



# our voice

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
greater harrisburg

## message from the CEO

*By Tina L. Nixon*

Every year I look forward to the annual YWCA USA meeting in Washington, D.C. I have the opportunity to meet national YWCA leadership and staff. I also connect with other Pennsylvania YWCA representatives when we walk all over Capitol Hill lobbying our elected officials. I love being able to educate and engage our representatives and senators, to remind them of the good work we are doing, and to impress on them the importance of their legislative support.



This year's conference theme was "Our Fearless Future." As one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the country, one might think, "What does the YWCA have to fear? They are well-established, highly respected, have a track record for effecting change..." There are always unknowns, and sometimes those question marks can instill fear, but they can also stimulate conversation, pique interest and serve as a call to action.

On the drive home, I thought about what a "Fearless Future" would look like. For our clients, a "Fearless Future" would be one without violence, poverty or barriers to accessing opportunities to improve their lives by pursuing a degree or starting a career. [Click here](#) to continue reading.

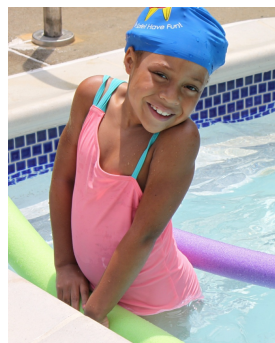


## Camp Reily offers fun, friendship and adventure



The 2014 summer camping season kicked off June 2 at Camp Reily, the YWCA's 27-acre facility off Fishing Creek Valley Road. Camp facilities include a lodge, cabins, pavilion, swimming pool, basketball court and three acres of hiking trails.

Camp Reily provides a summer camp experience



for inner-city children which includes team-building and life-skills activities, weekly field trips, arts and crafts, physical education, swimming lessons, and math, science and enrichment activities.

Summer camp runs through Aug. 15. For more information or to register, contact Andre Nelson at [anelson@ywcahbg.org](mailto:anelson@ywcahbg.org) or 234-7931 x3127.



## Man's journey to success starts at CEEED office

Scott came to the YWCA's Center for Employment, Education and Entrepreneurial Development in search of employment assistance after losing his once-thriving business restoring historic homes in the Harrisburg area.

[Click here](#) to read how Scott used the tools CEEED provided him to get back on track and successfully start a new lawn care business.

## racial justice @ the ywca

### Diversity program kicks off at Camp Reily

The YWCA, in collaboration with the Community Responders Network, began an exciting project focused on integrating a diversity component into its Child Development Programs. The YWCA believes that it is important to begin teaching children to appreciate and respect diversity at a young age.

Diversity Days @ Camp Reily kicked off on June 13 and will engage children every Friday for nine weeks to help them understand concepts of diversity in age-appropriate ways, develop a positive sense of their own identity and instill positive means of interacting with others. Each weekly session will focus on a specific topic, such as race, immigration, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disabilities and class.



*Larry Colbert, president/CEO of K-Songs, conducts a diversity exercise with children attending Camp Reily.*

### YWCA hosts CRN Annual Connections events

The YWCA hosted the Community Responders Network (CRN) Annual Connections events June 3 and 4. Nearly 50 community members attended and heard about the work that the CRN is doing to educate, prevent and respond to

incidents of bias and intolerance in the Greater Harrisburg area. Areas of focus included education, racial profiling, racism in youth sports and hate groups.

### 12th Annual South Allison Hill Multicultural Festival a success



*Drummers from the Harrisburg Boys & Girls Club lead off the parade during the 12th Annual South Allison Hill Multicultural Festival.*

The YWCA partnered with a coalition of community agencies for the 12th Annual South Allison Hill Multicultural Festival on May 10. This signature event built neighborhood pride and a sense of community, while celebrating the cultural diversity of the neighborhood and strengthening connections

between residents, social service providers, businesses and local government entities.

The festival featured a parade, entertainment, more than 30 agency booths, a variety of children's activities and local food vendors. The YWCA is grateful to all of the event's partners and sponsors, and we look forward to next year's event on May 9, 2015!

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### YWCA staffer graduates from leadership institute

Gigi Rios, operations coordinator for the YWCA's Center for Employment, Education and Entrepreneurial Development (CEEED), was one of 17 individuals who graduated on June 22 from the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Development Institute.

The institute's mission is "to prepare and empower individuals committed to exercising creative leadership to improve conditions in the Greater Harrisburg community."

Institute classes meet monthly at Penn State Harrisburg from September through May. The course is designed around the tenets of Tavis Smiley's "The Covenant with Black America," with six areas of emphasis – education, economic development, quality of life, racial opportunity and harmony, infrastructure and leadership.



Gigi serves on the YWCA's Racial Justice Committee and the Racial Justice Staff Advisory Council. She is a board member for Danzante and a member of the Diversity Advisory Council for the Dauphin County Diversity Forum.

YWCA Junior Board member Danielle L. Bowers also graduated from the 2014 institute.

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### Training promotes financial literacy, empowerment

The YWCA's Violence Intervention and Prevention program was awarded a grant from the Betty and Leo Balzeret Foundation to initiate a financial empowerment training as part of its domestic violence services.

Utilizing The Allstate Foundation's "Moving Ahead Through Financial Management" curriculum, the training promoted financial literacy through the acquisition of skills and knowledge that assist domestic violence survivors in moving toward financial



independence.

Forty-eight survivors participated in the four-week financial empowerment training. Classes were offered through the YWCA's Transitional Housing and Domestic Violence programs, Catholic Charities Diocese of Harrisburg's Evergreen House, and The Capitol Pavilion.

The training helped participants develop skills necessary to take control of their financial lives and to make better-informed decisions for themselves and their children. The training equipped survivors with the tools for building a strong financial base, including budgeting, saving, building credit and managing debt.

## yw snapshots



Staff members pose with a variety of dishes they made for a potluck lunch held June 20 to celebrate Asian-American and Arab-American Heritage Months.



Girls involved in the YWCA's TechGYRLS program show off the LEGO robots that they constructed. TechGYRLS is designed to nurture STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) areas for girls ages 8-12.



David Botero, left, and Jeremy Crist of the Harrisburg Police Dept. participated in a discussion about police procedures and public safety with YouthBuild program participants on June 13.



2008 Olympic Silver Medalist Hyleas Fountain, fourth from right, poses with members of the YWCA Junior Board during the board's Celebrity Bartender Happy Hour on May 29 at Molly Brannigans. The event raised \$1,360 to benefit the YWCA's Camp Reily.

## Upcoming events

- United Way Day of Caring - Sept. 5

- Project Homeless Connect - Sept. 11
- YWCA Annual Meeting - Sept. 23
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month - October
- Junior Board Fall Fest - Oct. 4
- Power of Style Fashion Show - Oct. 7



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