

# YWCA Greater Harrisburg

## October 2015 Newsletter

### What's Inside:

VIP Program Spotlight  
Page 2

2015 Annual Meeting  
Highlights  
Page 3

Racial Justice Updates  
Page 4

Upcoming Events  
Page 6

Fall Event Recaps  
Page 7

## Message from the CEO

I'm thrilled to be writing this article as the **official President and CEO of the YWCA Greater Harrisburg**. I would like to sincerely thank the search committee, board of directors and staff for the opportunity to lead this organization. **The YWCA Greater Harrisburg is where courage and tenacity live** – through our staff, clients, volunteers and boards. **We are speaking the truth** to injustice and oppression. **We are challenging perceptions** of poverty and working to address systemic racial divides.

In my new leadership role, my interest is in moving this organization into its next phase through **sustainable diversified programs and funding sources**. Having been with the organization for over two years, I am confident we can continue to move ahead with the important work that we do. I'm grateful to the leaders who came before me – those who made the YWCA Greater Harrisburg the respected **force for change** that it is today.



Mary Quinn, Interim CEO

As I look at the challenges that lie ahead, it is evident that **we need to be adaptive to the changing environment**. The landscape of our community is changing in demographics and income. Corporate social responsibilities, philanthropic interests and government funding are all reevaluating their priorities. Our **ability to anticipate and plan for change** while still being true to our mission will be our greatest asset in the coming years.

I was continually challenged through my interview process on what I thought our biggest threats and opportunities were. And while there are threats, they do not compare to the **potential opportunities** before us. We will continue to **strengthen our legacy programs** of domestic violence, sexual assault and childcare. We will **adapt our housing models and grow our supportive services** that are essential to a holistic service delivery system. We will continue to push the envelope on **gender equality and racial equity**.

Now is the time for all of us to be to **be engaged**, to **be the shapers of what might be and not become complacent** with our past success. I encourage and look forward to hearing from you and working together as we venture into a new chapter.

Sincerely,

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

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# Observing Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Putting our Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs Front and Center

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg's Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Services provides **comprehensive, free services to victims of domestic violence and their non-offending loved ones**, including:

- a 24 hour crisis hotline
- 30-day emergency shelter
- relocation assistance
- individual and group counseling
- support groups
- medical and legal accompaniments
- emergency protection from abuse orders
- civil legal services

In honor of October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the VIP Department hosts various **events to promote awareness** in the community. Staff will also provide **trainings on topics related to domestic violence, healthy relationships, and mandated reporting of child abuse** to schools, the medical community and professional groups.

The Department hosted the annual **First Responders Breakfast** on October 2 to celebrate the collaborative effort within the tri-county area to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence. In attendance were politicians, judges, law enforcement, medical professionals, and other human service professionals. This year, the keynote speakers were Lynn Shiner and Nancy Chavez, authors of *Stabbed in the Heart*.



First responders were recognized at the First Responders Breakfast

On October 8th, an event held at the **Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center** provided an opportunity for medical staff, students, and visitors of the campus to gather to learn more about domestic violence and the services available for victims.

**PinnacleHealth** employees will receive information on domestic violence, signs and indicators, and how to provide support to victims through articles in their weekly employee newsletter. Nurses at Pinnacle's hospitals in Dauphin County will receive information on screening patients, including questions to ask and how to make referrals. Harrisburg Hospital's electronic signs will also be used to promote awareness and to highlight the services available through the YWCA Greater Harrisburg.

**Harvest  
4 Hope**  
Envision. Inspire. Act.  
**A World Without Violence**

The VIP Department will also host a community event, **Harvest for Hope**, on October 22nd from 5-7pm at the YWCA Greater Harrisburg. The event will feature community vendors, food, and fun for families while focusing on creating an awareness of domestic violence within our community. The evening will conclude with a candlelight vigil honoring the lives lost due to domestic violence. Visit our website for more info!

# 2015 Association Board Annual Meeting

The 2015 Association Board Annual Meeting celebrated **new leadership** on September 22, 2015. Incoming Board President, **Pat Epple**, announced the conclusion of the nationwide CEO search as **Mary Quinn**, formerly Vice President of Programs, and more recently Interim CEO, was appointed **CEO**.

"The talented staff, dedicated board members and supportive community and clients provide **inspiration** to me in my new role as CEO," said Quinn. "Together we will create **sustainable social change** and inspire our community to **share our mission** of eliminating racism and empowering women."



Mary Quinn was announced as the YWCA's new CEO at the Association Board Annual Meeting

The YWCA recognized Immediate Past President, **Cari Longyear**, for her dedication and commitment to the organization during the transition.

Members of the **Search Committee** included Kim Phipps, Anne Shuman, Mary Ann Claraval, Tim Fatzinger, Valerie Corbin Ketchen and Lisa Myers. The YWCA staff and Board of Directors expressed sincere gratitude for their roles in securing future leadership of the YWCA Greater Harrisburg and ensuring staff are able to continue providing seamless quality services in our representative areas.

Three new Board members were voted on to the Association Board: **Samia Malik, Joyce Libby and Tiffany Chang Lawson**. Upcoming newsletters will feature a spotlight on each new member.

Customary to Annual Meeting tradition, **awards were presented to community members who demonstrate outstanding contributions** to the YWCA and the Greater Harrisburg Area. David Botero, Shaashawn Dial-Snowden, Anita McCarthy, Alan Krasner and the Criminal Justice and Community Relations Task Force received community service awards.

The YWCA looks forward to an exciting year as the organization moves in a **new direction** under the leadership and direction of CEO, Mary Quinn and Association Board President, Pat Epple.



# Racial Justice Updates

## Diversity Forum Kick-off a Success!

Over one hundred community members packed the YWCA's Highmark Room on the morning of September 17th for the kick-off of the new **Diversity Forum**. This **monthly gathering**, led by Dauphin County for many years, historically focused on networking and education on diversity-related topics. After taking a hiatus, the Diversity Forum has now resumed under the **leadership of the YWCA**, supported by Dauphin County. Its new mission statement is **"to foster inclusive, action-oriented communities through educational forums that promote and facilitate dialogue, best practices and solutions."**



Community members packed the Highmark Room at the September Diversity Forum

The YWCA is proud to **partner with Dauphin County and all of the dedicated members of the Advisory Panel** to launch this exciting new direction for the Diversity Forum. The Forum's new mission fits well with the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all, and we look forward to advancing that through this partnership.

The Diversity Forum will continue to be held the **3rd Thursday of every month at 8:00 AM at the YWCA**. Each quarter will focus on a common theme, with the individual forums addressing specific aspects of that. The first quarter will look at violence and its impact on diverse communities in our region. To kick that off, the next Forum on **October 15th** will feature **Tonya Lovelace-Davis and Rebecca Balog from the Women of Color Network, Inc.** presenting on **"Domestic Violence in Underrepresented Communities"**.

## *I Am More Than a Stereotype* Red Carpet Premiere



The stars of *I Am More Than a Stereotype* arrived in style to their red carpet premiere

Midtown cinema premiered *I Am More Than a Stereotype*, a short film promoting the **elimination of gender and race stereotypes** and starring the faces of **Camp Reily**, at a red carpet event this September. The stars of the film were escorted to the event in limos and posed for pictures before the premier. Throughout the course of their summer at Camp Reily, each of them had engaged in **workshops and discussions about gender and race**, led by Tara Leo Auchey and Carmen Henry-Harris, and learned **video production techniques** from Diana Robinson as part of the project.

The Camp Reily video project, which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Efh4M9DvEUY>, was **sponsored by Market Square Presbyterian Church** and a private donor. Limo service was provided by Unique Limousine.

# YWCA's Amanda Arbour Recognized as a "Peacemaker in Our Midst"

Amanda has been with the YWCA since 2012, developing and overseeing internal and external programs in support of the YWCA's mission of "eliminating racism". Amanda says:



Amanda Arbour, YWCA Racial Justice Coordinator

*"I am honored and humbled to have been selected for this award. I echo Dr. King's conviction that 'without justice there can be no peace'. We cannot hope for peace, nor should we, unless we acknowledge the realities of systemic racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism and all of the 'isms' in our society, and are intentional about dismantling the systems of oppression. My vision – and what I strive for in my work and personal life – is to bring people together across the lines that divide us, and to encourage honest conversations so that we can work effectively as allies to eliminate racism and all of the 'isms'."*

The YWCA's racial justice programs and partnerships that Amanda has cultivated include: "Let's Talk: A Conversation about Race," a 6-week series during which individuals discuss race and racism, and are equipped with tools to take action; the Criminal Justice & Community Relations Taskforce, through which law enforcement and community leaders develop strategies for strengthening police-community relations; and the Community Responders Network, a coalition of local leaders and concerned citizens who respond to incidents of bias and intolerance and provide community education.

# Upcoming Events

## Harvest4Hope

Thursday, October 22

The YWCA's **Violence Intervention and Prevention Department** will host a community event, Harvest for Hope, on **October 22nd** from **5-7pm** at the **YWCA Greater Harrisburg**. The event will be comprised of community vendors, food, and fun for families while focusing on creating an **awareness of domestic violence** within our community. The evening will conclude with a **candlelight vigil** honoring the lives lost due to domestic violence.



For more information, please visit [www.ywcahbg.org/events/harvest4hope](http://www.ywcahbg.org/events/harvest4hope).

## Power of the Purse

Thursday, December 3



Handbags and accessories from the Power of the Purse 2014

The 8th annual Pursuit of Justice purse auction will be held on **Thursday, December 3** at **5:30 PM** at the **YWCA Highmark Room**. Join us and enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, live music, and silent and live handbag and accessory auctions with **guest auctioneers Steven V. Turner, Esq., and Cathy Boyle, Esq.**

The Pursuit of Justice is a **fundraiser to benefit the YWCA Legal Center**, which provides **free legal assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault**. Services include legal advocacy and attorney representation for victims in cases dealing with protection from abuse, custody, divorce, support and immigration.

## Holiday Giving

Monday, December 14 - Friday, December 18

Every year, the YWCA partners with generous local organizations and individuals to **provide for families and individuals in need during the holidays**. Clients each submit two needs and one wish, and "holiday helpers" can register to fill any amount of wish lists.

"Holiday helper" registrations are due by **Friday, November 13**. If you are interested in sponsoring a family(ies) or individual(s), or if you are interested in volunteering to wrap items from December 14 - 18, please contact **Kayla Krebs** at (717) 234-7931 ext. 3011 or at [kkrebs@ywcahbg.org](mailto:kkrebs@ywcahbg.org).



A holiday helper wraps gifts for clients at Holiday Giving



# Fall Event Recaps

## United Way Day of Caring

This year's United Way Day of Caring was held on September 11, 2015. The YWCA hosted **more than 70 volunteers** from local organizations. Projects included shelter cleaning and painting, daycare and visitation toy cleaning, clothing bank organizing, and computer lab cleaning.

**Thank you to all our volunteers!** We look forward to the United Way Day of Caring 2016!



United Way volunteers organizing the YWCA clothing bank

## Keys to Freedom: A Gathering Event

A Black and White Bash held September 19 at Sun Motor Cars in Mechanicsburg attracted approximately **100 attendees** who enjoyed live entertainment, food vendors and raffle items. A 6 month/6,000 mile lease of a **brand new Mercedes Benz** was raffled off and many silent auction items attracted multiple bidders.



The event raised approximately **\$8,500** for the **Pennsylvania Alliance Against the Trafficking in Humans: The Route 15 Project (PAATH15)**, a multi agency outreach initiative that provides direct response services to human trafficking victims, emergency shelter and case management staff, advocates and legal and medical accompaniers. The YWCA Greater Harrisburg is the leading agency of PAATH15.

A **special thank you** to Sun Motor Cars, ABC 27, Jeffrey's Flowers, Johnson Controls, Hello Gorgeous Consignment Boutique and all of our food sponsors and volunteers for helping to make this event happen!



Approximately 100 guests enjoyed the evening at Keys to Freedom.

To learn about how you can host a Gathering Event, please contact Pamela Rhoads at [prhoads@ywcahbg.org](mailto:prhoads@ywcahbg.org).

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This year's Fall Fest was a blast! Attendees enjoyed delicious micro brews, wine and BBQ by the fire of the **YWCA's Camp Reily** main lodge while tapping their toes to local band **Deezle Church's** southern rock tunes. News coverage of the event was provided by **WGAL 8**—we hope you were able to catch it!

The YWCA thanks **Breski Beverage Distributors and Wilsbach Distributors, Inc.** for providing tasting beers and **Spring Gate Vineyard** for providing an array of lovely wines for the evening.



2015 Fall Fest attendees enjoying delicious beer tastings

We would also like to thank our event Lodge sponsors, **PinnacleHealth** and **Saul Ewing LLP**, and Cabin sponsors, McClure Company, Sutliff Chevrolet Volkswagen Buick GMC Cadillac, D&H Cares, Pilot Capital Management, The Hershey Company and McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC., as well as all of our guests and volunteers for making this year's Fall Fest possible!

## Power of Style Fashion Show

The YWCA hosted the **11th annual Power of Style Fashion Show** on October 8 at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg in Camp Hill. CBS21's **Sherry Christian** emceed the event, and **Sgt. Philip Duffy** was the keynote speaker. Approximately **300 guests** attended the show and luncheon.



Seven local, women-owned stores were featured at this year's fashion show

The fashion show features **local, women-owned clothing boutiques**. This year's runway stores included Maggie Adams, Baby Bug & Me Children's Boutique, Presence, Sassy, Creative Elegance Boutique and The Plum. The event also featured local vendors, a raffle and silent auction, and a fabulous special prize from Higashi Jewelry & Eyewear.

A special thank you to our premier sponsor, **Wood & Myers Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons**, as well as our Three-Carat sponsors:

- Boyer & Ritter
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