

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

ywca

white plains & central westchester



Opening Doors, Building Dreams

Annual Report 2010-2011

The YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

from the board co-presidents and ceo

Dear Friends,

Earlier this month, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to three women – Tawakkol Karman from Yemen and Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf and Ms. Leymah Gbowee of Liberia. The Nobel citation made clear that female empowerment was the primary message: “We cannot achieve democracy and lasting peace in the world unless women obtain the same opportunities as men to influence developments at all levels of society.”

Since its founding in 1929, our YWCA has been working to increase opportunities for women. Through supportive housing to homeless and low income women, including some who are making a new start from prison; cultivating leadership skills in girls to be “bolder and better than they were the day before”; educating children for a brighter future; putting better health and wellness within reach and taking a stand against racism, we help people create change in their lives.

In May, over 550 attended our sold-out “In the Company of Women” luncheon in support of the YWCA’s work to improve the lives of women and families in our community. Guests were inspired by the life story of a former YWCA resident and graduate of our Awakenings prison re-entry program and by Tonya Lewis Lee, acclaimed author, attorney and advocate.

In June, we began a new program, Career Conversations, aimed at empowering women transitioning into or within the workplace. Women from across the community were invited to build new networks and have effective conversations about the issues they face.

Our Children’s Learning Center was created in September to bring together all of our childcare programs – before and afterschool, nursery and childcare and the Children’s Center at the County Courthouse. The Center celebrates learning, nurtures respect and encourages creativity within a vibrant and diverse community.

In December we anticipate the completion of a \$25 million green renovation of our Residence for Women, a full service facility for nearly 200 homeless and low income women, and we will dedicate Sister’s Village, a resource center for clothing, food and job training education within the Residence.

The challenging economic environment reminds us of the importance of our commitment to the empowerment of women and girls. Our successful GEMS program, forty years strong, continues and we have dedicated our Annual Meeting to exploring the unmet needs of girls in our community and collaborating with other service providers to address those needs.

With your partnership, the YWCA will work to ensure that women and girls are provided with access to boundless opportunity. Join us in opening their doors and building their dreams. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support.


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eliminating racism

Stand Against Racism

The YWCA held its 3rd Annual “Stand Against Racism” at the Jay Heritage Center. Nearly 100 people attended and took a pledge to combat racism, joining with thousands of individuals nationwide.

Speaking at the event were the Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Sana Butler, author of “Sugar of the Crop: Journey to Find the Children of Slavery.” Sana Butler spent nearly ten years criss-crossing the country locating children of the last surviving African Americans born into slavery. Both speakers spoke of the extraordinary hopes and dreams of many African Americans as they struggle for a better life.



GEMS (Girls Empowered Through Meaningful Support) Make Strides

The GEMS Program is aimed at closing the achievement gap for girls. Middle school students participated in a workshop at IBM, coordinated by Board Director Grace Brown and the Women in Technology (WIT) group. In December, the GEMS elementary aged students participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program with a visit to the New York Science Center. In October, the high school students participated in a workshop at Banana Republic that focused on professional dressing for interviews and the job market. During Spring Break, the high school GEMS students traveled with our program staff to visit colleges in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana.



Renaissance Institute Launched

Research continues to demonstrate that children and youth succeed in school and beyond when they are engaged in quality after school programs. From improved grades to improved social and emotional development, after school programs provide critical access to supportive staff, mentors and educational activities that keep students on track. Last year, in partnership with the Thomas H. Slater Center and Bethel Baptist Church's Passage to Excellence program, the YWCA initiated the Renaissance Institute. The Institute is funded by the Office for Children and Family Services Advantage After School Program, whose goal is to champion the needs of low income students to have access to quality after school activities. The Renaissance Institute serves 48 elementary and middle school students.



empowering women

Residence for Women - An Historic Landmark

The YWCA Residence is the only affordable, permanent housing with supportive services for single women in Westchester County. In addition, the YWCA operates a 12 bed, 12 month community re-entry program at the Residence for women being released from the Valhalla Correctional Facility.

In December 2010, the YWCA completed the first phase of a \$25 million green renovation of the Residence and began welcoming 100 new tenants. In preparation for this phase of the project, the agency had initiated a Campaign for Furniture to raise funds to purchase furnishings for the individual rooms (beds, dressers, desks, chairs) and common areas.

In April 2011, the Kennedy Duncan wing of our Residence for Women (KDR), was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On the nomination form, the KDR was noted as a handsome example of Tudor Revival style of later 19th and early 20th century philanthropic institutions. Indeed, its elegant facade and wonderful spaces create a sense of serenity and beauty.

The Kennedy Duncan wing is expected to be fully renovated by this winter, when it will once again provide a safe and warm environment for women in-need. When fully completed, the YWCA Residence will be home to 193 low income women.

To date, \$50,000 has been raised for the Furniture Campaign, however additional funds are still needed to furnish the rooms and common areas. For more information, contact (914) 949-6227 x147.

3rd Year of Success for “In the Company of Women”

On May 6, 2011, noted community leaders and 550 other guests came together to recognize the 2011 “In the Company of Women” honorees and support the mission of the YWCA – to eliminate racism and empower women.

The Leader of Distinction award was presented to William M. Mooney Jr., President of The Westchester County Association. Mollie Klaff Passero and Debbie Klaff Katz, owners of Klaff’s Luxury Home and Design Store, received the Women in Business Award. Karen V. Hill was recognized as Community Champion.

Keynote speaker ,Tonya Lewis Lee, delivered a heartwarming message of diversity and advocacy. Audience members were inspired by her personal journey as a dedicated working professional, advocate, and mom.

Celebrating 15 Years of Supervised Visitation at the YWCA

The YWCA celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Center at the agency’s October Annual Meeting. The Center was created in 1995 and is the only program in Westchester County that provides a safe, nurturing place for court-ordered visits and exchanges between children and parents that is affordable for all income levels.

Guest speaker, Amy Barasch, the Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, spoke about research, programs and initiatives supported by the State to combat domestic violence. Judge Kathie E. Davidson, Camille F. Murphy, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Probation Commissioner Rocco A. Pozzi and the Westchester Women’s Agenda, were recognized as leaders for their contribution to the Center over the past fifteen years.

Career Conversations

The YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester offered a series of roundtable discussions aimed at assisting women in building their careers. Presentations offered strategies for advancement in the workplace and financial empowerment. Forty individuals with diverse professional backgrounds attended the June sessions, which included: Diversity Today; Ramping Up or Ramping Down; and Moving from Corporate to Nonprofit.



promoting peace, justice, freedom...

Children's Learning Center

The YWCA launched the Children's Learning Center, which consolidates all YWCA programs that serve children and youth under the agency's New York State Office for Children and Family Services license. These programs include our full day child care program, nursery school, before and after school activities and parent/child classes. Over 300 infant, toddler and preschoolers participated in our early education classes and summer camp at the Center. An additional 135 students attended before and after school programs. At our Children's Center at the County Courthouse, 1,600 children were provided with care and activities while their parents/guardians attended to matters before the courts.

Green Week @ the YWCA

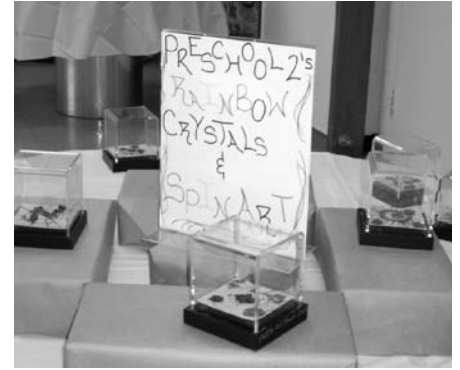
During our Green Week, YWCA Early Education participants hiked around back fields, observing their natural surroundings. Our little explorers worked on an environmental survey, documenting the different trees, herbs and flowers they found. Additional Green Week activities included a musical performance by Bash the Trash, garden clean-up, planting project, and distribution of environmental & energy savings information. Con Edison provided support for these community activities and the "Nature Classroom," a project of science and environmental education for young children at the YWCA.

Student Art Show, Family Fun Day & Carnival

A February Family Fun Day was attended by approximately 200 parents and children, who enjoyed crafts with Girl Scout volunteers and fun music. The event also showcased student artwork from our preschool classes. In August, we reintroduced "Carnival" - a fundraiser which attracted over 800 visitors for an afternoon of old fashioned games, music and fun.

Aquatics, Gymnastics, Fitness and Summer Camp

Nearly 1,000 children and adults participated in the YWCA's Aquatic recreational and competitive Middies swim team program. Over 800 participated in our Gymnastics classes and Tumblettes team; 250 participated in our Fitness programs - where we added eleven new pieces of equipment in our Fitness Center - and close to 500 children attended our summer camps. An expansion of the agency's Camp Funkist, Travel Camp, was added for teens in 2011.



& dignity for all.

Special Programs: Improving Wellness for the Developmentally Disabled and their Families

Since 1987, YWCA has been providing special programs and services to the developmentally disabled and their families. These services include recreation, fitness, summer and vacation camp and respite for caregivers. Special Programs served 285 children and adults with therapeutic recreation/respite services, aquatics instructions, social events and new health and wellness activities.

Encore Plus

With early detection, the survival rate for breast cancer is nearly 100%; yet, thousands of women die needlessly because lack of insurance prevents them from receiving an early diagnosis. The YWCA's Encore Plus program saves lives by providing breast cancer outreach, education, and referral to screening and treatment services to un- and under-insured women. Outreach is conducted at senior centers, nutrition sites, churches, work place settings, schools, and health fairs. Nearly 3,000 women were provided with breast health information.

Supervised Visitation

For 15 years the Supervised Visitation Program has assisted parents and caregivers who are involved with custody cases. The Program provides supervised visits and/or monitored exchanges with the non-custodial parents. The program served 253 families and over three hundred children, providing 1,365 supervised visits and 445 safe exchanges.

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We apologize for any errors and omissions.

YWCA Honored in the Community

The **YWCA** was recognized by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. as a leader in helping others soar at the Sorority's 48th Annual Scholarship Brunch. In honor of the occasion, the County Executive proclaimed March 19, 2011 "YWCA Day" in Westchester County.

Board Secretary and former Board President, **E. Barbara Wiggins** was honored by the African American Men of Westchester, Inc. at their 20th Annual Brotherhood Breakfast. They acknowledged Barbara for her dedication and years of service as a leader in the community.

Board Director **Nikki Tsairis** recieved a Brava Award from the YWCA Greenwich. The award was established to honor women who have excelled in their professional careers and have given back to the community through their time and talent.

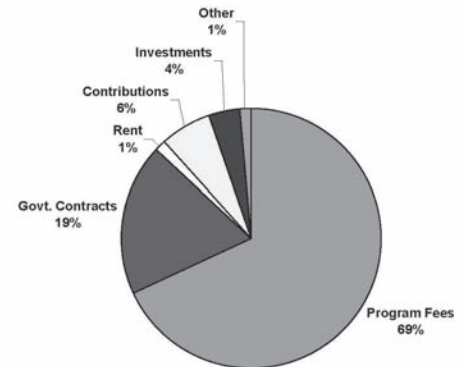
Carol Robinson, Associate Director of the YWCA Children's Learning Center, was honored by the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the Board's Committee on Community Services. The Board acknowledged Ms. Robinson and five other early education program directors who have gone above and beyond their job to ensure quality child care is provided to all children in Westchester County.



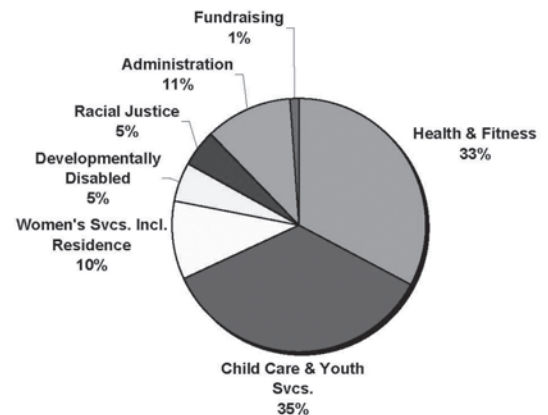
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Total Support and Revenue	\$7,397,623
Program Expenses	\$6,286,251
Management and General	\$ 799,014
Fundraising	\$ 79,550
Total Expenses	\$7,164,815
Total Assets	\$6,928,639
Total Liabilities	\$4,711,563
Net Assets	\$2,217,076

REVENUE FY 2011 - \$7,397,623



EXPENSES FY 2011 - \$7,164,815



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