

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

volume 2.2 winter 2009 southeastern massachusetts

peer review success!



Above: Martha Breunig, Mary McRae, & Eva Martin Blythe

The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts successfully completed the YWCA New England Region Peer Support and Review process. The review team included: Martha Breunig, YWCA New England Region Resource Staff; Mary McRae, Director of Education and Workforce Development at YWCA Western Massachusetts; and Eva Martin Blythe, Executive Director at YWCA Cambridge.

According to the review team, "Southeastern Massachusetts has developed and sustained an ability to draw in women who are passionate about

women's issues and the YWCA mission, and they effectively spread the word and recruit others with contagious passion. Board and staff members see the YWCA as an extension of who they are and serve as a pipeline to mission fulfillment."

The Peer Review Team spent two days observing operations and interviewing board, staff, volunteers, participants, donors and collaborators in the community. Questions that were asked of the community and their responses included:

Who is the YWCA and

what is your sense of where they are going?

"It is the central organization working on issues for women, and especially women of color."

"With their mobilization efforts they serve as the center of the wheel, a role that is appreciated!"

"The YWCA has become energized, especially among young women."

"There is a sense that their internal processes are streamlined, which saves more resources for community impact."

"The YWCA is a place where organizations from throughout the community can come together to focus on a common goal."

"The YWCA is an 'unsung hero.'"

"They are growing while staying mission directed."

"Their multilingual capability – that means a lot to this community."

"The scope of services, that they have a finger on the pulse, and the broad spectrum of people involved is impressive."

"The diversity among staff means that the YWCA understands the community and its needs, which is essential to their the future."

"It's clear that they know who they are and where they are going."

What would be lost if the YWCA left the community?

"The YWCA acts as a social conscience for key issues facing women of color, and they are good at mobilization."

"Children's and breast health programs, and battling sexism and racism, as these efforts are embedded in the YWCA."

"We would be totally lost without them – they are quick to respond."

"Who would take the lead

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from the executive director



As we begin 2009, I cannot help but reflect on the year that just past. The YWCA, like many other organizations and individuals, continues to feel the effects of the financial crisis. However, we are still committed to moving forward with our plans for capacity building and innovative programming. These goals are key to the long-term sustainability of the YWCA and the women and girls we serve in the community.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of our organization, the YWCA USA recently released a national survey of priorities and concerns to commemorate the start of the anniversary year. Key findings I would like to share with you from the "What Women Want" survey include:

- The majority of all American women say that personal economic problems pose the greatest barriers to

their success over the next 10 years, including: lack of retirement savings (70%), major illness or medical expenses (68%), lack of jobs or layoffs due to jobs sent overseas (63%) and cost of college or higher education (60%)

- 9 in 10 (92%) of American women aged 18-70 say that President Obama and the new Congress should make solving the financial crisis the number 1 priority this year.
- 7 in 10 (73%) Gen Y women say that violence against women in the U.S. should be a top priority for the President and the new Congress to address in their first year.
- Gen Y are more likely than older women to say that discrimination against Blacks (42% vs. 24%) and Hispanics (28% vs. 18%) is a "very serious" problem in the U.S.

For more information, please check out our website at www.ywcasema.org

Recently, the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts successfully completed the YWCA New England Region Peer Support and Review process and two-day site visit from three reviewers. This process is a time to assess strengths, capacity, alignment with and progress toward fulfilling the YWCA Mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. It

is a time to review required legal, financial and programmatic functions, and recognized best practices in the field that ensure long term viability. And, it is a time to discuss engagement at YWCA regional and national levels. I am very pleased to say that it was abundantly clear to the review team that the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts has developed and sustained an ability to draw in women who are passionate about women's issues and the YWCA Mission, who then effectively spread the word and recruit others with contagious passion. Our Board and staff members see the YWCA as an extension of who they are and serve as a pipeline to Mission fulfillment. In summary, the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts has successfully built a solid reputation among those it serves, staff, volunteers, and the broader community of foresightedness, innovation, excellence, and continuing improvement. We will continue to build on this success in 2009.

Happy New Year!

Gail M. Fortes
Executive Director

peer review success (cont.)

advocating for women and women's issues?"

"They amplify voices on issues of concern to women and anti racism work - in a secure way."

The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts has successfully built a solid reputation among those it serves, staff, volunteers, and the broader community of foresightedness, innovation, excellence, and continuing improvement. It is 'better positioned' for the future than many organizations due to the consistent record of successes, cohesiveness among staff, and a strong corps of volunteers. The current board of directors and its predecessors have worked well to assure the presence of the association in the service area for the long term. The fact that the organization's commitments have been in areas of service and among populations where desired outcomes are often difficult to achieve translates into high levels of respect and appreciation," reported the peer review support team.

our voice

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

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

60. Nikisha Bolden
61. Nancy Sullivan
62. Sandra Santos
63. Maureen Sylvia
64. Catherine West
65. Everett Hoagland
66. Irania Carter
67. Nia Hoagland
68. Ayan Hoagland
69. Annemarie Espindola
70. Sherrie'Anne André
71. Lois Andrade
72. Marlene Rodrigues
73. Lena Pires
74. Ashlee Dupuis



150

do something special for yourself today!

join the ywca

join online: <http://www.ywcasema.org/get-involved-membership.htm>

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

150
YEARS

no easy task
no ordinary organization



WHAT WOMEN WANT

A NATIONAL SURVEY OF PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS

A Summary of Major Findings



To see the major findings of **WHAT WOMEN WANT: A National Survey of Priorities and Concerns** go to: www.ywcasema.org and click on the link pictured left.

OWN IT.

in celebration of the ywca's 150th anniversary, we invite you...

and you friends to **OWN IT.** Women across America who are determined to take charge of their lives and communities, and make the world a safer and more just place for all peoples. Working together, we will transform communities across the country by exercising our collective power and energy to empower women and eliminate racism. Motivated by courageous women of the past who wouldn't take NO for an answer, the YWCA joins with you and your friends to change our world.

Please visit our online hub: www.weekwithoutviolence.org/ownit or go to www.ywcasema.org and click on the **OWN IT** link pictured above. Join us during this exciting time of change, education and celebration. We invite you to **OWN YOUR POWER!**

persimmon pics of thanks for your support



(Dec.) Bristol County Savings Bank awarded \$5000 to benefit the YWCA's Teen Talk Program.



(Dec.) Massachusetts Bankers Association Charitable Foundation awarded a \$5000 community grant to the YWCA. Nominated by BankFive, the award will benefit the YWCA's Capital Campaign.

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 **our voice**.

If you haven't seen our new website, check us out at: www.ywcasema.org

In an effort to conserve resources, we can send you **our voice** electronically. Please email info@ywcasema.org with your Name and Email address and we will move your contact info to our electronic mailing list.

thank you for reading our voice!!

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH


*6th Annual
Red Dress
Fashion Show
and
Silent Auction*

Kate Spade Sponsors
BankFive
Vantage in Philanthropy

Anne Klein Sponsors
Boston Medical Center
HealthNet Plan
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Southcoast Hospitals Group

Please Join Us...

Tuesday, February 24, 2009
5:30 pm - Cocktail Hour
6:30 pm - Dinner

Century House
107 South Main Street Acushnet, MA
Individual Ticket: \$50.00
Private Table/Seats Up to 10: \$500.00

Wear your favorite Red Dress

To support HEART^{plus}
raising awareness of cardiovascular disease
in women

Call the YWCA @ 508-999-3255 for Tickets or
Purchase Tickets Online: www.ywcasema.org
by Tuesday, February 17th

Seating is limited.
Tickets will not be sold at the door!

ywca
Sweet Indulgence

*It's International
Women's Day...*

Take the time to be pampered.
We will have professionals
available for Massage, Reiki,
Manicures, Skin Care,
and More.

Share an opportunity to network
and relax in the company of women.
You know you deserve it!

Complimentary Admission,
Services & Light Indulgences.

Sunday, March 8th
2:00PM - 6:00PM
University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth, Woodland Commons

Please Call: 508-999-3255

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

3rd annual female faces of war conference



"first, do no harm."

Dates: March 27 & 28, 2009

Location: Battleship Cove, 5 Water Street, Fall River

Keynote Speaker: **Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught** (Ret) of WIMSA ,
Women in Military Service to America Foundation, Inc.
With **Daria Sommers**, filmmaker, a screening of "Lioness"
Judy Barrett Litoff, Ph.D., author and historian, Bryant University
Sue Lynch, JD, PYT, There and Back-Again Yoga
Ilona Meagher, author, Moving a Nation to Care: PTSD &
America's Returning Troops
Cheryl Baxa, Ph.D., Natick Soldier Center, Nutrition Specialist

Attend Both Days: March 27 and 28, for \$80.00
Saturday Only for \$35.00 at Heritage State Park 9am - 2:30pm
Friday Evening Only for \$45.00 at the U.S.S. Massachusetts 5:00pm
"Lioness" Show Only for \$10.00

For Information or Reservations: Contact Paula Hague by March 20th
(508) 678-1100 ext. 101 or (800) 533-3194 or <http://battleshipcove.org/womenprotectingus>

Sponsored by the YWCAs of Greater RI and Southeastern MA



The YWCA celebrated in style with its two annual holiday parties.

Above: The Past-Presidents' Holiday gathering. (Left to Right) Thelma Baxter, Marge Jenney, Sister Rose Gallogly, Pat Ford, Brenda Dixon, Jan Baptist, and Dr. Patricia Andrade.

Right: Donors, Volunteers, Board and Staff celebrate in the historic Levi Standish House.



ywca teen talk



This last semester of Teen Talk has been great. The girls are amazing and greet me every day with a smile and a hug. They have completed our Babysitting Course and all earned their

certificates. They have learned not only how to be a good babysitter, but also home alone safety, first aid and the Heimlich Maneuver.

The interactive computer program Zoey's Room is moving along as well. The girls have been learning internet safety and completed math and science activities to earn points. As of today, seventy five percent of the girls have been awarded prizes for their achievements.

The girls have also been introduced to our Racial Justice curriculum and have expressed great interest. The questions they have and the issues they face are staggering. Teen Talk is a place where they can comfortably talk about

these issues and share their thoughts and ideas.

Isabel's mom stated, "Thank you for the work you are doing with my daughter. She loves your program. The things you talk about help her deal with issues she is having at school and with friends". That is what Teen Talk is all about, giving these young women the tools to make positive decisions in their everyday lives.

—Kathleen Stykowski
Teen Services Coordinator

when you join the ywca you stay...



You can visit these “old-timers” and new staff at the YWCA...

Janice Fauteux- 20 years
Ana Silva- 17 years
Catherine Bourassa- 15 years
Gail Fortes- 15 years
Joan Yotides- 15 years (not pictured)
Linda Larsen- 13 years (not pictured)
Jack Davis- 10 years
Dave Pires- 10 years
Shirley Houtman- 9 years (not pictured)
Athena M. G. Mota- 7 years
Valentina Martinez- 6 years
Lisa Calvano- 5 years (not pictured)
Annamarie Lopes- 5 years
Domingo Quinones- 1.5 years
Linda Rose- 1 year
Kathleen Stykowski- 11 mos.
Vicky Silva- 7 mos.
Shawneen Fyock- 2 mos.

Pictured above: (top row) Domingo Quinones, Annamarie Lopes, Gail M. Fortes, Valentina Martinez, Vicky Silva, Ana Silva, Shawneen Fyock, Linda Rose, and Jack Davis
(bottom row) Athena M. G. Mota, Janice Fauteux, Catherine Bourassa, Kathleen Stykowski, and Dave Pires

why the ywca?

name: Kathleen Stykowski

role(s) in the ywca: Teen Services Coordinator

role(s)/hobbies outside of the ywca: Mom, student

worked at the ywca for: 10 months

why did you become interested in the ywca?: “I became interested in the YWCA after seeing a job opening for the Teen Services Coordinator position. After interviewing for the position, I knew that it was the right one for me. It allowed me to use my knowledge, ambition and creativity to empower and educate young women.”

what do you find particularly inspiring about the ywca? “Basically, EVERYTHING. All the programs are amazing and when you listen to participants speak of the YWCA programs they are in, it will bring tears to your eyes. They are so happy and grateful for the programs that are helping or have helped to change their lives.”

one of your proudest moments with the ywca... “One of my proudest experiences at the YWCA was listening to the comments of the Girls Giving and Growing participants. They talked of all the things they had learned and experienced. One girl said, “I never get to do the things, I did this summer. It was the best summer ever!” Her comment was then echoed by ALL the other girls in the program. Looking at these young women with smiles on their faces and hearing that we helped to make their summer amazing, while at the same time educating them was a very proud moment for me.”

3 words to describe the ywca... Change, Voice, Opportunity



ywca board of directors

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Jan Baptist

Vice President
Yolanda Dennis

Treasurer
Marcia Ramos

Assistant Treasurer
Marie-Frances Rivera

Clerk
Dr. Darrel Hoagland

Atty. Carolina Africano
Nicole Almeida
Sherrie'Anne André
Tammy Beckman
Lena Pires
Jacquelyn Ramos
Sgt. Rita Ribeiro

Ex-Officio
Gail M. Fortes

ywca staff

Gail M. Fortes

Executive Director

Catherine Bourassa

Director of Programs and Services

Athena M. G. Mota

Director of Advocacy and Communications

administrative services:

Lisa Calvano
Linda Larsen
Annamarie Lopes
Janice Fauteux
Linda Rose
Jack Davis
Dave Pires
Domingo Quinones

Director of Finance
Office Manager
Administrative Assistant
Finance Clerk
Receptionist
Facilities Manager
Custodian
Custodian

youth services:

Kathleen Stykowski
Kareena Andrade
Ildavina "Vicky" Silva
Shawneen Fyock
Sharonique Araujo
Beatriz Guerrero
Mary Hodgkins
Natasha Iraheta
Iris Ruiz
Henry Del Rosario
Joe Guarino
William Fitzgerald
Shirley Houtman

Teen Services Coordinator
Teen Services Assistant Instructor
Yw kids Site Coordinator
Coordinator of Support Services
Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Group Leader
Yw kids Asst. Group Leader
Yw kids Asst. Group Leader
Yw kids Asst. Group Leader
Yw kids Clerical Support

wellness for women and girls:

Ana Silva
Valentina Martinez

Outreach Specialist
Outreach Specialist

adult services:

Joan Yotides

Widowed Persons Director

women's collaborative project:

Candy Royster

Resident Assistant

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of Greater New Bedford

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programs and services,
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508-999-3255 or visit:
www.ywcasema.org