

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Winter/Spring 2010 Green Bay - De Pere

Mark your calendar for the Women of Vision Luncheon...

...And turn in your reservations early. The annual Women of Vision Spring Luncheon is set for Tuesday, May 4, at Oneida Golf and Country Club. Our feature speakers this year will include those who have been touched by YWCA services, and your Women of Vision have helped support. Plan on socializing, seeing old friends and new ones and being inspired. Doors open at 11 a.m. to get first view of our benefit silent auction. The luncheon starts promptly at noon. Committee members include Cindy Moon-Mogush, Public Relations, Patti Chase, Volunteers, Lisa Prunty, Auction, Pam MacMullen, Wendy Franklin, and Anita Resch. Invitations go out to WOV donors in early April. Sponsorships and corporate tables are available this year. Contact Deb at 432-5581.



YWCA Awarded Federal Grant

Just before the holidays, YWCA Green Bay – De Pere received the exciting news that a \$600,000 grant would be awarded through the US Justice Department Omnibus Bill for our At-Risk Youth Development Program. This restricted funding will allow us to expand services to at-risk elementary and middle school children and gain significant traction with two initiatives to stem the cycle of poverty and/or its downward spiral: Improving school success to create a foundation for success in life; and, Inspiring young teens/pre-teens to envision careers that tap into their talent and imagination.

These initiatives will engage at-risk youth ages 6 to 12 in certified “after school” programs that take place year round. They will deal with life issues such as peer pressure, alcohol and drugs, bullying, and other activities designed to improve school performance, build self-esteem, establish wholesome relationships and foster self-respect and careers.

One of these programs, TechGYRLS®, was launched in November for sixth grade girls with an existing interest in STEM areas (science, technology, engineering and math). YWCA program coordinator, Amber Hansen, is working with seven sixth grade girls at Washington Middle School using computers, analysis and a variety of technical activities to solve issues and problems. The grant allows us to expand this program to additional girls and schools and offer summer camps. A second career-focused program will start in late fall for middle school boys and girls. Mentors and fieldtrips will help these students imagine exciting, yet realistic careers that will tap into



talent, offer higher wages while meeting the job demands of tomorrow.

We are grateful for the continued support of TechGYRLS which was launched through the generosity of many individuals, the proceeds from our 90th birthday, WPS Foundation, The Women’s Fund and Prevea Health. Continued donations are needed.

“We couldn’t be more excited to receive this funding to truly help at-risk youth build a vision for the future,” said Elaine Wagner, YWCA CEO. “Reaching kids in middle school and teaching them about money and career opportunities will lead to their developing meaningful careers that pay higher wages and meet the needs of local businesses.”

This is a critical time for these programs to launch and expand considering increased poverty levels in families with children and the fact that children living in or near poverty have a more difficult time becoming successful adults. The first grant cycle will begin some time during 2010.

Please note: This will be the last printed issue of the *Our Voice* newsletter!

During these tough economic times, we are working hard to ensure that your gifts are used wisely. Upcoming issues of *Our Voice* will be available on the YWCA’s Web site at www.ywcagreenbay.org. We would be happy to e-mail you when the next issue is ready. Please forward your e-mail address to Carol Gibson, cgibson@ywcagreenbay.org, or call 432-5581. Thank you.

**YWCA Green Bay - De Pere • 230 South Madison Street • Green Bay, Wisconsin
(920) 432-5581 • www.ywcagreenbay.org**

From the CEO




Elaine Wagner

It's not easy knowing just how meaningful your gift has been to the YWCA. In this issue I hope you will see all the wonderful things you have had a hand in developing or supporting, and also where you may want to dig in and help.

We continue to support families needing child care and using our health and wellness services, and we're serving more women and children than ever who are low-income and at-risk. On the one hand are women and families who can pay fees for service. On the other are those who can't; or can pay only in part.

We try to keep fees affordable, but they don't match our true costs which have grown. And when it comes to those in need, there are no fees assessed. Women of Vision have been a critical support to our general operations. We have also developed the Women and Children's Economic Empowerment Fund to further meet the needs of women and children in current programs and to expand services.

Now in our 91st year of service, our YWCA continues to meet the needs of our community all because of those who came before us, and those who are with us today serving those less fortunate and making it affordable for the rest. Our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women has become a potent force for meeting the needs of women in our community. Our plans continue to unfold, and more than ever, we continue to need your time, your talent and your treasure.

Wishing you a wonderful, and early, spring! 

Equal Pay Day to feature "Shape-Up"

The YWCA and several area women's organizations are co-sponsoring the Green Bay area observance of Equal Pay Day on April 20, 2010, from 5:30 – 8 pm. The event will be held at the YWCA and will feature a "Shape Up Your Financial Fitness" panel for women of all ages and stages of life. All attendees will have the opportunity to shape up their physical fitness with a free YWCA Two-Week Try-It Pass. See you there!

The event is provided by sponsoring organizations. Please call to reserve a spot.

Wellness Expo is a hit

Wellness Expo – Fitness Mania 2010

More than 25 local health and wellness service providers participated recently in the first annual YWCA Wellness Expo – Fitness Mania 2010. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in free land and water fitness classes, receive free chair massages, visit the expo booths, listen to presentations on a variety of wellness topics, and enjoy healthy snacks.

Wellness Expo Fitness – Mania 2010 was sponsored by **Ezymatic Therapy, Inspirit Therapy Associates, Planet Chiropractic and Wise Women Wellness LLC.**



ywca mission, the central focus

In addition to TechGYRLS® and Swim-to-Grow, other important YWCA community service programs are growing and changing to better serve the needs of local low-income women and children. The YWCA's mission of *Empowering Women, Eliminating Racism* truly is our focus.

We will soon expand services to low-income women beyond the free work-appropriate clothing offered through the **YWCA Women's Closet**. Our goal is to develop services that will support and empower women in their quest for employment

while taking advantage of our community's existing offerings. Focus groups of donors and community members have already offered many valuable suggestions. Thank you to the following for their participation: Michelle Sellers, Chase Bank; Erica Shaw, Procter & Gamble; Becki Starry, Shorewest Realtors; Roz Barker, Schenck, SC, Mary Ellen Kuehne, community volunteer; Ellen Mathison, community volunteer; Karen Faulkner, Golden House.

The Encore Program under the leadership of **Michelle**

Pierquet, our new program coordinator, is undergoing changes to better meet the needs of women recovering from breast cancer. The important YWCA program has offered emotional support and therapeutic water exercise for over 15 years.

Racial Justice programming has been a goal of our local YWCA and is now being developed to help us appreciate, understand, and embrace racial and cultural differences, and to better live and work together. Our community has become more and more diverse and we

have much to learn from one another.

Women and Children's Empowerment Fund to assist those in need

Funding community services is vital. Anyone can support this new fund which includes all the above programs as well as support for health and wellness and child care for low-income women. Your contribution is truly appreciated now that new programs are being planned. Mail in a gift or stop at the front desk. For further information, call 432-5581.

Green Bay - De Pere

TechGYRLS® participants gain hands-on experience

Seven sixth grade girls are strengthening their skills in science, technology, engineering and math through their participation in the YWCA TechGYRLS® program at Washington Middle School. The program, which launched in November, has the girls building free-standing towers out of everyday items, honing their computer skills through computer work on Microsoft Office, and recording and editing Public Service Announcements about important events in their lives.

For the past month, the focus has been on building and programming their own robots using Lego Robotics. The goal of this section is to give the girls hands-on experiences learning to design, program and control fully-functional models. They use software to plan, test and modify sequences of instructions for a variety of life-like robotic behaviors.

In upcoming sessions, the girls will work on MicroWorlds, a computer animation software, tour local manufacturing facilities, and participate in a First Lego League robot-building competition.

Learning will continue even after the school year ends as the YWCA offers TechGYRLS summer camps. This fall, we hope to expand the program to include seventh graders from Washington and sixth graders from an additional middle school.



Swim-to-Grow impacts lives

This fall, 74 first and second graders from Howe Elementary School participated in the YWCA Swim to Grow program.



Of the 74 children, 68% advanced at least one swim level. Those who did not advance a level had few, if any swimming skills; in fact some had never seen a pool. After completing six or seven swim lessons, these children made immense improvements in their swimming ability, gained confidence in and around the pool, and learned a great deal about pool safety.

The goal of the Swim to Grow program is to provide a positive environment where the children can learn a new skill and enjoy friends in an atmosphere of respect for one another. It is hoped that through their participation in the Swim-to-Grow Program, children will make positive rather than negative recreational choices and grow into healthy, well-rounded adults.

The Swim-to-Grow program continues to be a huge success thanks to grants from the P&G Fund and the Green Bay Packers. We have expanded this program for at-risk children from one to two area elementary schools. Students from Aldo Leopold School started an eight-week spring Swim-to-Grow session on February 10. Community groups, such as The Salvation Army Camp Hope, participate in the summer.

Community partnerships are a win, win

The YWCA is pleased to partner with local organizations to utilize our expanded facility and enhance existing programs and services. Our partnerships help meet organizational goals and better serve the needs of our community.

A few of our current partnerships include the Jackie Nitschke Center, Aspiro, Camp Hope at Salvation Army, Green Bay School District, Wrightstown School District, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, and Inspirit Therapy

Associates. Their interests include swim lessons, physical fitness activities, workshops, etc.

The YWCA is also available for rentals for events such as graduation parties, birthday parties, showers, weddings and corporate meetings. Our facility offers several large meeting rooms, two 88° pools, an auditorium, and a kitchen.

For more information, please contact Patrick Curran, COO, at 432-5581 or pcurran@ywcagreenbay.org.

Women Soar You Soar program is back for 2nd year

The YWCA will again partner with EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association in Oshkosh) to offer the **Women Soar You Soar** program to local high school girls interested in STEM areas (science, technology, engineering & math).

Women Soar You Soar offers three days of empowerment, inspiration and fun for girls in grades 9-12. Girls will have

the opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops, air show viewing, aircraft walk-arounds with air show performers, mentor sessions and challenge courses. Participants in the program are granted free admission to AirVenture.

Applications are available through the YWCA through July 10, 2010, or until program is at capacity. The registration

fee of \$50 includes overnight lodging at UW-Oshkosh for three days and two nights, all activities and meals. A limited number of spaces are available for this exciting opportunity. Girls from low-income families are invited to apply for scholarships based on federal income guidelines. Please contact the YWCA at 432-5581 for more information.

YWCA Green Bay – De Pere 2009-2010 Board of Directors

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Meet the Board



Christina L. Peterson

Life history:

I grew up in the small community of Aurora, WI. I am a graduate of UW – Stevens Point and Marquette University Law School. I moved to the Green Bay in 2003, and I am an attorney with Stellpflug Law, S.C.

How I became involved with the YWCA:

I became involved with the YWCA in 2005 through past board member, Peggy Miller. I was inspired by the YWCA's mission of empowering women of all ethnic and economic backgrounds.

What I do outside of the YWCA:

I believe it is important to be an active member of our community. Aside from the YWCA (Board Treasurer), I also serve on the Board for the Altrusa Club of Green Bay (Vice President) and the Triumph Cancer Resource Center. I am a volunteer judge for Family Service's

Teen Court Program and an attorney coach for the Southwest High School Mock Trial team.

Interests:

I enjoy spending time in northern Wisconsin with family and friends, golfing, gardening and traveling.

The woman I admire and why:

The woman that I most admire is my mother. She was employed by the same employer for 46 years before retiring. She was active in shattering the glass ceiling so my generation of women could excel in management positions that were previously unavailable. My mother is also devoted to her family and an active volunteer in her community.

Personal philosophy:

Life is short. Forgive quickly. Laugh uncontrollably and never regret anything that made you smile.

ywca wish list

Ready to down-size your home, office or company inventory of supplies? Consider passing along any of the following to the YWCA or donate the cost, and we'll purchase it for you!

- Manila file folders
- Spiral notebooks
- Microwave oven
- Batteries – all sizes
- Pressure washer
- Rechargeable screwdriver
- 12-gallon wet-dry vac
- 48-inch bolt cutter
- Paper shredder
- Case of copy paper
- Post-It Note pads
- Pens, pencils, markers, etc.
- Pretzels, trail mix, crackers, etc.
- Science supplies – baking soda, vinegar, flour, etc.
- Standard size legal pads
- Water ankle and wrist weights
- Water noodles and beach balls
- Health-O-Meter Physician Scale

ywca Mission

YWCA Green Bay – De Pere is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

ywca Vision

Empowering women and children while providing an environment of racial and cultural acceptance for all.