

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

ywca southeastern massachusetts
2012 annual report



for every woman



**ywca southeastern
massachusetts
is dedicated to
eliminating racism,
empowering women
and promoting
peace, justice,
freedom and dignity
for all.**

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

ywca

southeastern massachusetts

dear ywca family &



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts Annual Report for July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012. This year has been one of great progress as the YWCA completed Phase II of the restoration of the Levi Standish House. Throughout the summer and fall, with generous funding from the City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development, Massachusetts Historic Commission, 1772 Foundation and individual donors, we were able to restore the exterior balustrade and portico. This year we also received several large gifts and a \$1 million dollar grant from the state of Massachusetts for our project. Now we need the community's help in raising the final \$1.1 million of our \$4.6 million capital campaign in order to break ground on our 12,000 square foot building addition that will bring our services "Under One Roof." This is a very exciting time for all of us as we work with Litman Architecture to

prepare the final construction documents so that we may break ground next summer.

Other highlights this year include:

- Hosted Anniversary Gala to celebrate 100 years of service to the community.
- Published book celebrating 100 YWCA Women.
- Awarded the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award for our Racial Justice work in the community by UMASS Dartmouth.
- Piloted Tween 2 Teen Program at Doran Elementary School in Fall River.
- Implemented Financial Literacy Workshops for Women age 65 and over.
- Hosted successful YWCA New England Vitality Site Visit.
- Participated in YWCA USA Capitol Hill Advocacy Day and Annual Meeting that focused on new changes to our national organizational structure.

We ended the year by engaging the services of Development Consulting Solutions to facilitate the new YWCA Strategic Plan that will cover the time period January 2013 - December 2015. This was an extremely ambitious project and a process that we had never engaged in before. We interviewed our members, staff, board, program participants, community partners, funders, volunteers and past board members. This process was very enlightening and the information gathered will lay the framework for our plan of work for the next three years. I am very excited about the new plan approved by the Board and I look forward to working with our Board and Staff to implement our new goals and objectives.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Board President, Jan Baptist. Jan is a true visionary leader and I am so grateful to her for her ongoing support, mentorship and friendship. We

are true partners in our YWCA work and I am honored to have worked so closely with her for the last six years to forward the YWCA Mission in our community. Jan, I wish you well in your future endeavors. I love you and will miss you tremendously, but I will not let you get far away as you will always have a home here at the YWCA.

As always, thank you to our committed Board, staff, members, volunteers, donors and stakeholders for your dedication to the YWCA

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gail M. Fortes". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Gail M. Fortes
Executive Director

friends,



What a year: early on some disappointments about our capital campaign, tumultuous ups and downs of a very difficult presidential election campaign, organizational and leadership changes at the National YWCA level, culminating with extraordinary Capital Campaign news and a broad national election mandate supporting our values and direction. And then this, my final annual report as the president of the YWCA Board of Directors. Winding down, yet looking forward, I will be anticipating whatever new role I can play in our continuing success.

So, on behalf of the Board of Directors I invite you to review this annual report for the period, July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. We once again report a year of continued improvement and progress, a year of celebration and recommitment, another vibrant year of accomplishment. I hope you will recognize the leadership of our

Executive Director Gail Fortes, the tireless work of a dedicated and talented staff and the contributions of focused and hard working volunteers and board.

In this hectic environment, the Board and staff undertook an extensive strategic planning process, facilitated by Development Consulting Solutions. After countless online surveys, months of discussion with internal and external stakeholders, individually and in focus groups, followed by numerous drafts and the acceptance of the Board, we proudly unveil the 2013-2015 Strategic Plan that lays out the path for growth and excellence. We fully appreciate the involvement of all who helped make this a truly community integrated endeavor.

I want to report that on the fundraising front, much was going on behind the scenes. A big thank you to fundraising consultants, Vantage in Philanthropy, Inc., for their tireless work to finally secure our \$1,000,000.00 bond for the Under One Roof, YWCA Capital Campaign. Because of this and consistent and effective grant writing and foundation support, we are closer than ever to our goal and the promise of the new addition and our services under one roof. Your consistent and generous support as donors will continue to carry us steadily into the future toward that joyous ground breaking day.

Upon reflecting, I looked over past reports to make comparisons, and was reminded of 2007, when I first presided over the Annual meeting and introduced myself as the new president of the Board of Directors. I remember feeling somewhat wobbly in those new shoes, yet I was determined to move ahead with the new and energized board. It has been quite an adventure. Today I recognize that as women, we are strong, we are fearless, and yet in our

independence, we love our husbands and brothers and fathers and sons. We are more than half the population, yet even with the progress of the last 100 years, we continue to struggle for opportunity, voice and power. YWCA's nationwide serve more than 2 million people each year. We are fighting back and I am confident that we will cash in on what we learned about the power of women from this election. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as I have the past six years and it is with bittersweet determination that I move on to my next endeavor. Thank you for everything.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jan Baptist". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "B".

Jan Baptist
President

income/expenses

YWCA Southeastern MA FY 2012

audited figures completed 11/5/12 by Hodgson, Pratt and Associates

	FY2012	FY2011	\$ Change
REVENUE			
Contributions, Gifts, Legacies, Bequests & Special Events	662,836	212,122	450,714
Grants	761,887	668,565	93,322
Program Service Fees	87,201	153,049	(65,848)
Investment Revenue	(2,539)	38,597	(41,136)
Other Revenue	8,475	13,846	(5,371)
TOTAL REVENUE	1,517,860	1,086,179	431,681
EXPENSES			
Administration (Management & General)	180,810	131,304	49,506
Fundraising	137,170	129,741	7,429
Total Program Services	608,357	652,930	(44,573)
TOTAL EXPENSES	926,337	913,975	12,362
EXCESS (Deficit)	591,523	172,204	419,319

balance sheet

YWCA Southeastern MA FY 2012

audit completed 11/5/12 by Hodgson, Pratt and Associates

BALANCE SHEET	FY2012	FY2011	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings	39,228	19,096	20,132
Accounts Receivable	223,128	89,280	133,848
Total Current Assets	262,356	108,376	153,980
Pledges Receivables	82,457	32,550	49,907
Endowment	336,164	204,656	131,508
Other Assets	433,489	236,998	196,491
Prepaid Assets	1,157	4,051	(2,894)
Fixed Assets, net of accumulated depreciation	1,315,448	1,116,832	198,616
TOTAL ASSETS	2,431,071	1,703,463	727,608
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	35,844	39,061	(3,217)
Accrued Expenses	18,670	21,812	(3,142)
Line of credit	72,980	80,851	(7,871)
Other current liabilities	1,943	1,793	150
Total Current Liabilities	129,437	143,517	(14,080)
Long Term Liabilities	396,000	396,000	0
Total Liabilities	525,437	539,517	(14,080)
Equity	1,905,634	1,163,946	741,688
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,431,071	1,703,463	727,608

capital campaign

under one roof



Significant progress was made this year on the YWCA's \$4.6 million Under One Roof campaign for a LEED-certified, 12,800 square foot building addition to the Levi Standish House. After matching a \$25,000 challenge from Charlesbank Homes in late 2011, four \$100,000 grants from BayCoast Bank, the Leonard & Hilda Kaplan Foundation, the Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund and the Island Foundation were major philanthropic investments into this much-anticipated project in 2012.

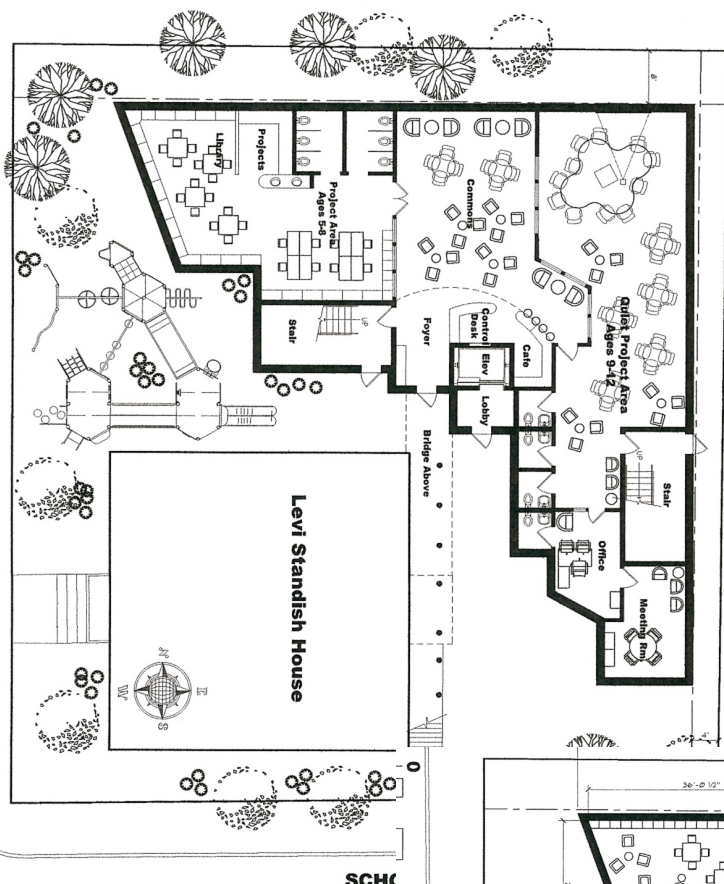
Thanks to the tireless advocacy of state Senator Mark Montigny, state Representative Antonio Cabral, and Lt. Governor Tim Murray who visited the YWCA several times, Governor Deval Patrick approved the disbursement of a \$1 million state grant to the project in October. All involved were thrilled with this exciting news.

The final construction drawings from Litman Architecture have been progressing throughout 2012 and will be ready for contractor bidding and a 2013 groundbreaking while the final \$1 million is raised in public and private funding. This carefully designed, three level building addition will include the BayCoast Bank Teen Center, the Highland Street Women's Resource Center, the Kaplan YWkids Childcare Center, a multipurpose room, and women's congregate housing units.

There are several prominent naming opportunities still available such as:

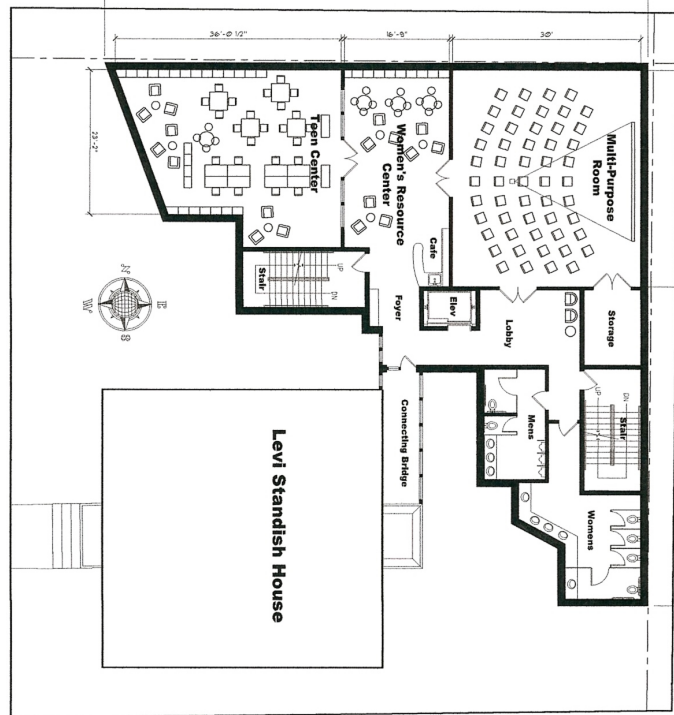
- Building Addition \$1,000,000
- Another Women's Place (3rd Floor) \$250,000
- Multipurpose Community Room (2nd Floor) \$100,000
- Levi Standish Connecting Bridge \$100,000
- YWkids Project Area \$50,000
- Elevator \$50,000
- Another Women's Place Bedrooms \$25,000 each
- Another Women's Place Kitchen \$25,000
- YWkids Control Desk \$10,000
- YWkids Café \$10,000

***Please contact Gail Fortes
for a full list of Naming
Opportunities and help us
conclude our Under One Roof
campaign by June 2013.
Thank you!***



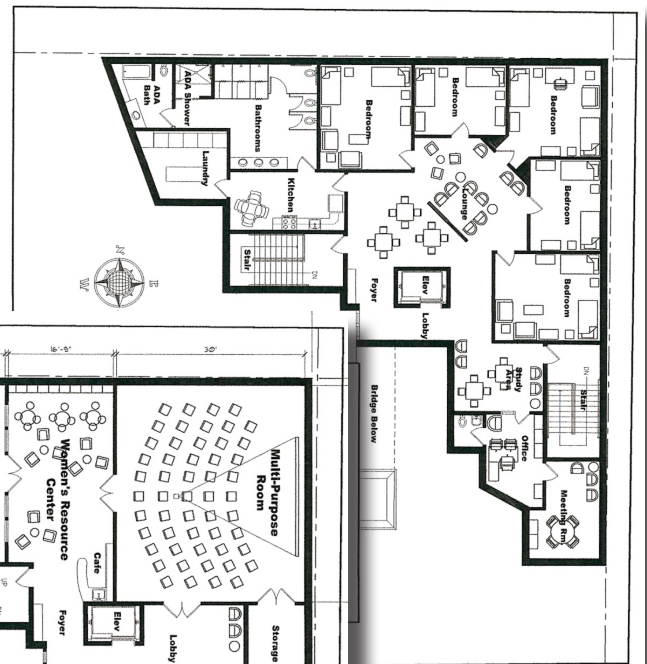
SCH

SOUTH SIXTH STREET



SCHOOL STREET

"I'm pleased that the Patrick-Murray administration has joined the City of New Bedford in supporting "Under One Roof," said Mayor Jon Mitchell. "This level of investment on the part of the Commonwealth is a clear validation of the quality of this project. I congratulate the YWCA for their tireless efforts on behalf of New Bedford families, and thank the Patrick-Murray administration for their continued support of projects that improve the quality of life for New Bedford residents."



"The YWCA provides crucial services to area women in need," Senator Montigny said. "The \$1 million grant will not only preserve the historic nature of the YWCA's Levi Standish House but allow it to be adapted for the many modern uses needed by the YWCA to further its mission to aid women and children."

"These funds will allow the YWCA to expand the critical services it provides to women and children in the SouthCoast," declared Representative Antonio Cabral.

"Governor Patrick and I were pleased to work with the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts and support funding that will allow the YWCA to continue to do great work more efficiently in the region, while also preserving its historic building," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray.

donors

Capital Campaign

pledge donors

Nicole Almeida
Dr. Patricia Andrade
Bank Five
Jan Baptist
Tammy Beckman
Catherine Bourassa
Lisa Calvano
Community Foundation of Southeastern
Massachusetts - Acushnet Foundation Fund
Anne T. Converse
Anne Converse Photography
Jack Davis
Yolanda Dennis
Kate Fentress
First Citizens Federal Credit Union
The Maurice & Anne Makepeace Family
Foundation
Janice McDonough
Victoria Moniz
Athena M. G. Mota
Maria Pinarreta
Lena Pires

gifts

Carol Almeida-Fortes
Amelia Peabody Fund
Anne Whiting Real Estate
Anonymous Donor
Talbot Baker
Honorable Bettina Borders & Dr. Victor Mailey
Claire Carney
Nancy Crosby
Peter DeWalt/Reynolds DeWalt
Yvonne Drayton
Pat Ford
Gail Fortes
Councillor Jane Gonsalves
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Denise Porché
Rotch Jones Duff House
Rosemary & Victoria Saber
Joan Underwood
Vantage in Philanthropy
Marge Waite
Waterfront Grille
Neal Weiss
WHALE
Margaret D. "MarDee" Xifaras, Esq.

grantors/foundations

Acushnet Foundation
Amelia Peabody Fund Charitable Fund
CharlesBank Homes Foundation
City of New Bedford

Demoulas Foundation
Highland Street Foundation
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Patrick Carney Foundation
Rockland Trust
Webster Bank
Women's Fund of Southeastern
Massachusetts - Women's Philanthropy Fund

50 businesses

Amaral Bus Company
Fiber Optic Center, Inc.
Jacqueline's Advanced Skin Care Therapy
Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies

advocacy

Economic Advancement

volunteers

Pam Pollock

grantors/foundations

Community Foundation of Southeastern
Massachusetts - Hawthorn Medical
Associates Charitable Fund

Racial Justice

volunteers

Pam Pollock

grantors/foundations

Island Foundation

Leadership Development of Young Women

interns

Jennifer Burgo
Kaitlyn Correia
Marion Greene
Anna-Rae LeClaire
Kari Rowland
Annette Sandoval
Katrina Semich
Brigid Swift

leading ladies volunteers

Meaghan André
Ashley Bendiksen
Kristy Fernandes
Athena M. G. Mota
Elizette Pires
Katrina Semich
Whitney Silva

Mayor's Youth Council

volunteers

Pam Pollock

grantors/foundations

Invest In Kids

adult services

Medical Transportation Program

donors

Elizabeth Vieira

grantors/foundations

Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Fund

CVS Foundation

Widowed Persons

Program

volunteers

David Enos
Jean Julien
W. Kenneth Langill
Irene LeFavor
Joyce Lopes
Dorothy Martin
Thomas McGarr
Marion Oliver
Joan Pingley
Jacqueline Ponte
Pauline Prudhomme
Gertrude Reed
Hanifa Rose
Dorothy Saladino
Victor Samolis
Angela Sampaio
Evelyn Sebastiao
Ethel Souza
Judith Viera

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Raymond Benoit
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Irene R. Bergeron
Oldemiro Canto
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John Chamberlain
Cecile Cloutier
Pauline J. Cormier
Joseph G. Costa
Russell W. Costa
Thelma S. D'Agostino
Mary Lou Davis
Joan C. Dion
Jeanne Duggan
Beverly Dupont
Susanne L. Dupont
Roselle E. Fecteau
Lawrence Ferreira
Edward Figueira
Arthur R. Freitas
Donald and Claire Freitas
Phyllis B. Gardner-Dixon
Mary M. Gaughan
Matthew C. Goulet
Joanne E. Greaves
Cecile S. Hebert
Gordon C. Hixon
Charles J. Holland Jr.
Wanda Jaworski

Special thanks to the individuals, businesses and foundations which enable the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts to advance its mission through their generous financial support. This list reflects donations received between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. We apologize for misspelling or omitting the name of anyone who made a gift during the fiscal year.

Romeo A. Jodoin Jr.
Jean Julien
Joseph A. Landry
Willard K. Langill
Irene LeFavor
Elsie Leitao
Beverly N. Lussier
Anna Maglio
Thomas Marginson
Dolores Martin
John Mastera
Elizabeth Matathia
Francis Mathieu
Mary McCann
Doris McCarthy
Thomas McGarr
Doloris L. Mello-Santos
Frances Mills
Dorothy Morgan
H. Bridget Morrison
Jean O'Hare
Janina Oliver
Constance Panagakos
Joan I. Pingley
Jacqueline I. Ponte
Pauline T. Prudhomme
Elizabeth Reinecker
Joseph S. Ringuette, Jr.
Hanifa Rose
Dorothy Saladino
John L. Silva
Nancy L. Smith
Janice Smith
Marjorie E. Soucy
Ethel Souza
Audrey Steele
Francine Steiger
June Strunk
Frances R. Suprenant
Paul F. Sylvia
Florence E. Turner
Joan Yotides

grantors/foundations

The Association for the Relief of Aged Women of New Bedford (ARAW)
Coastline Elderly Services
Sophia Romero Trust

ywca health & wellness

Health & Wellness/Waterpals

volunteers

Jenny Fortes
Rebecca Nunez
Idalina Pacheco
Pat Raphael

grantors/foundations

Avon Breast Health Outreach Program
Coastline Elderly Services
Frederick Douglass Unity House
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Mathematica Policy Research
Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health

residential services

A Woman's Place & Another Woman's Place

volunteers

Carol Mitchell
Joanne Polk

donors

Annette Gilkey
Lorraine Lubertowicz
Ana Silva
Eusie Zane

grantors/foundations

Hunger Commission of Southeastern MA
Kenneth T. and Mildred S. Gammons Charitable Foundation
New Bedford Housing Authority
Sovereign Bank

youth services

YWkids School Age Program

donors

Boston Bruins
Patrica Burns
Melissa Costa
Melissa Cunha
Daniel Guilbeault
Nancy Martinez
New Bedford Fire Department Union
New Bedford Rotary
Sarah Perry
Prince Henry Society
Donna Silva
Lance Soares

grantors/foundations

Department of Education
Hunger Commission of Southeastern MA
Gail Fortes
Leonard and Hilda Kaplan Charitable Foundation
Minnie Saleh
New Bedford Cultural Council
New Bedford Day Nursery Fund
Office of Early Education and Care
Office of Women's Health
PACE
Pauline Garcelon
Roy Foundation
United Way of Greater New Bedford

Girls Exclusive

grantors/foundations

Darden Restaurant
Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts - Women's Action Fund

Tween 2 Teen

volunteers

Kaitlyn Correia

grantors/foundations

Invest In Kids
New Bedford Cultural Council
Tremblay's
Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts - Women's Philanthropy Fund

Girls Giving & Growing

donors

Patricia Burns

grantors/foundations

New Bedford Cultural Council
New Bedford Day Nursery Fund
Office of Women's Health
United Way Summer Fund

Week Without Violence

volunteers

Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority
Chi Phi Fraternity
Nancy Hawes
Mentors in Violence Prevention
Our Sisters' School
Pam Pollock
Kerri Quinlan-Zhou
UMASS Dartmouth Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality

Red Dress Fashion Show

volunteers - committee

Kristine Arsenault
Ashley Bendiksen
Christine Coelho
Gail Fortes
Fern Gonsalves
Councillor Jane L. Gonsalves
Mali Lim
Valentina Martinez
Victoria Moniz
Ana Silva
Gale Williams

sponsors

BankFive
BayCoast Bank
BMC HealthNet Plan
Litman Architecture
SouthCoast Hospitals Group
STAT Ambulance Service of New England
Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies
Vantage in Philanthropy

donors

Anne Converse
Aubertine Lopes Funeral Home
BankFive
BayCoast Bank
BMC HealthNet Plan
Boston Celtics
Boston Red Sox

donors

Boston Super Duck Tours
Boutique Fitness
Build-A-Bear
Buttonwood Park Zoological Society
Café Arpeggio
Carabiner's Indoor Climbing
Cardi's Furniture
Caribbean Sun Tanning
The Children's Museum of Easton
Cork
Fay's Restaurant
Howland Place Fitness
Hyannis Whale Watcher Cruises
Hy-line Cruises
Jessica Ross
Joseph Abboud
Knuckleheads
Litman Architecture
Marcia Williams
Monaghan Printing Company
Newport Preservation Society
Old Westport Beer and Wine
PACE/Youthbuild
Pawtucket Red Sox
Peter Wirzburger
Phyllis' Touch of Class
Plymouth Plantation
Pontes and Pires Family
Ryan Financial
Seastreak Martha's Vineyard
Sensations Nails & Tanning
Spicey Lime
Southcoast Hospitals Group
STAT Ambulance Steamship Authority
Storyland
Sylvia Group of Insurance Agenices
Top Shelf
Vantage In Philanthropy
Waterfront Grille
Water Wizz
Westport Rivers Vineyard and Winery
Women Run
24/7 Fitness

Sister to Sister Conference

volunteers

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Carol Almeida-Fortes
Catherine Bourassa
Chancellor Jean MacCormack
Claire Carney
Claudette Blake
Janet Freedman & Andy Peppard
Councillor Jane Gonsalves
Janice Fauteux
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Marcia Picard
Marilyn Gonsalves
Margo Baptista
Marlene Tavares
Mary Burns

Patricia Nadeu
Rosemary Saber
Susan Costa
Susan Perry

donors

Mattapoisett Woman's Club
Women's Fund of Southeastern
Massachusetts

Women of Distinction

volunteers - committee

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Yolanda Dennis
Gail Fortes
Mali Lim

sponsors

Bristol County Women's Journal

donors

Amy-Lyn Smiddy of Sassy Sweets
G & G Designs

100th Anniversary Gala

volunteers-committee

Jan Baptist
Gail Fortes
Councillor Jane Gonsalves

donors

FiberOptic Center, Inc.
Hodgson, Pratt & Associates
J. McLaughlin
Whaling City Sound

General Operations

volunteers

Maggie Brum
Krissy Cafua
Amy Recupero

volunteers - board of directors

Carolina Africano, Esq.
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Jan Baptist
Ashley Bendiksen
Yolanda Dennis
Mali Lim
Victoria Moniz
Ine Ogagan
Maria Pinarreta
Lena Pires
Rita Ribeiro
Marcia Williams

volunteers - steering committee

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Gail Fortes
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Jim Lopes
Valentina Martinez
Athena M. G. Mota
Maria Pinarreta
Valerie Tecci
Corinn Williams

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Tammy Beckman
Ashley Bendiksen
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Catherine Bourassa
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Hunger Commission of Southeastern
Massachusetts
Judith Leon
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Athena M. G. Mota
Ine Ogagan
Maria Pinarreta
Lena Pires
Rita Ribeiro
Marie-Frances Rivera
Neal Weiss
Marcia Williams
The Polished Look
Walmart - Dartmouth Store
Whaling City Sound

grantors/foundations

Community Foundation of Southeastern
Massachusetts-Rainy Day Fund
Olive Higgins Prouty Foundation

programs/services

YWCA SEMA Programs and Services	Number Served July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011	Number Served July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012
Widowed Persons Program	173 Men and Women from Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, RI communities of Warwick and Middleboro; does not include newsletter distribution	137 Elderly Men and Women
Short Distance Medical Transportation	85 Men and Women from Greater New Bedford	45 Elderly Men and Women
YWCA Health and Wellness (formerly ENCORE ^{plus})	3,252 Women from RI state line, north to Brockton, east to Cape Cod and the Islands (includes outreach and referrals)	3,080 Underserved Women
Mayor's Youth Council	26 Teen Girls and Boys from New Bedford	25 Disadvantaged Teen Boys and Girls
YWCA Health and Wellness Waterpals	61 Breast Cancer Survivors from Greater New Bedford and Falmouth	49 Women Breast Cancer Survivors
A Woman's Place	12 Women from Greater New Bedford to Greater Boston	19 At-Risk Women
Another Woman's Place	16 Women from Greater New Bedford to Greater Boston	16 At-Risk Women
YWkids School Age Program	75 Girls and Boys from New Bedford	74 Disadvantaged Boys and Girls
Girls Giving and Growing	15 Middle School Girls from New Bedford	13 Disadvantaged Middle School Girls
Girls Exclusive	12 Teen Girls from New Bedford	41 Disadvantaged Teen Girls
Tween 2 Teen	25 Tween Girls from New Bedford	36 Disadvantaged Teen Girls
Racial Justice	161 Women and Men from Greater New Bedford	850 Underserved Women and Men
Economic Advancement	91 Women from Greater New Bedford	92 At-risk and Disadvantaged Women
Leadership Development for Women Under 30	34 young women age 18-30 from Greater New Bedford and Plymouth	27 young women age 18-30
Total Served	4,034	4,504
# of Volunteers		83
# of Volunteer Hours		960
# of Materials Distributed		14,630
# of People that Attended Special Events (not counted above)		1,928

testimonials

your support helps everywoman

residential services

This letter is to let you know that I have found an apartment and will be moving on from the YWCA...I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. The past 14 months have been very challenging (as you are aware of my struggles), but it also has been probably the most rewarding time of my life that I can remember. I feel like I have been given the time here at the YW to grow emotionally, psychologically, and financially, but I have found a great little place that New Bedford Housing has approved and feel like it's time to move on.

Thank you so much for all you have done. I can't begin to thank you enough. From the broken, alone woman that walked through the door - I am going to walk out a secure, strong woman with her child back in her life, moving on to continue her life of contented sobriety. --Sincerely, Danielle (A Woman's Place)



tween 2 teen

This year's Tween 2 Teen was located at Keith Middle School. The group was mixed with 5th graders from Parker school, and girls from Keith, as well. All of the girls definitely showed improvement over the course of the program, but one girl in particular that made significant progress was a 10 year old from Parker School named Genesis. Genesis struggled with her self-esteem. She struggled with her weight, and was uncomfortable with herself and the way she looked. This was evident from the first day when we had the girls take part in ice-breaker games to get to know each other and Genesis stayed in her seat and secluded herself from the rest of the group. I remember asking Genesis why she didn't want to play any of the games, and she replied "there's nothing cool about me." I knew from then on that we needed to help her. Weeks passed and I noticed that Genesis started to open up more to the group. She started to involve herself in more of the games and even took part in discussions. We noticed a lot of the girls along with Genesis had self-image issues. This is very common with middle school age girls. My colleague and I decided that we would have a self-esteem workshop. We had the girls name things they disliked about themselves, as well as things they liked. Unfortunately for Genesis, this was a very difficult subject for her. To my surprise, she opened up and shared how she disliked her body and her height, but she did like her personality. It was something that none of the girls could say about themselves. We gave them tips about things they could change, but explained they shouldn't pick on their outer-appearance. Genesis raised her hand, and asked if she could say something. She explained she did want to change how she looked on the outside because she knew it wasn't healthy to be overweight. She told all of us how it was hard for her to eat healthy because her family constantly ate fast-food and other unhealthy foods, but she said she was going to try. When Genesis had said that, I was touched. I couldn't believe this 10 year old was going to take a stand and make a change not just for herself, but for her family. From that day on, every Tuesday and Thursday that I would see Genesis, she would tell me how she walked around the park, ate a healthy dinner, or even lost a pound. Every time she told me of her success I was filled with joy knowing she stuck to her word. By the end of Tween 2 Teen, I did notice a change in Genesis, not just physically, but mentally. The shy, self-conscious Genesis was transformed into a confident and outgoing little girl. She became a leader, and a lot of the other girls who used to tease Genesis now looked up to her. I think if it wasn't for Tween 2 Teen, Genesis would have never been given that extra push to grow and change. Tween 2 Teen was able to give girls like Genesis the confidence to accept who they are, and the power to make a difference in not only other people's lives, but most importantly their own lives. --Kaitlyn Correia, Teen Services Instructor

ywca board of directors

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Marcia Williams

Assistant Treasurer
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Clerk
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Carolina Africano, Esq.
Ashley Bendiksen
Yolanda Dennis
Mali Lim
Ine Ogagan
Maria Pinarreta
Rita Ribeiro

Ex-Officio
Gail M. Fortes

ywca staff

Gail M. Fortes
Catherine Bourassa
Athena M. G. Mota

administrative services:

Lisa Calvano
Linda Larsen
Annamarie Lopes
Linda Rose
Jack Davis
Jacob Caban

youth services:

Kathryn Nunes
Natasha Iraheta
Iris Ruiz
Melissa Alicea
Elizabeth Brown
Lexis Duarte
Maureen Santos
Michelle Oliveri

ywca health & wellness:

Valentina Martinez
Jenny Rios
Ana Silva

adult services:

Joan Yotides

residential services:

Candy Royster

Executive Director
Director of Programs and Services
Director of Advocacy and Communications

Director of Finance
Office Manager
Administrative Assistant
Receptionist
Facilities Manager
Custodian

YWkids Director
YWkids Kindergarten Coordinator
YWkids Group Leader
YWkids Group Leader
YWkids Assistant Group Leader
YWkids Assistant Group Leader
Teen Services Coordinator
Teen Services Instructor

Community Health Worker
Community Health Worker
Community Health Worker

Widowed Persons Director

Residential Assistant

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

20 South Sixth Street
New Bedford, MA 02740



For info on our programs & services, please call: 508-999-3255 or go to: www.ywcasema.org

United Way
of Greater New Bedford