



our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
greater harrisburg

message from the CEO

The YWCA Greater Harrisburg's annual Race Against Racism is always an exciting event through which we raise awareness about the issues of racism in our community and raise funds to support our racial justice programs. This year's event was special. We marked 10 years of the YWCA Greater Harrisburg hosting the race. To celebrate this milestone, we held our first Humanity Festival!



As we think about milestones, this year also marks 50 years since the Civil Rights Act became law, and it has been 60 years since the landmark Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of Education which declared that state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students were unconstitutional.

Even as we celebrate these important markers in the struggle for racial justice, we must recognize the work that still needs to be done. Recently, the owner of a West Coast basketball team and a Nevada cattle rancher both made national headlines for their blatantly racist remarks. Closer to home, an infamous hate group has been distributing literature offering to act as a "neighborhood watch group."

These instances illustrate the fact that blatant racism continues to exist in the U.S. It is the subtle forms of racism that stall our progress. The "colorblind" approach is popular in a nation that likes to think that it is "past" racism – but we know better. We must challenge our leaders, challenge our communities and challenge ourselves to strip away **ALL** forms of racism so that we can truly embody racial justice.

At the Race Against Racism, we encouraged people to take action, and we ask you to do the same. Please visit the [Racial Justice](#) page of our website to find out 10 things **YOU** can do to eliminate racism.

Let's all work together for racial justice!





Hundreds participate in Race Against Racism

The YWCA's 10th annual Race Against Racism on April 26 on City Island was a great success! Nearly 650 people registered for the 5K run/walk, and the event raised nearly \$50,000 in support of the YWCA's racial justice programs.

In celebration of the race's 10th anniversary, a free Humanity Festival was held after the event and featured activities including a Kids Fun Run sponsored by The Hershey Company; music and dance performances by the Reach! Hip-Hop Dancers and members of the Pennsylvania Regional Ballet; three food trucks and vendor tables representing sponsors, nonprofit and community groups.

Congratulations to top female finisher Elizabeth Bacon and top male finisher Eric Demerice, and the Target team repeated as winner of the Team Cup Challenge.

Special thanks to Platinum Sponsors Giant, PSECU and WGAL-8; Gold Sponsors Penn State Harrisburg, Target, UPMC for You, and CHIP - brought to you by UPMC for Kids; Silver Sponsor The Hershey Company; Bronze Sponsors Deloitte Consulting LLP, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, and Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott; and Community Sponsors Bryn Mawr Trust Company, K&L Gates, PAA, PA Housing and Finance Agency, and PerformCare.

[Click here](#) to view more event photos and race results.



Legislative Breakfast brings 'persimmon power' to Capitol

The YWCA hosted the 6th Annual Legislative Breakfast at the state Capitol on April 9 and was joined by sister agencies - YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County, YWCA Tri-County Area, YWCA Lancaster, YWCA

York, YWCA Bucks County, Hazeltown YMCA/YWCA and Holly Jones, YWCA USA Director of Association Services - to bring "persimmon power" to the Capitol in a powerful way!



Four key legislative priorities were highlighted at the breakfast and during visits with legislators. The first two were tied to Gov. Tom Corbett's proposed 2014-15 state budget - supporting both a \$2.2 million increase in funds for essential domestic violence and sexual assault services, as well as \$15 million in new federal funding from the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to remove 2,895 children from the waiting list for child care subsidies.

The third legislative priority was pay equity. State Sen. Rob Teplitz (D-Dauphin) has introduced Senate Bill 1212, which would strengthen the Equal Pay Law by placing restrictions on which "bona fide factors" can be lawfully used to determine differential wage rates for employees, and providing protections for employees to file a complaint without retaliation or disclosure of their wages.

The group also advocated for passage of state Rep. Patty Kim's (D-Dauphin) House Resolution on racial profiling. HR 718 condemns racial intolerance and racial profiling, encourages states to create penalties for individuals who cause substantive harm through racial profiling, and urges the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to study and seek solutions to the ongoing issue of racial profiling.



Support groups teach resident to 'not sweat the small stuff'

When Christine sought help from the YWCA, she was homeless and had lost her transportation job.

Nine months later, she's back in the driver's seat - literally and figuratively

- and on the road to success thanks, in part, to her participation in the many support groups offered by the YWCA's Supported Employment Program. [Click here](#) to read her story.

racial justice @ the ywca

Join us for the South Allison Hill Multicultural Festival

The YWCA is partnering with community organizations to present the 12th Annual South Allison Hill Multicultural Festival on Saturday, May 10. This event is a celebration of the cultural diversity in our neighborhood, an opportunity to build neighborhood pride and a sense of community, and a venue to increase positive connections between residents, businesses, social service providers and government entities.

The parade will begin at 1 p.m.; the festival will go from 1:30-4 p.m. at the Heart of the Community Garden at Derry and Kittatinny streets. The festival will feature live entertainment, information booths, good food and children's activities.

YWCA supports Muslim women during Scarves in Solidarity event

In observance of Arab-American Heritage month in April, the YWCA Racial Justice Staff Advisory Council, along with YWCA staff, participated in the 4th Annual International Scarves in Solidarity on April 11.

This event provided an opportunity to show support for Muslim women who wear the hijab/niqab by choice and to educate others about the headaddress commonly worn in Arab cultures and the empowering message behind its tradition.



Staff members covered their hair with scarves of all patterns and colors. Wearing them in meetings and while interacting with clients, staff

members encountered the stares, questions, and overall curiosity that many Muslim women regularly face.

Community activist Samia Malik led a Lunch and Learn session that offered an in-

depth look at the tradition of the hijab. Samia noted that it is a choice that Muslim women make to cover their hair. In making this choice, many women are taking a stand to express their values of modesty and religious commitment. Unfortunately, this choice has led to harassment from others.

CONNECT with the Community Responders Network

The YWCA is proud to partner with the Community Responders Network, a coalition of local leaders and concerned citizens who seek to build a stronger, more inclusive community by educating, preventing and responding to instances of bias and intolerance in Central Pennsylvania.

We invite you to learn more about the work of the network and how you can get involved by attending one of our CONNECT annual events held at the YWCA on June 3 at noon or June 4 at 5:30 p.m.

A meal will be provided at each event. Please RSVP for your preferred date to Amanda Arbour at AArbour@ywcahbg.org or 717-234-7931 x3057.

“Let’s Talk” series brings community leaders together

Twenty-six leaders from the region’s government, business, education, civil rights, criminal justice, media and non-profit sectors completed the YWCA’s pilot program, “Let’s Talk: A Conversation about Race.”

Using a model successfully implemented across the nation, participants came together for a series of six facilitated discussions to “unpack” the ways that racism manifests itself at the personal, organizational and systemic levels, and to acquire tools for taking action to deconstruct racism in their respective spheres of influence.



The goal was to create a safe space for honest dialogue to take place about the difficult topics of race and racism in our community; the impact was tremendous. Participants included Dr. Sybil Knight-Burney, Dr. John “Ski” Sygielski, Chief Robert Martin, David Botero and Tara Leo Auchey. Pat Gadsden, founder and director of Life Esteem, and Nick Miron, Racial & Gender Equality Advocate at the YWCA Lancaster, served as facilitators.

Based on this successful pilot, the YWCA plans to hold the “Let’s Talk” series in the future, and is also making the program available to the community.



yw snapshots



For her work with Project Homeless Connect, Safe Haven manager Angela Wise (center) received the Allied Health & Emergency Medicine Hero award during Central Penn Parent’s Healthcare Heroes 2014.



Members of the Harrisburg Area Chapter of the Harley Owners Group paraded their motorcycles around the YWCA’s John Crain Kunkel Center during the April 5 Easter egg hunt and celebration for YWCA residents.



Volunteers rake leaves at the Camp Reily pavilion during the YWCA Junior Board's annual spring cleanup at camp on April 13.



Six graduates of Supported Employment's Illness Management Recovery program were honored during a ceremony April 18 in the YWCA's Highmark Room.



Artist Debra Tritt-Kreiger stands with her watercolor painting "Bumblebee" at the Cards with Heart artist's reception at City House B&B on March 21. Kreiger's artwork is featured in the YWCA's 2014 Cards with Heart campaign.



Staff members wore jeans on Denim Day (April 24) to honor victims of sexual assault and raise funds for the YWCA's Violence Intervention and Prevention programs.



Upcoming Events

- South Allison Hill Multicultural Festival, May 10
- Junior Board Spring Happy Hour at Molly Brannigans, May 29
- Summer camp at Camp Reily opens June 2
- Community Responders Network CONNECT, June 3 and 4



Celebrating 120 years of eliminating racism and empowering women!

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