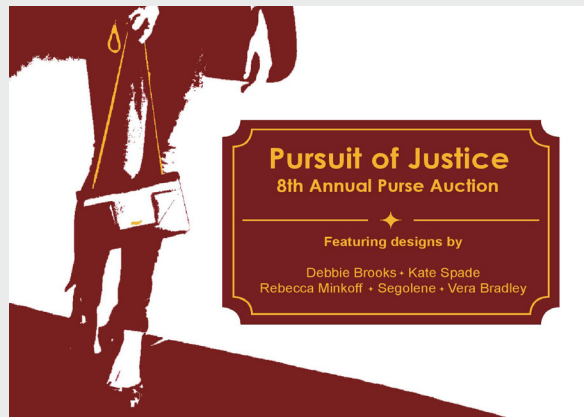
The event consisted of **great food, lots of great conversation** and ended with a **musical selection by one of our residents**. What a great way to begin the Holiday Season!

## The Pursuit of Justice Purse Auction

The Pursuit of Justice Purse Auction was a great success this year! We raised nearly **\$27,000** for our **Domestic Violence Legal Clinic** and a few of our very own board members walked away with some true handheld gems.

Thank you to all who attended, bade on and bought the beautiful purses on display, and donated to the cause! Because of you and our Signature sponsor, **the Grace Pollock Trust**, our Prada sponsors, **Jim and Linda DeAngelo and Carmen and Tonia Finestra** and our Chanel sponsors, **DCBA Family Law Section and Claraval & Claraval**, the really night took off!

We hope to see you again next year!



## Holiday Giving



Every year, the YWCA Greater Harrisburg partners with local individuals and organizations to **fill our clients' holiday wish lists**. This year, we were able to provide gifts for **over 450 individuals and families** in South Central PA who may not have otherwise been able to afford gifts for themselves or their children.

Thank you to all of the **generous individuals and groups who adopted a wish list(s), volunteered to wrap gifts or donated general items** toward this year's Holiday Giving! We wouldn't be able to bring Christmas to these individuals without you.



# Congratulations to Karen Snider!

The YWCA would like to send a special congratulations to Karen F. Snider for being recognized by the **United Way of the Capital Region's Tocqueville Society** with the **2015 Humanitarian Award!** This prestigious award honors Karen for her **lifelong commitment to changing lives and improving our community.**

Karen is an inspirational leader and a wonderful **member of the YWCA's Association Board.** We wish Karen the best and congratulate her for this recognition!



## Wishing the Best to Pamela Rhoads



Farewell to Pamela Rhoads, Vice President of Development and Donor Relations. **Thank you for your years of service - we wish you all the best!**

**27<sup>th</sup>**  
annual

## Tribute to Women of **EXCELLENCE**

**Wednesday, March 16**  
Hershey Lodge

**Tickets Are  
Available!**



To reserve your seat  
or table of 10, please  
contact Erin O'Dea at  
717.234.7931 or  
[eodea@ywcahbg.org](mailto:eodea@ywcahbg.org).