



our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
greater harrisburg

YWCA launches new Pillar Society initiative

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg has been providing services to improve the lives of women, children and families in Harrisburg for 120 years. Looking forward to our Quasiquicentennial (125th) Anniversary in 2019, we are taking this opportunity to launch a new initiative, **The Pillar Society**, to secure significant *unrestricted* funds in support of YWCA services, including child enrichment programs, safe shelter, domestic and sexual assault support services, employment readiness and more.



We invite you to join the distinguished group of individuals who initiated **The Pillar Society** by committing to a gift of \$1,000 a year for the next five (2015-2019) years, *in addition* to your annual contribution to the YWCA Greater Harrisburg. Your annual gift is appreciated *and essential*, but membership in The Pillar Society will

enable you to provide special support beyond your annual donation.

In appreciation of your trust and significant investment, the YWCA pledges to use your gift to maximize the effectiveness and sustainability of the programs and services we provide. For more information about **The Pillar Society** and its membership benefits, please call Pamela at 717-724-2241.



racial justice @ the ywca

YWCA, CRN partner to bring police training to the region

For the past six months, the YWCA and the Community Responders Network (CRN) have been working closely with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Harrisburg, Susquehanna and Swatara police departments to craft a two-day law enforcement training, "To Protect and Serve in the 21st Century: Building Bridges with Diverse Communities," which will bring together local and national experts to provide officers with the knowledge and skills to increase cultural competency, reduce racial profiling, and cultivate better police-community relationships. All regional law enforcement agencies will be invited to participate in this training, which will be offered three times in early 2015.



YWCA to host book launch, lecture

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, the YWCA will present "Unicorn in Captivity: Poetry & Perspectives on Race in Harrisburg," a book launch and lecture featuring local author Marian Cannon Dornell, whose book of poetry, "Unicorn in Captivity," will be published Feb. 7 by Finishing Line Press. Through masterful weaving of poetry, stories and narrative, Dornell provides a rare glimpse into the history of race in Harrisburg. The program will be held at 5:30 p.m in the YWCA's

Highmark Room. To attend, please RSVP to Amanda Arbour at aarbour@ywcahbg.org or 717-234-7931 x3057.

MLK Day of Service on Allison Hill

The YWCA is pleased to partner again with a coalition of organizations on Allison Hill for a collaborative MLK Day of Service. On Monday, Jan. 19, hundreds of volunteers will join us in completing a variety of projects to beautify and strengthen the neighborhood – from painting and garbage removal to cleaning out apartments and assisting residents with household chores. To make your day off a "day on," please register at

www.centralpamlkday.org



Racial Justice Book Club convening this month

The YWCA has launched a new Racial Justice Book Club as an opportunity for YWCA staff and community members to read and discuss thought-provoking books. Spearheaded by Meghan Farrell, an active member of the Racial Justice Staff Advisory Council, the book club will meet at the YWCA monthly and will also host an online forum. The book club's first selection is Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "Americanah," a powerful, tender story of race and identity. The club's discussion of "Americanah" will take place on Jan. 23 at 12 p.m. in the Frederickson Lounge. If you would like to participate, please contact Meghan at mf Farrell@ywcahbg.org.

"Let's Talk" series for Harrisburg School District counselors

The YWCA has successfully completed its third "Let's Talk" series. The audience this time was the Harrisburg School District. For six weeks, district counselors and social workers came together last fall on their professional development days to discuss the complex dynamics of race and racism. Facilitated by the Rev. Nathaniel Gadsden and Amanda Arbour, discussions raised many important issues and made astute recommendations. The YWCA will be returning in February to present the series to district security personnel.

Native American Heritage Month celebrated

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the YWCA hosted a cultural competency training on Nov. 18. Guest speaker Lucy Smartlowit-Briggs, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Nation in Washington State, shared some of her story, provided a brief historical overview of Native people in the U.S. as well as locally, and described present-day challenges and provided practical guidance for working with Native people.





Tribute to Women of EXCELLENCE

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg is pleased to announce the 2015 Tribute to Women of Excellence class members:

- **Legacy Award Recipient:** Jeannine Peterson
- **Emerging Leader Award Recipient:** Ashlyn Jackson
- Van Baum, The Hershey Company
- Kelly Brennan, Capital BlueCross
- Dana W. Chilson, Esq., McNees Wallace & Nurick, LLC
- Jimetta Colston, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts
- Ruth Cruz, T.W. Ponessa & Associates, United Methodist Home for Children
- Renee Custer, Harrisburg Young Professionals
- Shamaine Daniels, Esq., Law Office of Shamaine Daniels
- Margaret Delmonico, PSECU
- Dr. Eleanor Dunham, PinnacleHealth
- Jennifer Esser, KPMG LLP
- Patricia Hart, Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital
- Kathleen Koppenhaver, GIANT/MARTINS
- Maureen Lathrop, Penn National Insurance
- Dr. Jennifer McCall-Hosenfeld, M.S. Hershey Medical Center
- Barbara R. McLemore, Esq., Gannett Fleming, Inc.
- Diane Naugle, Boyer & Ritter, LLC
- Jaime Novinger-Toigo, Service 1st Restoration
- Martha Rougeux, Purple Feet Foundation/Harrisburg School District
- Cynthia Tolsma, Dasher Services Inc.
- Gloria Vazquez Merrick, Latino Hispanic American Community Center
- Julie Walter, Tri County Community Action
- Ashley Weaver, Cumberland Valley School District
- Sharon Woodward, Highmark Blue Shield

Tickets for the Tribute to Women of Excellence awards dinner are now available! Don't wait to reserve your seat for the 26th annual Tribute to Women of Excellence on Tuesday, March 24 at the Hershey Lodge. To reserve a table or an individual seat, please call 724-2248.



YWCA CEO serving on Governor's Transition Team for Housing

Pennsylvania's Governor-Elect, Tom Wolf, named Tina Nixon, CEO of the YWCA Greater Harrisburg, to his transition review team in mid-December.

As Chair of the Governor's Transition Team for Housing, Tina will work with nine individuals who represent related interests from the legal community, foundations and non-profits across the state.

The team will work with the outgoing administration to better understand the issues and challenges that face the executive branch, and to make recommendations to Governor Wolf as he begins his term.

Holiday Giving makes the season bright for many

Hundreds of generous donors made the season bright for YWCA clients by participating in the 2014 Holiday Giving program.



The program, coordinated by the Friends Board and YWCA staff, collected more than \$30,000 worth of gifts that helped make the holidays special for more than 550 women, children and men who are enrolled in YWCA programs. Friends Board members Alison Ballantine and Alicelyn Sleber served as co-chairs and were assisted by a large group of volunteers who helped organize, wrap and deliver the gifts.

YWCA clients and staff are very thankful for the community's generosity. [Click here](#) to read more about how the Holiday Giving program has touched the lives of our clients.

Vets program earns Supportive Housing Award

The YWCA's Veterans Department was awarded the state's annual Supportive Housing Award for its program that provides veterans with safe, quality rental housing and other services to help them live productive, independent lives.

Sponsored by the Department of Aging, Department of Welfare, and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the award was presented during the 2014 Pennsylvania Veterans Forum in Grantville on Nov. 18.

The YWCA's supportive housing program predominantly helps veterans between the ages of 50 and 65 and takes a "housing first" approach by offering one-bedroom apartments to participants who are chronically homeless with a verified disability and veteran status.



Purse auction's success is in the bag!

More than \$17,500 was raised at the 7th annual Pursuit of Justice Purse Auction on Dec. 4.



More than 80 guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music by the Steve & Doug Trio while bidding on handbags and accessories by top designers including Kate Spade, Ralph Lauren, M. Missoni and Zac Posen.

Special thanks to ABC27's Valerie Pritchett for serving as Emcee. Guest auctioneers Steven V. Turner, Esq., and Cathy Boyle, Esq., kept the bidding fast and furious during the live auction of handbags by Rebecca Minkoff, Tori Burch, Michael Kors and Milly and a Neiman Marcus Day of Beauty.

Thank you to the event's many donors and sponsors, including Prada Sponsors James and Linda DeAngelo and Carmen and Tonia Finestra, and Chanel Sponsors Claraval & Claraval and the Dauphin County Bar Association Family Law Section.

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 2013-14, the YWCA Legal Center represented more than 1,300 clients in more than 1,600 cases.

yw snapshots



The holiday tree in the YWCA's formal lobby was decorated with cards sent in by donors to the YWCA's 2014 Angel Card Campaign, which has raised more than \$13,000 to benefit YWCA programs.



Hello Gorgeous Boutique hosted a fun shopping event on Dec. 18 to benefit the YWCA's shelter. Those who attended were asked to donate personal care items in exchange for a \$5 coupon to the boutique.



YWCA staff and volunteers from the community helped prepare and serve a delicious meal for the annual residents' Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 17. More than 80 people enjoyed fellowship and a feast of turkey, ham, side dishes and desserts.



Veterans Employment Services Specialist Barry Cannon, center, receives a delivery of holiday lunches that were prepared for veterans program clients by staff from PinnacleHealth's emergency room.



Grace M. Pollock Child Development Center staff, children and their family members celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast of turkey and all the trimmings on Nov. 21.

Upcoming events

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - Jan. 19
- Black History Month - February
- Residents' Valentine's Day Party - Feb. 5
- Harrisburg Homeless Veterans Stand Down - Feb. 6-8
- GirlTalk5 Youth Summit - March 18
- Cards with Heart Reception - March 20
- Tribute to Women of Excellence - March 24
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month - April
- Race Against Racism - April 25

For more information about our events, please visit www.ywcahbg.org.
Please consider making a donation to the YWCA. [Click here to donate online.](#)



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