

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

volume 3.3 spring 2010 southeastern massachusetts

ywca women of distinction



One aspect of empowering women is to develop them as leaders by giving them opportunities for leadership, as well as the skills and training that it takes to be a leader. Praise and recognition are the next aspects of empowerment. Women leaders need to be acknowledged. The YWCA Women of Distinction luncheon event, YWCA's signature event honoring outstanding area women, will be held from 12:00pm – 1:30pm on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at the Country Club of New Bedford.

YWCA Women of Distinction Awards inspire others to achieve by recognizing the leadership of women in a variety of arenas. Corporations, agencies, civic organizations, schools, places of worship, or other

groups and individuals have nominated candidates for these prestigious awards. YWCA Women of Distinction have brought key issues facing women, girls and people of color to the forefront. The awards recognize outstanding women in Southeastern Massachusetts whose lives and accomplishments reflect the YWCA's Mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Honorees are recognized for their exceptional commitment to improving the lives of women and girls through their leadership, advocacy, and community service, while achieving success in their career fields.

This year's honorees include: Christina Bascom, Cecelia Felix, Pauline M. Garcelon, Bernadette

Souza, and Marlene Tavares. The Spirit of Leadership Award, honoring a young woman for her academic and career achievements, community service, advocacy, support of efforts that benefit women and girls, and commitment to the YWCA Mission of eliminating racism and empowering women will be presented to Marie-Frances Rivera. Jean Kellaway will receive the Yvonne M. Drayton Award, named for the former YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts Executive Director, who retired in 2007 after seventeen years of service to the organization.

YWCA Women of Distinction empowers those women who are active and involved in our

communities. The YWCA serves women, girls and their families, and seeks to benefit women and children of all economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. The YWCA is committed to strengthening our communities and acknowledging those female role models.

Sponsored by: Ameriprise Financial, Jacqueline's Advanced Skin Therapy, The Women's Fund and Bristol County Women's Journal. Tickets are \$50/person. Proceeds from the luncheon will support the vital services offered to women and families through the YWCA Southeastern MA. For event tickets, go to www.ywcasema.org or call Gail Fortes: 508-999-3255 for more information.

02 - 03

from the executive director
celebrating 100 years!
ywca goes green

04 - 05

save the dates
red dress fashion show

06

sweet indulgence
summer internships

07

girls giving and growing
why the ywca?

from the executive director



I am pleased to announce the recipients of the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards: Christina Bascom, Cecelia Felix, Pauline M. Garcelon, Bernadette Souza, and Marlene Tavares. All of these women embody the YWCA Mission and work tirelessly in our community to eliminate racism and empower women. We will also present Jean Kellaway with the Yvonne M. Drayton Award. Named for our former Executive Director, this award recognizes a YWCA volunteer whose commitment to the YWCA and community at-large has been extraordinary. The Spirit of Leadership Award will be presented to Marie-Frances Rivera for her academic and career achievements, community service, advocacy, support of efforts that benefit women and girls, leadership development of young women and commitment to the YWCA. I hope that you will join us on May 12th at our luncheon to recognize the many accomplishments of our prestigious awardees.

Advocacy is a cornerstone of the work we do at the YWCA. The YWCA is known as being in the forefront of advocating for issues important to women, children and people of color. Our strength lies in the millions of women, girls and families that the YWCA represents nationwide. On April 22, I joined my sister YW's from around the nation to climb Capitol Hill wearing our white, black and persimmon uniforms. As a unit, all YWCA's marched on the hill advocating for issues related to affordable housing, violence against women, equal pay, child care, and other issues important to women and children. Please join us in our efforts on behalf of women, girls and their families and contact your local senator and representative about these issues!

Thank you to those members of the community that signed up to be a participating site in the YWCA Stand Against Racism on April 30th. Stand Against Racism is a movement that aims to eliminate racism by raising awareness. Over 2,000 sites signed up to host Stands nationwide!!

Enjoy the beautiful spring and thank you once again for your support of the YWCA.

Gail M. Fortes
Executive Director



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empowering women **ywca**

celebrating 100 years!

On April 14, 2011, YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts will be 100 years old!!

To celebrate our 100 years of eliminating racism and empowering women and girls, we are collecting stories and pictures of past YWCA programs and participants. We want to put a face on the voices that have left a mark on the YWCA since 1911 and contributed to building decades of ideas that have forever changed the community in which we live.

Please email pictures or stories to Athena Mota: amota@ywcasema.org or call: 508-999-3255.

our voice

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ywca goes green!

In these challenging economic times, we know you'll appreciate that we're making sound fiscal decisions. This change will help us save nearly \$6,000.00 per year on printing and mailing costs so that these funds can go back to fund our life-changing programs. Plus, it will save over 33,600 sheets of paper per year so that we can have a lighter impact on the environment.

This will be the last hardcopy you will receive by direct mail. Our newsletter will still be sent via email and can be accessed through our website. Please email info@ywcasema.org with your Name and Email address and we will move your contact info to our electronic mailing list to send you an electronic copy of our newsletter. If you do not have access to email, and would still like to receive a hardcopy of our newsletter, please call Athena at 508-999-3255.

thank you for reading our voice!!



YWCA Levi Standish House of Tomorrow. Please show your support in making a pledge to the YWCA Under One Roof Capital Campaign. Call Gail Fortes to schedule a tour of the magnificent Levi Standish House.

race for the cure

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts is a proud participant of the 2010 Susan G. Komen Race for a Cure. Please join our team or make a donation to support our team's participation.



Go to: <http://komenmassrace.kintera.org>. Click on "Sponsor Participant" and Search "Gail Fortes" team for the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts.

army of women

One Million Women.
One research Goal.
One revolutionary opportunity.
Together we can prevent breast cancer.



The key to ending breast cancer is to stop it before it starts.

The Love/Avon Army of Women provides women the life-changing opportunity to partner with the scientists who are conducting the research that will move us beyond a cure and teach us how to end breast cancer.

Learn more or sign up at: www.armyofwomen.org

our mission

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

save the dates



ywca women of distinction awards luncheon

wednesday, may 12, 2010

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

country club of new bedford

\$50 per person

go to www.ywcasema.org for tickets

for more info contact:

gail fortes, executive director

508-999-3255 or gfortes@ywcasema.org

\$1000 justice sponsors



Cheryl J. C. Blanchard, CFP®



\$500 dignity sponsor



media sponsor



you are invited to join us

Under One Roof

Friday, August 20, 2010

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Rotch-Jones-Duff House

396 County Street, New Bedford

\$100 per Person

\$1,000 per Table Sponsor

\$5,000 per Event Sponsor

For reservations or event information, please contact Linda
508-999-3255 or llarsen@ywcasema.org

7th annual red dress fashion show & silent auction



Courtesy of: Tom Lopes

Model Cecelia Porché and Escort Paul Machado



Courtesy of: Tom Lopes

Gail Fortes; Miss New Bedford, Ashley Hebert; Miss Massachusetts Amanda Kelly; and Tammy Beckman



Courtesy of: Tom Lopes

Model Lisa Schmid-Alvord and Escort William C. Prescott, Jr.



Courtesy of: Bob Hughes

Principal Lena Pires with students from Charter School



Courtesy of: Bob Hughes

Angie Robinson with her daughter Mia and Tracy Sirois with her baby Laura



Courtesy of: Tom Lopes

Jan daSilva and Ine Ogagan



Courtesy of: Bob Hughes

Model Darcy Fernandes and Escort Joe Drayton

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Gig Lang and Jan Baptist



Courtesy of: Tom Lopes



Courtesy of: Bob Hughes

Athena Mota with her baby boy, Dominic

international women's day sweet indulgence



summer internships

assistant to the director of advocacy and communications

- Clerical support to the marketing, public education, media and community outreach efforts;
- assistance in the development of marketing materials and its dissemination;
- assistance in program development in the Hallmark areas of Racial Justice and Women's Economic Advancement;
- assistance in the coordination of special events (summer projects will include tasks related to the 100th Birthday, Sizzlin' Salsa Night, and Week Without Violence);
- assistance at special events; and
- undertakes related tasks, as the needs and operation changes.

Reports to: Athena Mota, Dir. of Advocacy and Communications

bristol county commission on the status of women intern

BCCSW is recruiting an intern to assist with clerical support and other related tasks as deemed necessary. Please contact Gail Fortes: 508-999-3255 or Dr. Juli Parker: 508-910-4584 for more information.

For more information, please contact Athena Mota: 508-999-3255 and send a résumé to amota@ywcasema.org

assistant to the director of programs and services

- Clerical support to the residential, wellness and youth programs;
- assistance in updating client files;
- assistance in developing volunteer opportunities for residents; and
- undertakes related tasks, as the needs and operation changes.

Reports to: Catherine Bourassa, Dir. of Programs and Services

every girl deserves an amazing summer

a \$20 sponsorship will allow a girl to attend girls giving and growing for a day full of fun activities.

other sponsorship options:
sponsor a girl for 1 week - \$100
sponsor a girl for the summer - \$700

for more information, please call:
kathleen stykowski 508-999-3255



girls participate in sailing lessons, community service projects, girl scouts Fab Factor, economic advancement and racial justice activities, field trips and much more!

why the ywca?

name: Catherine Bourassa

role(s) in the ywca: Director of Programs and Services

role(s)/hobbies outside of the ywca: Student-Leadership Southcoast; Board of Directors-Treatment on Demand; mother, wife and soon to be grandma!

worked at the ywca since: 1991

why did you become interested in the ywca?:

"As a high school student I attended several events at the YWCA. Then in 1991, my daughter attended a pre-school program here that a friend of mine was teaching. She had some health issues and asked if I would substitute for her. She ended up resigning, and I took over the class for 2 years. At that time, I accepted a part time position with the after-school program, which turned into full time, which turned into Youth Services Director, which turned into Director of Programs and Services!"

what do you find particularly inspiring about the ywca?

"When I listen to our Executive Director speaking in public about all the programs and services we offer and how many people we have reached throughout the southeastern area it is inspiring and I'm proud to be a part of such a great organization."

one of your proudest moments with the ywca...

"One of my proudest experiences was working with a residential program we had several years ago that re-united women with their children. My job was to find childcare for the children and teach parenting classes to the moms. One of these moms went on to get her college degree and found full time employment. Her son stayed with the ywkids school age program until he aged out, and has since applied for a job as a group leader. Everytime I see the mom, she tells me how the YWCA saved her life and was the best thing that every happened to her and her son. I am glad to have been a part of that."

3 words to describe the ywca...

"Moving On Up!"



ywca board of directors

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ywca staff

Gail M. Fortes

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Catherine Bourassa

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Athena M. G. Mota

Director of Advocacy and Communications

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Custodian

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ywkids Site Coordinator
Coordinator of Support Services
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
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ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Clerical Support

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Valentina Martinez

Outreach Specialist
Outreach Specialist

adult services:

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women's collaborative project:

Candy Royster

Resident Assistant

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of Greater New Bedford

our voice

For info on any of our
programs and services,
please call the YWCA:
508-999-3255 or visit:
www.ywcasema.org