

our voice

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca

volume 3.2 winter 2010 southeastern massachusetts

ywca 97th annual meeting



The YWCA Board of Directors 2009-2010. Top Row: Carolina Africano, Esq., Nicole Almeida, Victoria Moniz, Mali Lim, Marcia Williams, Rita Ribeiro, Marie-Frances Rivera, Ine Ogagan, Yolanda Dennis. Bottom Row: Tammy Beckman, Jan Baptist and Gail Fortes.

On November 5, members and friends of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts celebrated the past year at the 97th Annual Meeting.

Hosted at Café Funchal, the meeting included recognition of outgoing officers, election and installation of new officers, and a reception. Guests were captured by the inspiring words of YWCA program participants, including 11 year old, Isabel Villalobo, who participated in the YWCA's Teen Talk and Girls Giving and Growing programs; Joyce Lopes

member of the Widowed Persons Program; Cynthia Kiminski, Resident at A Women's Place; Angelia Belton, Former Resident at A Woman's Place; and Denise Porsché, Executive Director of the Island Foundation and long-time participant of the YWCA's programs and services. Denise shared her experience growing up in the YWCA.

President, Jan Baptist noted the past year's successes. "On Behalf of the Board, I want to thank

members and friends for a resounding response to our 2008-2009 Annual Fund Drive, reflecting a growth in donors and an increase of gifts by over 50%; making it tremendously successful despite the challenges of our economy."

"We faced many challenges this year due to the economic crisis," said Gail Fortes, Executive Director. "Fortunately we were able to increase our community collaborations and increase our capacity to provide programs and services to 5,254 individuals this year."

Gail Fortes expressed her gratitude to outgoing Board Members: Dr. Darrel Hoagland and Jacquelyn Ramos.

The YWCA installed newly elected Board Members: Mali Lim, Coordinator of Community Education and Diversity for the City of New Bedford; Victoria Moniz, Registered Nurse at Rhode Island Hospital; and Ine Ogagan, Community Coordinator at Peaceful Coalition in Fall River.

Newly-elected Officers: Vice-President, Tammy Beckman and Clerk, Lena Pires joined President, Jan Baptist; Treasurer, Marcia Williams and Assistant Treasurer, Marie-Frances Rivera on the Executive Board. Continuing Board members include: Carolina Africano, Esq., Nicole Almeida, Yolanda Dennis, and Rita Ribeiro.



YWCA Levi Standish House of Tomorrow. Please show your support in making a pledge to the YWCA Under One Roof Capital Campaign.

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from the executive director from the president



YWCA Red Dress Event uses models and escorts from our community, showcasing diversity in age, ethnicity, socioeconomics and size with the emphasis that heart disease does not discriminate, it affects everyone in our community. Our fashion show includes a collection of red dresses from a variety of local stores, especially women-owned businesses.

I hope everyone truly had a joyous holiday season. It is hard to believe that 2010 is upon us and that we are now completing our plans for the 7th Annual Red Dress Fashion Show & Silent Auction on February 24th. I hope you will join us in raising awareness of heart disease in women. Heart disease is the number one killer of American women, but it does not have to be. Our event educates women about the risk of heart disease, provides them with information on how to speak with their health care provider and enables them to hear, through personal stories, how heart disease has affected the lives of women in our community.

The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts continues to be an active participant in the National Heart Truth Red Dress Project. The National Red Dress Project includes a collection of dresses from designers, modeled by celebrities. The dresses symbolize the fact that heart disease is a women's health issue, as well as a man's. The

Another new and exciting event for 2010 is the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. Many YWCAs across the country hold this event to recognize women in the community that embody the YWCA Mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. The YWCA will celebrate the professional achievements and civic contributions of local women leaders who promote solutions that improve the lives of women, girls and people of color. Please review the information in this newsletter and nominate a woman you know for this award. I ask you to join us on May 12th at our luncheon to recognize the many accomplishments of our prestigious nominees.

As always, I sincerely thank you for your ongoing support of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts.

Gail M. Fortes
Executive Director



members of our community. I'm sure you have heard of the necessary new addition to the Standish House, and seen the three-dimensional model at one of our functions. This model helps us visualize how the new space will allow us to bring our services for women, children and families together in state of the art facilities. What remains to be accomplished is the funding from individuals like you. We have a compelling project and I trust that as members and potential gives you support and believe in the cause

A new year, 2010 - what will you make of it? I'm working on my resolutions and thus far while challenged, am enjoying some success. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle and staying balanced, requires discipline, but perhaps my biggest challenge will be to fulfill my responsibilities to the YWCA Capital Campaign "Under one Roof." I will be asking for your pledges and for your help with the Capital Campaign. We have made very strong progress thus far with the restoration of the Levi Standish House, and now we have the construction of the addition ahead. Like everyone on our Board of Directors, Capital Campaign Committee, our volunteers and our staunch benefactors, I am working at raising the remaining amount necessary for groundbreaking of the new addition. We need to start construction as early as this fall.

Like so many of our colleagues in non-profit service organizations in Southeastern MA, the YWCA is striving to be in the position to meet the always growing needs of many

In 2010, please be committed to sharing your passion for our cause, telling our story wherever you go, and convincing your friends and colleagues of the good their contributions will do. Ask your friends for help with our fund-raising and ask them for their personal donations. And when I or a YWCA volunteer asks for your donation of time and money, please be excited about this wonderful opportunity to support the building project.

The work of the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts is vital and our sisters need and deserve modern, spacious and functional quarters to meet their housing, child care and educational needs. I hope that my appeal for your help will add force to your determination to support the Under One Roof Campaign.

Jan Baptist
President

WIC/ywca smoke-free homes campaign

Submitted by:
Judith Coykendall

Judith Coykendall, Director of the Tobacco-Free Community Partnership, a program of Seven Hills Behavioral Health, would like to thank the YWCA Outreach Specialists and Peer Educators for their exceptional work on the WIC Smoke-free Homes Campaign held last February through April. Two YWCA Outreach Specialists and eight Peer Educators were trained to speak to clients about the dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke. This occurred in the WIC Waiting Room for 18 hours per week over the course of four weeks. The Outreach Specialists and Peer Educators worked in teams of two. We were very fortunate because the WIC Waiting Room is shared with the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center Pediatric Waiting Room, so our numbers were much higher

than expected. We had expected to conduct outreach and administer post surveys in English, Spanish and Portuguese to 300 clients. But, in fact, we were able to reach 567 clients. The YWCA Outreach Specialists and Peer Educators were highly effective because they shared common language and cultures with the clients and immediately established a great rapport with the clients.

Another feature of the Campaign was the follow-up phone calls that were made to everyone who filled out a survey and signed a release which was printed on the back side of the survey. It stated that if the client agreed to accept a phone call that they would receive a \$5.00 Stop and Shop Gift Card in the mail once the phone survey was completed. As it turned out, 366 calls were made.

In addition, during the

entire month of February, clients were told that there would be free nicotine replacement patches available starting in March, so the Free Patch Giveaway Campaign was promoted in advance. The goal was to have 1500 Southcoast smokers call the Massachusetts Quitline to request a two week supply of free patches, but as a result of the promotion of the patches by the YWCA Outreach Specialists and Peer Educators, along with other agencies in the city, 2,862 calls were made to the Quitline requesting free patches. The project nearly doubled its goal. This success could never have been achieved without the dedication of the YWCA Southeastern MA.

In addition, the Outreach Specialists and Peer Educators continued to include Smoke-Free Homes and Cessation information in additional presentations during the

winter and spring in six Spanish, Portuguese, and Cape Verdean churches throughout New Bedford.

Now, we are creating an **Ex-Smokers Hall of Fame**. The Tobacco Free Community Partnership is recruiting ex-smokers from New Bedford who are willing to share their story and inspire others to quit smoking. If you would be willing to share your quit story and want to learn more about our new campaign, please contact: Judith Coykendall at jcoykendall@sevenhills.org or (508) 995-3026, ext. 231.

Call 1-800-Try-To-STOP or 1-800-879-8678 for confidential telephone support for smokers and their families. MassHealth members can now get medicines and coaching to help them quit. Smokers can ask their doctor for more information, or call MassHealth at 1-800-841-2900.

become a member! <http://www.ywcasema.org>

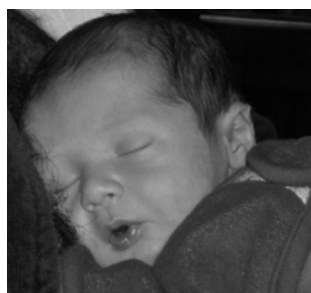
our mission

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

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

welcome to our ywca family

Dominic James
November 20, 2009
6lbs. 11oz. 20 in.



Gregory M. Westwater and Athena M. G. Mota, YWCA Director of Advocacy and Communications announce the arrival of their baby boy!

save the dates

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
 **THE HEART TRUTH™**

*7th Annual
Red Dress
Fashion Show
and
Silent Auction*

Wednesday, February 24, 2010
5:00 pm - Cocktail Hour
6:00 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

Purchase your tickets before they sell out at the YWCA @ 508-999-3255 or
Online: www.ywcasema.org. Tickets will not be sold at the door!

 **women
of distinction**

eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

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

Women of Distinction sponsorship opportunities

\$1000 justice sponsors

Sponsorship opportunities are still available at the following levels. Please contact Gail Fortes, Executive Director for more information.

\$2,500 peace sponsor

\$1,000 justice sponsor

\$750 freedom sponsor

\$500 dignity sponsor

Ameriprise
Financial

Cheryl J. C. Blanchard, CFP®

media sponsor

Jacqueline's
advanced skin therapy

WJ Bristol County
Women's Journal

our voice

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In an effort to conserve resources, 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 voice**.

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

ywca southeastern massachusetts women of distinction



nomination criteria for 2010 awards

YWCA Women of Distinction Awards inspire others to achieve by recognizing the leadership of women in a variety of arenas. YWCA Women of Distinction have brought key issues facing women, girls and people of color to the forefront. In 100 words or less, describe why your nominee is a Woman of Distinction. To be considered a YWCA Woman of Distinction, the nominee must demonstrate the following characteristics:

- The YWCA Mission of *eliminating racism and empowering women*.
- Giving back to the community through her time, talent and/or resources.
- Demonstrating exceptional skills as a role model or mentor of women and girls through advocacy, community service and leadership.
- Achieving success in her profession.

Nominee's Name: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Employer and/or Volunteer Organization: _____ Title: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Nominated By: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Employer and/or Volunteer Organization: _____ Title: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Is the nominee aware of the nomination? _____ yes _____ no

Signature: _____ Date: _____

How to Submit Your Nomination

Deadline: March 12, 2010 at 4:00pm

Complete the information on this form and use it as the cover sheet of your nomination. Please add additional information, if necessary.

Return Completed Nomination To: **For Additional Information Contact:**

Gail Fortes
YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts
20 South Sixth Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
P: 508-999-3255 F: 508-999-2802
gfortes@ywcasema.org
www.ywcasema.org

Gail Fortes
Executive Director
P: 508-999-3255
gfortes@ywcasema.org

Nominator must sign form. Signature confirms the accuracy of all materials submitted.

to download application go to:
www.ywcasema.org/news-events.htm



eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

persimmon pics of thanks!



Pictured Left: Helena Marques, Executive Director of Immigrants' Assistance Center; Gail Fortes, Executive Director, YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts; Christy Keswick, COO, Good Sports; Joe McDonough, Trustee and Treasurer of New Bedford Whaling Museum; Mayor of New Bedford Scott Lang; Dennis Kelly, President, Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB); Bruce Morell, Board President and Donna Albino, Projects Manager of Shore Support; Paula Freitas, Assistant Vice President, BCSB; Lisa Alves, Our Sisters School.

The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts received \$3,000 for the Teen Talk program from Bristol County Savings Bank. The total awarded was \$54,960. Pictured above are the New Bedford organizations (6 of them) which totaled \$47,460.

Total funding to the South coast region totaled \$166,000 to over 18 area organizations (since May 2007). Total funding from the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation since inception is just over \$5.7 million. (Inception was 1986).

wish list

residential services

- Twin Sheet Sets
- Twin Quilts
- Pillows
- Bedroom Curtains
- Towels
- 9 x 12 Area Rug
- Refrigerator
- Mops
- Brooms
- Sponges
- Toaster
- Pots and Pans
- Dishes
- Silverware

ywkids

- Computer games for K-6 (Vista compatible)
- Playstation 2 and Xbox video games
- Wii game system
- Board games
- Balls, jump ropes, and outdoor toys
- Musical instruments
- Computers
- Music CD's (hip hop)
- Play dough
- Basketball hoop
- Pool table
- Art supplies

race for the cure

YWCA ENCORE^{plus} breast and cervical health education program is funded in part by Susan G. Komen 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.

Thank you for your support!

moving forward and under one roof

Hello everyone!

I am thrilled to report that the YWCA has earned a federal appropriation of nearly \$200,000 for the building addition as a result of Senator John Kerry's leadership!

The YWCA was one of seven appropriations secured by Senator Kerry for Southeastern Massachusetts and this important funding builds upon the \$475,000 federal funding recently secured for the building addition by Congressman Frank.

We are also thrilled to report that the Highland Street Foundation has made a \$100,000 grant to this project as part of a large-scale housing grantmaking initiative!

We have made very strong progress on our \$4 million Under One Roof Capital Campaign to complete the restoration of the Levi Standish House and construct the much-needed three-level addition to house the ywkids childcare program, Another Women's Place residency program, and a new Teen Center and Women's Resource Center.

Our success this year also includes our first very successful campaign fundraiser held in September at the Rotch Jones Duff House. Thank you for your interest, encouragement and support of the YWCA and this transformative project.

Dave Guertin

President/Fundraising and Grantmaking Consultant, Vantage in Philanthropy



why the ywca?

name: Aline Jasgur

role(s) in the ywca: ywkids school age program, Group Leader

role(s)/hobbies outside of the ywca: Nursing Student at UMASS Dartmouth

worked at the ywca for: 3 years

why did you become interested in the ywca?:

"I grew up outside of Worcester and as a kid I did a few programs at the YWCA there. So, when I saw that there was a YWCA in this area I was happy to see that they were hiring."

what do you find particularly inspiring about the ywca?

"What I find particularly inspiring about the YWCA is that they are so community based. From their residents program to offering childcare to community members, who want to attend the Bioneers conference that has been held in New Bedford for the past two years."

one of your proudest moments with the ywca...

"In the summer I work with the Girls Giving and Growing program. This past summer, we went on a overnight trip to Thompson Island. While there I was able to witness a group of pre-teen girls breaking out of their shells and becoming leaders. It is something that I will never forget, and I hope the girls remember their experience as they get older."

3 words to describe the ywca...

"caring, busy, inspiring."



ywca board of directors

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Vice President
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Marcia Williams

Assistant Treasurer
Marie-Frances Rivera

Clerk
Lena Pires

Carolina Africano, Esq.
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Victoria Moniz
Ine Ogagan
Rita Ribeiro

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Gail M. Fortes

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Gail M. Fortes

Executive Director

Catherine Bourassa

Director of Programs and Services

Athena M. G. Mota

Director of Advocacy and Communications

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

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Office Manager
Administrative Assistant
Finance Clerk
Receptionist
Facilities Manager
Custodian
Custodian

youth services:

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Shawneen Fyock
Karina Andrade
Sharonique Araujo
SueAnne Delorey
Beatriz Guerrero
DeAnn Gyukeri
Natasha Iraheta
Aline Jasgur
Iris Ruiz
Shirley Houtman

Teen Services Coordinator
ywkids Site Coordinator
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids Group Leader
ywkids 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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New Bedford, MA 02740

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our voice

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please call the YWCA:
508-999-3255 or visit:
www.ywcasema.org