

our voice

winter 2013
greater harrisburg

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

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Case manager Angela M. Wise stands on the porch of Safe Haven at Sixth and Oxford streets in Harrisburg.

shelter from the storm

Safe Haven will serve chronically homeless women who have mental health issues.

On the corner of Sixth and Oxford streets, the YWCA Greater Harrisburg is creating a Safe Haven for chronically homeless women who have mental health issues.

The residential program is taking shape in two semidetached homes, formerly blighted properties that have been rehabilitated by the City of Harrisburg. The YWCA is renting the homes from the city.

Safe Haven will provide

housing for nine women age 18 and older and will also offer them case management and referral services as well as opportunities to connect with other supportive services in the community.

"We saw a need in the community," said Angela M. Wise, Safe Haven case manager. "There is chronic homelessness among mentally ill women, and sometimes they are not fit for community living."

The program is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, but it requires matching and further funds to augment daily operations and furnishings.

Safe Haven is modeled on the Housing First concept that is used throughout the nation to reach people who are unsheltered on the streets, who have a mental health disability and have either rejected or not succeeded in traditional shelter and housing options.

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mission

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

programs and services

Child Development Programs

Housing & Homelessness Services

Violence Intervention & Prevention

Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Services

Legal & Visitation Services

Economic & Neighborhood Development Programs

Racial Justice

1101 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103

Phone 717.234.7931 Fax 717.234.1779

Kids on Campus 717.901.3637

Legal Center 717.724.0516

24-hour hotline 800.654.1211

www.ywcahbg.org

message from the CEO

The beginning of this year will bring the opening of our new Safe Haven, providing shelter for women with mental health issues. We are planning events to celebrate Black History Month, and we are developing a racial justice program. In December, our children were presented with an award for the Junior Garden at the Governor's Residence, where they met Pennsylvania First Lady Mrs. Susan Corbett.

Orchestrating all that we do takes a dedicated group of staff and volunteers, and for that we are grateful.

As the New Year progresses and we continue our work, we keep our mission at the forefront - eliminating racism, empowering women. Our mission underlies every project, event and service we provide. In February and March, we will celebrate the achievements of African-Americans and women. With February being Black History Month and Women's History Month in March, we are excited to highlight the achievements of both groups. It is by honoring and showcasing the achievements of others that we learn and grow in a more positive way. As the commercial used to say: "We've come a long way baby." But we are acutely aware that we still have a long way to go.

Over the course of its history, the YWCA has embraced the dual challenge of racism and sexism. Member associations recognize that work eliminating sexism also requires addressing racism.

Eliminating racism is something that we need to tackle every day. We need more voices at the table to speak up on behalf of those who are being disenfranchised because of their race. As we rebuild our Racial Justice Committee, we ask that if you are passionate about making a meaningful impact, that you join with us in solidarity to communicate, educate and engage our neighbors.

Empowering women still requires hard work as we continue to advocate for equal pay and equal opportunities. In America today, women are still paid less than their male peers.

Among Fortune 500 companies, the vast majority of leadership positions are held by men: 96 percent of CEOs and 84 percent of board members are male. When only 16 percent of board members at these companies are women, it is evident that we have a long way to go, even as some progress is being made in the military.

The YWCA will continue to raise awareness to level the playing field and provide leadership opportunities for women.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "June Nixon".

with a little help from our Friends



"My husband and I are so very sincerely thankful for your help this holiday season. What was done for us was such a blessing that we will never forget! You should have seen our babies faces light up on Christmas morning!"

- Holiday Giving client #1200

holiday giving brings smiles



Co-chair Toni Simmers wraps gifts during the 2012 Holiday Giving Program.



We received notes of thanks, like the one above, from many clients who benefitted from the generosity of donors during the very successful 2012 Holiday Giving Program.

The program, coordinated by the Friends Board, collected more than \$38,000 worth of gifts that helped make the holiday season special for more than 440 women, children and men who are enrolled in YWCA programs.

YWCA clients identified two needs and one wish and were matched with generous donors from the community. Additionally, donors gave items from our shelter wish list that included towels, twin bedding, toiletries, cookware, new clothing, diapers and gift cards.

Friends Board members Michelle Piscioneri and Toni Simmers served as Holiday Giving co-chairs and were assisted by a large group of volunteers who helped organize, wrap and deliver the gifts.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2012 Holiday Giving Program a great success!

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Just around the corner is the residents' Valentine's Day Party on February 14, which is being chaired by Melissa Menke and Jean King.

The Cards with Heart campaign, formerly the Mother's Day Card campaign, will feature artwork by Camp Hill artist Julie Riker. Cards with Heart co-chairs Amy Gambill and Kara Arnold will host an Artist's Reception on March 15 at City House. Cards will go on sale mid-March.

For more information on any Friends event, please visit www.ywcahbg.org.





Pennsylvania First Lady Susan Corbett (second from left) stands with YWCA Junior Gardeners (from left) Madison Graves, Julianna Burkholder, Ayanna Smith, Yaneasha Jones and Zachary Burkholder.

junior gardeners receive community greening award

The YWCA's Junior Gardeners' vegetable and herb garden received a 2012 Community Greening Award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Five of our Junior Gardeners attended a December 3 awards ceremony at the Governor's Residence that was hosted by First Lady Susan Corbett.

The young gardeners received a plaque from Mrs. Corbett, enjoyed refreshments and toured the Governor's Residence, which was decorated for the holidays.

The garden is a joint project of the YWCA and the Penn-Cumberland Garden Club and consists of a series of nine raised beds located near the YW's John Crain Kunkel Center.

Under the guidance of PCGC Junior Gardeners Chairman Franny McNichol, children from the YW's after-school program have done hands-on work in the garden and also learned how to start plants from seeds. They have canned pickles and made two kinds of soups from their own harvest.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society recognizes beautification and greening efforts in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Additionally, the garden was honored by *Patriot-News* garden writer George Weigel in his "Gardening's Bests and Worst of 2012" as the "Best Results of a New Garden" for introducing kids to the value of growing food.

Safe Haven *continued*

Safe Haven's spacious three-story homes have hardwood floors throughout, bright white walls and large kitchens.

One home has five bedrooms, including one that is handicap accessible. The other home has four bedrooms and office space.

A security system has been installed on the property, and Safe Haven will be staffed 24/7.

Wise said they hope to have residents moved in by the end of February.

She noted that the program's greatest need at the present time is for items that will make Safe Haven feel like a home, such as furniture, housewares and decor items. For a full list of Safe Haven needs, please



Pictured is one of Safe Haven's two kitchens.

visit www.ywcahbg.org.

Safe Haven will also host a winter overnight shelter beginning in December. The shelter will be located in the basement and will be able to serve 15-20 women each night. Wise has reached out to local churches

for help purchasing the folding beds needed for winter shelter.

Wise hopes members of the community will see that there is a real need for this type of housing.

"They see some of these women out on the street, and they've seen them out there for years," Wise said. "We're trying to make a place that they find safe enough to come to. I'm just hoping that we can meet the great area need."

Safe Haven, she said, will give its residents a safe place to begin to heal and work toward living in the community. "It's not the intent for them to live there forever, but long enough to help them get back on their feet," Wise said.

• • • •

Want to help? Contact Angela Wise at 234-7931, x3006 or awise@ywcahbg.org.

racial justice @ the YWCA

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg's approach to the mission of "eliminating racism" is rooted in the goal of "countering racism in ourselves and our community through education, awareness and empowerment."

This statement acknowledges that the work must begin with the individual, but that it does not end there. Racism is internalized within each of us, and institutionalized in all the structures of our society. Thus, we must take on the difficult task of unlearning racism within ourselves and dismantling the systems that enable it in our community.

Native American Heritage Month

November was Native American Heritage Month. Rebecca Balog, who is Projects Administrator for the Women of Color Network (a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence) and a Native American, came to the YWCA.

Rebecca led activities with children in the YWCA's Grace Pollock Child Development Center and gave an excellent luncheon presentation to our staff. She provided a compelling narrative of the historical oppression Native peoples suffered by and highlighted the ways that our laws and society perpetuate injustices to this day.

This is very relevant to our work, since Native women are particularly vulnerable to domestic violence and sexual assault, and Native children are routinely taken away from their families and culture. For Rebecca this is deeply personal – and hearing her story as an Oglala Lakota Sioux, Mohawk and Czechoslovakian Gypsy was powerful.

She emphasized how critical it is to understand the situation of Native peoples, and to be allies in advocating for justice. To learn more,



Rebecca Balog talks with children enrolled in the Grace Pollock Child Development Center during her visit to the YWCA in November for Native American Heritage Month.

visit www.whispernthunder.org or www.niwrc.org, or contact Rebecca at rbalog@nrcdv.org.

Racial Justice Committee

The Racial Justice Committee is a diverse group of individuals selected to assist the YWCA in developing and directing racial justice initiatives in the greater Harrisburg area. Dr. Kim Phipps, Immediate Past President of the YWCA Board, has agreed to chair the committee, and each member brings tremendous passion and experience to this endeavor.

Members 2012-13:

Dr. Kim Phipps – Immediate Past President of the YWCA Board

Tina Nixon – CEO, YWCA Greater Harrisburg

Pamela Rhoads – Executive Vice President, YWCA Greater Harrisburg

Valerie Corbin Ketchen – Past Board Member

Rosemary Browne – Board Member

Gloria Merrick – Executive Director, Latino Hispanic American Community Center (LHACC)

Patty Kim – State Representative, PA House 103rd District

Cedra Washington – Pastor, Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church

Ho-Thahn Nguyen – Founder & President, PA Immigrant & Refugee Women's Network (PAIRWN)

Ann Van Dyke – Former Investigator & Trainer, PA Human Relations Commission

Samia Malik – Former Chair, Council on American Islamic Relations

Amanda Arbour – Racial Justice Development Specialist, YWCA Greater Harrisburg

Racial Justice Staff Advisory Council

The YWCA has also created the Racial Justice Staff Advisory Council, which consists of staff members who are interested in and committed to moving the YWCA forward in racial justice work.

This group is responsible for assisting with planning staff activities and giving input on the design and delivery of racial justice trainings for staff. We are excited about the passion and ideas this outstanding group brings to the table and how their work will help to grow education, awareness and empowerment amongst the staff.

For More Information...

To learn more about Racial Justice at the YWCA Greater Harrisburg, please contact Amanda Arbour at AArbour@ywcahbg.org or 717-234-7931 x3057.

thanks to our donors

angel card

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We appreciate every donation and make every effort to list all donors accurately. We apologize if you made a donation and your name does not appear.

thanks to our donors

annual appeal

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Market Square Presbyterian Church

Steve & Trish Masterson

we made it!

A special "thank you" to all who designated their annual gift in support of the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation match. We are proud and honored to announce that we exceeded the goal by \$30,000!

The match will help us to begin addressing cosmetic and mechanical needs of the John Crain Kunkel Center that houses the majority of our programs and services. We moved in 15 years ago and have served hundreds of thousands of women, children and men.

Thanks to your support, we will be able to continue doing so long into the future!

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*From funds held by TFEC.

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg respects the privacy of our donors and safeguards the confidentiality of all information related to your gifts. If you would like your monetary contribution to be kept anonymous, please let us know. All monetary gifts are acknowledged with a letter that reflects the tax deductible portion of the donation. The official registration and financial information for YWCA Greater Harrisburg can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Please consider making a general donation to the YWCA. Every dollar makes a difference! Questions? Please call Devan at 724-2248.

5th annual pursuit of justice purse auction

More than \$20,000 was raised at the 5th annual Pursuit of Justice Purse Auction held on December 6 in the John Crain Kunkel Center's Highmark Room. Proceeds benefit the YWCA's Legal Center.

More than 80 people enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music by the Steve and Doug Trio while placing bids during a silent auction of handbags and accessories by such top designers as Michael Kors, BCBG MaxAzria and Tory Burch.

Enthusiastic guest auctioneers Steve Turner and Cathy Boyle kept the bidding fast and furious during the live auction of handbags by Gucci, Kate Spade and Kelsi Dagger, as well as a Neiman Marcus Day of Beauty.

Thank you to the many sponsors and contributors for their support of the Pursuit



of Justice Purse Auction.

The Legal Center 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.



Guest auctioneers Cathy Boyle, left, and Steve Turner get the bidding started on a Kate Spade handbag.

visit www.ywcahbg.org for more information about upcoming events

upcoming events

Cards with Heart Artist's Reception • March 15th

Tribute to Women of Excellence • March 20th

GirlTalk3 Youth Summit • March 27th

YWCA Mid-Atlantic Region Legislative Breakfast • April 9th

Race Against Racism • April 27th

YWCA Greater Harrisburg
1101 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103



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The YWCA Greater Harrisburg is a 501(c)3 organization, affiliated with the YWCA of the USA and is a United Way Agency. The YWCA is certified under the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Agencies' Standards of Excellence.