



our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
greater harrisburg

YWCA program is building futures in Harrisburg

In July 2013, the YWCA was awarded a \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to establish a YouthBuild program in the Harrisburg area to provide academic and occupational skill training for at-risk youth ages 18-24.

The first YouthBuild cohort was assembled in February, and Harrisburg residents Monarika Ernest and Ja'Mil Brown graduated from the program on Oct. 10.



YWCA Economic and Neighborhood Development Director Keya Lucas, left, congratulates YouthBuild graduates Ja'Mil Brown and Monarika Ernest during their Oct. 10 graduation ceremony.

For Monarika, completing the YouthBuild program has moved her closer to her goals of earning her GED and pursuing higher education, fulfilling a request her father made before he passed away in 2013. [Click here](#) to learn more about Monarika, Ja'Mil and the YWCA's YouthBuild program.

racial justice @ the ywca

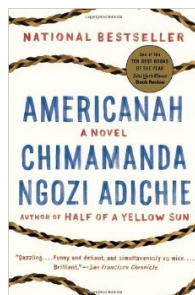
YWCA completes "Let's Talk" series at LGBT Center

The YWCA has successfully facilitated its second "Let's Talk" series, which was

hosted by the LGBT Center of Central PA this fall. Co-facilitated by Shaashawn Dial-Snowden and Amanda Arbour, the series drew a diverse group of 12 leaders in the LGBT community who met in two-hour sessions for six weeks to discuss the complex dynamics of race and racism, and the intersections with all of the other "isms" that divide us.



Participants were recognized at a reception hosted by the LGBT Center on Oct. 20. The YWCA is thrilled to see interest in this crucial conversation spreading throughout our community, and the YWCA encourages individuals or groups to participate in or host a "Let's Talk" series. For more information, contact Amanda Arbour at AArbour@ywcahbg.org.



Racial Justice Book Club launched

The YWCA is launching a new Racial Justice Book Club as an opportunity for YWCA staff and community members to read thought-provoking books on racial justice topics. Spearheaded by Meghan Farrell, an active member of the YWCA's Racial Justice Staff Advisory Council, the book club will have an online forum and meet quarterly for informed discussions. The first selection is "Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a powerful, tender story of race and identity. The first discussion group will meet in January. If you're interested in joining, please contact Meghan at MFarrell@ywcahbg.org.

YWCA hosts Q&A with local Muslim leader

Cultural and religious differences are great assets to our community, but they can also be a source of tension if there isn't mutual understanding and respect. To better understand and effectively work with Arab and Muslim clients in our local community, the YWCA welcomed Samia Malik for a special Q&A session on Oct. 9. A leader in the local Muslim community and a good friend of the YWCA, Samia previously served as chairwoman of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and is a member of the YWCA's Racial Justice Committee and the Community Responders Network. YWCA staff and community members gathered for a stimulating discussion based on audience questions, which one attendee described as "life-changing!"

Strike a pose. Take a stand.

Power of Style Fashion Show celebrates 10th anniversary

The Power of Style Fashion Show was elevated to spectacular new heights in celebration of the 10th anniversary; it featured a new location, larger runway, festive lighting, boutique vendors and more!

Nearly 400 people attended the Domestic Violence Awareness Month event, which netted more than \$55,000 in support of the YWCA's Violence Intervention and Prevention programs.

Featuring seasonal fashions from nine local, women-owned businesses, the Power of Style was emceed by the exuberant Sherry Christian, CBS21 news anchor. A wide variety of raffle and silent auction items, as well as the grand prize from Higashi Jewelry & Eyewear, added to the festivities.



Special thanks to Power of Style co-chairs Michelle Piscioneri and Bebe Mullaugh and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event a success!

The Power of Style Fashion Show is the YWCA Friends Board's signature fundraising event. Over the last decade, it has successfully raised more than \$400,000.

Thank you Power of Style sponsors!

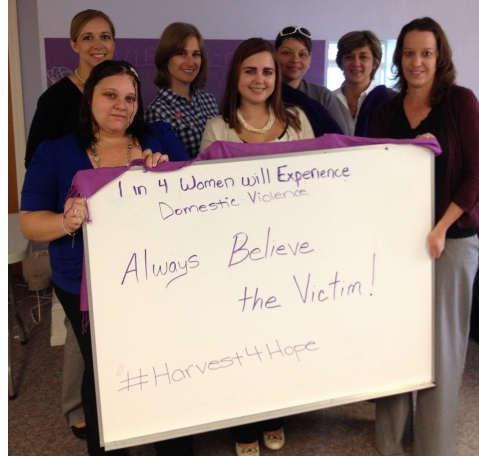
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State Police Trooper Andrew Morgantini was honored for his work in domestic violence cases at the First Responders' Breakfast.



Violence Intervention and Prevention Program staff participated in the #Harvest4Hope social media campaign and shared their four words to end domestic violence.

Events mark DVAM

The YWCA's Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Programs marked Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a variety of events in October.

The events included a breakfast honoring first responders; a Harvest4Hope festival that featured a variety of food, music, vendors and educational activities; and "When the Golden Years Turn Black and Blue," a professional training to identify and respond to elder victims of domestic and sexual violence. The YWCA also marked DVAM with a #Harvest4Hope social media campaign that asked participants to "Share your 4 words: What will you do to end domestic violence?" <https://www.facebook.com/YWCAHarrisburg>



Casey Stokes Rodriguez, left, and Lisa Stokes help children with a craft project during the Harvest4Hope festival.

Grants support human trafficking task forces and teen dating violence education programs

The YWCA received a \$500,000 Office of Justice Program grant to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist victims of human trafficking. Funds will support efforts to increase the capacity of communities to respond to human trafficking victims through the development of interagency partnerships, professional training and public awareness activities. The YWCA will be the lead agency for two large Human Trafficking Response Task Forces and four sexual assault centers providing services in 12 counties along the Route 15 corridor.

Additionally, the YWCA received a \$10,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation that will enable YWCA staff to provide teen dating violence education and prevention activities to students at local high schools.

The YWCA program will provide education and skill-building opportunities for students, who will explore topics such as understanding and identifying dating violence and unhealthy relationships; dating rights, responsibilities and expectations; and identifying jealousy and control, and setting boundaries.

26th annual Tribute to Women of EXCELLENCE

Don't miss your chance to nominate your coworker, boss, friend or mentor for the **26th Annual "Tribute to Women of Excellence" Awards.**

Over the past 25 years, the YWCA has honored more than 500 extraordinary women for their impact on our region, both professionally and philanthropically. To download the nomination form, please visit www.ywcahbg.org//events/2015-tribute-women-excellence-nominations. For sponsorship opportunities and additional information, call Devan Drabik at 717-724-2248. **The deadline to nominate a Woman of Excellence is Nov. 14.**

The awards dinner will take place on March 24, 2015, at the Hershey Lodge, and all honorees and their nominators will be invited to attend a January reception at the YWCA.

yw snapshots



Junior Board members pose at the registration table during the 5th annual Fall Fest at Camp Reily. The Oct. 4 event raised \$6,000 to benefit the YWCA camp's facilities and programs.



YWCA staff and children from the Grace M. Pollock Child Development Center celebrated Halloween with a "Treats Not Tricks" event on Oct. 31.



Devan Drabik, Fundraising and Communications Manager, received the Goodwill Ambassador Award at the Central PA's Women's Conference on Oct. 16.



Alex Gannett, Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Family Advocate, received the Children's Champion Award from the PinnacleHealth Children's Resource Center during an awards ceremony on Sept. 19.



The Thorne family, with CEO Tina Nixon (center), received The President's Award during the YWCA's Annual Meeting on Sept. 23.



Mary Quinn, YWCA Vice President of Programs, right, assists a woman with finding housing during Project Homeless Connect on Sept. 11 at the Farm Show Complex.

Upcoming events

- Tribute to Women of Excellence nomination deadline - Nov. 14
- Resident Thanksgiving Dinner - Nov. 17
- Pursuit of Justice Purse Auction - Dec. 4
- 2014 Holiday Giving Program - Dec. 15-19
- Tribute to Women of Excellence - March 24
- Race Against Racism - April 25
- 13th Annual South Allison Hill Multicultural Festival - May 9



Celebrating 120 years of eliminating racism and empowering women!

Anniversary Sponsor  HIGHMARK. 



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