

our voice

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca

volume 1.4 summer 2008 southeastern massachusetts

ywca welcomes the lieutenant governor

On August 4, 2008 the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts was honored to welcome Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, while he was visiting the South Coast. The YWCA Board and Staff had the opportunity to describe its many programs and services, as well as the pressing needs of the community. The Lieutenant Governor also met with local community response leaders on issues of sexual assault and domestic violence in our communities.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Robyn Kennedy, Director of Policy and Interagency Affairs. Robyn Kennedy is also a Board Member at the YWCA Central Massachusetts.

Pictured Right: Gail Fortes, Executive Director; Marie-Frances Rivera, Board Member, and Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray.



girls giving and growing



Girls Giving and Growing is a summer program for girls ages 10-14. During the 7 week program, these girls have experienced new activities and discoveries. The girls appreciate the fact that it is an all girls program. Nopherterrie (age 10) said, "I think this is an outstanding program because there are no boys and it is just like a girl's day out."

The girls participate in many activities such as, sailing with Community Boating, the WOW Mobile, New Bedford Oceanarium, Amazing Women adventures, teambuilding, Zoey's Room computer program and Growing Money, which teaches money management. They have also gone aboard with the Enviro Lab and taken the New Bedford Harbor Tour.

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from the executive director



Summer is my favorite time of year. Everyone is so happy and full of energy. It is so hard to believe that the summer is already half over. The YWCA is a flurry of activity during the summertime. Our Yw kids Summer Program offers a spectacular 10 week full day program for girls and boys age 5 - 13. Children are engaged daily in exciting activities that are fun and educational. Parents feel safe and secure knowing that while they are at work, their children are well cared for in a nurturing environment.

We also offer a Girls Giving and Growing Program for girls age 10 - 13 at the Standish House. This seven week program focuses on leadership development for young girls. Also included in this program are our Hallmark Programs of Racial Justice and Women's Economic Advancement. The girls are so excited and eager to learn. They are openly and freely talking about their culture and issues around race. They are exploring new ways to embrace and

celebrate the wonderful diversity of our region. They are also becoming financially literate and learning about credit, how to manage their money, building budgets, fundraising and saving for their future. It is wonderful for me to speak with our children everyday and hear the excitement in their voices as they describe their day to me and the different experiences they are having throughout the summer. I must commend my staff for their diligent work in creating and developing curriculum and interesting activities to offer all of our children the best summer possible.

Of course, I always wish we could do more for the children we serve. My dream will come true with our capital campaign plans. Everyday, we come closer and closer to realizing our vision for expansion. This plan will enable the YWCA to offer more programs and services to our community. This is a very exciting time to be a part of the YWCA! So join us at our upcoming events to hear more about our plans for the future. The YWCA is a place for everyone, so please get involved.

Gail Fortes
Executive Director

girls giving and growing (cont.)

Many of the activities they have been enjoying are things that they've never had the chance to do. Kiaraline (age 10) said, "I never go to the beach at home and here I can go every week. I also am learning how to sail and can jump in the middle of the ocean and swim. The field trips are fun!"



The girls have also become entrepreneurs by organizing and running their own fundraisers. They held a bake sale right outside of the YWCA. They sat down together and planned out what they would bake and how much they would sell it for. They baked brownies, cookies, and cake and sold lemonade. Alexius (age 12) said, "The bake sale was fun. We actually got to bake all the foods and we sold them and raised \$50.00." For their community service, the girls have helped out the younger kids at Yw kids School Age Child Care with reading and made get well cards for the sick children at St. Lukes hospital. They are also planning a city clean-up day where they will be picking up litter around downtown New Bedford. They decided this would be a good idea after learning from the WOW Mobile that seagulls and other birds are harmed from litter like plastic soda rings.

Statements from girls like Jakya (age 9) echo why it's so important to have programs focused on our girls. "This is the best summer I've ever had, I can't wait to do this again next year!" said Jakya.



In celebration of 150 years...become part of the legacy

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Renee King | 25. Deidre Fountain | 50. Diane Brodeur |
| 2. Claudette Blake | 26. Mary Kruge | 51. Marcia Ramos |
| 3. Ellie Early | 27. Anonymous | 52. Valerie Tecci |
| 4. Emma Basso | 28. Lourdes Colon | 53. Marsha McCabe |
| 5. Anonymous | 29. Anonymous | 54. Brenda Ford |
| 6. Cynthia Edwards | 30. Susan Botelho | 55. Angelia Belton |
| 7. Marie-Frances Rivera | 31. Lydia Murphy | 56. Cynthia Rose |
| 8. Dr. Juli Parker | 32. Nancy Hawes | 57. Juliette Gallant |
| 9. Kimberly Sylvia | 33. Mary Houtman | 58. Gloria Borges-Santos |
| 10. Anonymous | 34. Martha Woodbury | 59. Nikisha Bolden |
| 11. Anonymous | 35. Kathryn Luongo | 60. Fernanda Gagnon |
| 12. Anonymous | 36. Sarah Tinay | |
| 13. June Pina | 37. Tracy Beckman | |
| 14. First Citizens Credit Union | 38. Toni Foreman | |
| 15. Anonymous | 39. Gary Foreman | |
| 16. Anonymous | 40. Darrel Foreman | |
| 17. Anonymous | 41. Rudolph Steward | |
| 18. Anonymous | 42. Joyce Schwartz | |
| 19. Anna Lisa Vust | 43. Alice Clark | |
| 20. Dorothy Lopes | 44. June Dugan | |
| 21. Marianna Sylvester | 45. Diane Ramos | |
| 22. Maria Pinarreta | 46. Beth Fay | |
| 23. Ashley Goncalves | 47. Xen Fay | |
| 24. Joan Medeiros | 48. Gertrude Baptiste | |
| | 49. Beverly Baccelli | |

do something special for yourself today!

join the **ywca**

150



(cut)

membership form

Please return with payment. Checks may be made payable to **YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts.**

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____ @ _____ . _____

DOB ____/____/____

We accept payment by MasterCard, Visa or Discover:

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Please renew my membership upon expiration using the payment information provided.

I approve of the use of my name and/or photos in conjunction with YWCA marketing and communication efforts i.e. the YWCA's newsletter.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

become a member/associate

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Member (Women 18-59)	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Associate (Men 18-59)	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Member (Women with I.D.)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Associate (Men with I.D.)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Member (Women 60+)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Associate (Men 60+)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Teen/Youth Member (Girls 17 & under)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Teen/Youth Associate (Boys 17 & under)	\$15.00

become a donor

<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500.00

Donations over the amount of dues are tax deductible.

thank you to our donors



Above Left: YWCA Board President Jan Baptist, Executive Director Gail Fortes, BankFive First Vice President Marilyn Hopkins and Vice President Maria Pinarreta. BankFive presented a \$10,000 check to the YWCA Capital Campaign.

Above Right: Citizens Bank, Massachusetts President Robert E. Smyth, YWCA Executive Director Gail Fortes and YWCA Board Vice President Lee Blake. Citizens Bank Foundation presented a \$10,000 check to the YWCA Capital Campaign.

(cut)

our mission

The YWCA is a women's membership movement nourished by its roots in the Christian faith and sustained by the richness of many beliefs and values. Strengthened by diversity, the Association draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision:

peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people.

The Association will trust its collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

We hope you've enjoyed reading the past year of **our voice**. If you would like to continue receiving **our voice** by mail, please return this form with the following information:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

We are about to launch our NEW web site. If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, please provide us with your E-mail address below:

E-mail: _____

thank you for reading **our voice!!**

ywca capital campaign steering committee



Left to Right (Front Row): Gail Fortes, YWCA Executive Director; **Maria O. Pinarreta**; **Marilyn Hopkins**; **Anne Converse**; **Marge Jenney**, Honorary Campaign Chairwoman.

(Back Row): Kate Harrison-Beauregard; **David Guertin**; **Jan Baptist**, YWCA President; **Allan Smith, CPA**, YWCA Property Committee.

Not Pictured: **Tammy Beckman**, YWCA Board Member; **Lee Blake**, YWCA Vice-President; **Scott Costa**; **Jane Gonsalves**, New Bedford City Council President & YWCA Red Dress Fashion Show Chair; **Marcia Ramos**, YWCA Board Member; and **Neal Weiss**.

The YWCA has raised over \$920,000 toward its \$4.8 million capital campaign. Phase I accomplished the exterior preservation of the historic Levi Standish House located at 20 South Sixth Street in New Bedford. The second phase of the YWCA's campaign will fund the construction of an approximate 12,800 square foot building addition which will enable the YWCA to provide a newly designed infrastructure that meets the growing needs and changes of quality childcare and women's residential housing. The YWCA plans to construct its new building addition by its 100th anniversary in 2011.

ywca board member named to the national park service

New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park Superintendent, Celeste Bernardo recently selected Janine daSilva as the new Preservation Specialist to the New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park Service.

Referring to Jan daSilva, Celeste Bernardo said, "Jan brings much experience in preservation planning and restoration. Also, her background in history and knowledge of the New Bedford area make her well-suited for this position working with

the remarkable cultural resources in New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park."

Jan daSilva was previously a preservation consultant for New Bedford and its Historical Society.

"I am happy to return to New Bedford to work with the National Park Service and the preservation community. I have always been impressed by the quality and quantity of cultural resources found in this coastal community. The architectural diversity

of the city cannot be found in other places, and makes New Bedford a unique place to work and live. I look forward to meeting the park partners, staff and volunteers on a variety of preservation issues," said Jan daSilva.

Jan daSilva is a native of Brooklyn and holds a Bachelors degree in History from Princeton University and a Bachelor's degree in Historic Preservation from Roger Williams University. She has been a YWCA Board Member since 2001.



welcome dr. portia bonner



On the evening of July 30th at the Buttonwood Park Zoo, New Bedford Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Portia Bonner was enthusiastically welcomed by a diverse group of more than 250 women. Women Supporting Education, the committee that hosted the event, wanted the evening to

be an opportunity to show Dr. Bonner that there are many women in the community who wish to support her in the coming months and years.

Among the gifts collected for Dr. Bonner was a book with pages of contact information from women in the area with skills and expertise to offer.

"How exciting to see hundreds of women attending an event to welcome Dr. Bonner to the City of New Bedford", said Gail Fortes, Executive Director of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts and member of the planning committee for the women's reception. "It was a clear demonstration of the outpouring of support that the women of our community have for Dr. Bonner. I am thrilled to be a part of it."

Other planning committee members included Lee Blake, Kathryn Duff, Kate Fentress, Dr. Jean MacCormack, Helena Marques, Carolee Matsumoto, Christel Phipps, Marlene Pollock and Stephanie Wick.

leadership southcoast, class of 2008



Leadership SouthCoast's mission is to provide our region with an ongoing source of diverse leaders, who are prepared and committed to serve as catalysts and sustainers of positive change for the quality of life on the South Coast of Massachusetts.

Leadership SouthCoast selects a diverse group of

acknowledged and aspiring leaders to participate in a 10-month community leadership program. Participants are challenged by a variety of issues presented by leaders and experts in their fields. The purpose of the program is to transform a highly motivated group of individuals into a network of leaders with knowledge

and commitment that benefits their community.

This year the Leadership SouthCoast Class of 2008 included YWCA Board Member, Yolanda M. Dennis; YWCA Executive Director, Gail M. Fortes; and YWCA Board Member, Marie-Frances Rivera. **(pictured below)**



Class of 2008

- Ms. Carmen Aguilar**
- Mr. Robert J. Barboza**
- Ms. Beth Sylvia Caldwell**
- Mr. David M. Chandler**
- Dr. James F. Cobbs, Jr.**
- Ms. Maria A. Cordeiro**
- Mr. Richard C. Couse**
- Ms. Yolanda L. Dennis**
- Ms. Gail M. Fortes**
- Ms. Sarah Z. Gonet**
- Mr. William E. Grigg**
- Ms. Jennifer Holske**
- Ms. Julianne Kelley**
- Mr. Roy M. Nascimento**
- Ms. Susan B. Oldrid**
- Ms. Marie-Frances Rivera**
- Mr. Michael R. Roy**
- Mr. Dennis M. Wyatt**

persimmon pics



YWCA staff, board, volunteers, family, friends and children were out wearing persimmon and “thrusting their collective power” at the Cape Verdean Recognition Week Parade.

why the ywca?

name: Dave Pires

role(s) in the ywca: Maintenance

role(s)/hobbies outside of the ywca:

Loves spending time with his grandchildren, listens to the “oldies but goodies” and entertains staff and friends with collection of fun and sarcastic t-shirts.

worked at the ywca for: Volunteered for 3 years, Employed for 10 years.

why did you become interested in the ywca?

“A friend of mine told me about the wonderful work the YWCA does for the community.”

what do you find particularly inspiring about the ywca?

“I find the work that the YWCA does for young children inspiring, as well as our Executive Director’s passion for her work.”

one of your proudest moments with the ywca...

Lasting 10 years!

3 words to describe the ywca...

It’s been fantastic!!



save the date

3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Night

Salsa dancing, food, music, contests & tons of fun!

Saturday, September 27th 7:30 pm - 12:30 am

The Sky Room at the Howland Place

Tickets on Sale Now !!

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3rd Annual
Hispanic Heritage Night
Saturday, Sept. 27th
7:30 pm to 12:30 am
The Sky Room
Howland Place, New Bedford
A fun evening of dancing with something for everyone!
For Tickets: Call the YWCA 508-999-3255
\$20 per person \$10 for women 18 - 30
Hosted by: YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts
Proceeds to Benefit Leadership Development Programs for Young Women.

Sponsored by:



13th Annual Week Without Violence

Sunday, October 19: “A Day of Remembrance”
Church bells will ring for one minute at **12 noon.**

Monday, October 20 “Protecting Our Children”

Tuesday, October 21 “Making Our Schools Safer”

Wednesday, October 22 “Confronting Violence Against Women”

Thurs., October 23 “Facing Violence Against Men”

Fri., October 24 “Eliminating Racism & Hate Crime”
Please join us for a breakfast conversation on racism and hate crimes.

YWCA, Levi Standish House, 20 South Sixth Street,
New Bedford **8am – 10am.**

Sat., October 25 “Replacing Violence With Sports, Recreation, and Fun!”

More info on programs and activities coming soon!

our voice

Published by the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts
Editor: Athena Mota, Director of Advocacy and Communications
Printed by: Blue Eagle Printing, Inc.

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our voice

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