



white plains & central westchester

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Santa Comes Early this Holiday Season for Women at the YWCA Residence Opening Doors to New Homes and Bringing Gifts for Young Children

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., December, 2011 – There are many smiles of gratitude and joy this December as women find a welcoming home and help in providing holiday gifts for their children. An appeal was sent out to the staff, board and friends of the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester to assist the women at the agency’s supportive housing program for low-income women in obtaining holiday gifts they could give to their children and grandchildren.

“We were overwhelmed by the response as over 100 brand new toys were provided through generous donors at Con Edison and Fisher Price,” stated YWCA CEO Maria L. Imperial.” This truly helps brighten the holidays for the mothers at the Residence, who do not live with their children, but are working on re-unification with their families.”

“What a thrill to open doors to renovated units and share the gift of giving with women – who have no where else to turn,” stated Lori Stanlick, Associate Executive Director for the YWCA. “Being able to give a small toy to your child or grandchild is critical for supporting family relationships and ensuring the holidays bring joy to these women and their families. Our Residents are so appreciative of the kindness of the donors – it shows in their eyes as the wrap up that special toy they selected to give for the holidays.”

The YWCA offers Westchester’s only permanent low-income, supportive housing program for women - services it has provided since 1929. The agency considers its Residence a hallmark activity reflecting its mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Applications for units at the Residence, which is open to all single women aged 18 or above who earn no more than 50% of the area’s average annual income, are available at the YWCA website or by calling (914) 428-1130. The residents pay \$499 per month for their furnished room, access to a kitchen where they can prepare their own meals and participation in the YWCA’s cultural, social, educational activities and services. They also benefit from the YWCA’s collaboration with local organizations such as Dress for Success, AIDs Related Community Services, White Plains Hospital, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Community Capital Resources and Green Thumb in helping residents.

Activity Center: 515 North Street • White Plains, NY 10605 • (914) 949-6227

Residence: Kennedy Duncan / Acheson Wallace Hall • 69 North Broadway • White Plains, NY 10603 • (914) 428-1130

A two-year \$25 million green renovation is just about complete, meaning that 100 new units are coming online at the Kennedy-Duncan wing of the Residence. “We think providing single, economically disadvantaged women with the comforts of a safe home, friends, education, and counseling is the single most effective way to address their basic needs. It also strengthens communities by helping women become contributing members of society,” Stanlick said.

Imperial added that, “As part of the renovation project, the YWCA is still fundraising to complete its goal of refurbishing each unit. Every dollar raised will be put towards buying chairs, desks, and tables, furnishing the future for women, who come to us with a disability, medical illness, a history of being battered, a substance abuse problem or other challenge. Moreover, the dollars will come to us during a difficult economic time in which homelessness and the need for our services is on the rise,” Imperial noted.

Contributions can be made online at <http://www.ywcawhiteplains.com/html/giving.html> and click on Donate Now. Or, for more information, contact Danielle Cylich, Director of Development at 914-949-6227 ext. 147 or via email at [dcylich@ywcawpcw.org](mailto:dcylich@ywcawpcw.org).

***The YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester has, since 1929, been a pioneer for social change through innovative programs that improve the lives of women and families, and strive for racial justice. With an annual budget of \$7.4 million and a staff of 200, its housing, educational, recreational and service programs help more than 4,000 women, children and their families each week. For additional information go to [www.ywcawpcw.org](http://www.ywcawpcw.org).***

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