

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Summer, 2009

change comes to the YWCA....

YWCA focuses on Hallmark programs

We all know that death and taxes are inevitable, and now I want to add *change* to that list. Change is happening at the YWCA Middle Rio Grande and it is exciting and challenging and providing great opportunities.

As of June 30, 2009 the YWCA no longer contracts with the State of New Mexico for Cariño or for the New Mexico Kids Network programs. Both programs moved to the University of New Mexico, Department of Continuing Education along with all of the (now former) YWCA staff. Both programs are vital for early childhood education enhancements in New Mexico, and both programs will be able to thrive within their new administrative structure.

For the YWCA this means a decrease in staff to 15 and the opportunity to add services to the existing *EncorePlus*, TUPAC, Women's Enterprise Center and PAN programs that continue into this new fiscal year. In addition, the YWCA Piñon Canyon Camp is under renovation so that we can provide girls with camping experiences that include the learning components of leadership, technology, career exploration and environmental science while incorporating the usual camp activities of stories around the camp fire, volleyball, basketball, nature walks and S'mores. The Camp is already scheduled this fall for some corporate retreats, so our efforts at ensuring running water and reliable electricity are of primary concern to our Project Manager, Eddie Joe Ramirez who is overseeing the renovation process.

The Enterprise Center staff is creatively working toward the 2nd YWCA Women's Leadership and



Diversity Institute which is scheduled for fall, 2009. The graduates of the first Institute presented their final projects at their graduation ceremony which took place at the Governor's Mansion in Santa Fe. This inaugural class left a legacy of leadership, creativity and energy behind for all the women who participate in subsequent Institutes.

Two members of our Racial Justice Team did a though provoking presentation for 85 teen girls who were attending the Rotary Camp RYLA at the Manzano Mountain Retreat Center. The girls were challenged to think about the role they have as leaders and what the legacy of their work will be in fifty years regarding the elimination of racism.

So, is change inevitable? Absolutely. Is change bad? Not at all. We look forward to being relevant and mission-driven as we continue our work in racial justice and the empowerment of women while promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

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

spotlight on our staff.....

Yadira Agüero de Tandy



Yadira Agüero de Tandy (Yadi) was excited when she moved to New Mexico from her native Caracas, Venezuela in 2006. She had just married a wonderful man, and with her extensive technology background, she was confident that she would be able to find a position here in Albuquerque that would showcase her abilities. With a degree in Information Technology, and a 21 year tenure at Liberty Mutual in Caracas as Technology Manager, Yadi entered the job market with high hopes.

Yadi interviewed at 8 firms here in Albuquerque and was rejected by the Human Resource Departments at each firm because she had a heavy Spanish accent. Although she was probably the most qualified applicant, she was turned away.

Yadi heard about a position here at the YWCA and applied. She was hired immediately because of her extensive experience and knowledge. The YWCA felt extremely lucky to have attracted someone as talented as Yadi.

"I felt empowered when Donna (our CEO) said that she wanted to hire me," said Yadi. "There was no mention made at all of my accent, only of my abilities."

Yadi currently wears many hats here at the YWCA. She is the TUPAC (Tobacco Use Prevention and Control) Coordinator. The TUPAC program is sponsored by the NM Department of Health and its purpose is smoking cessation and education with regard to the dangers of smoking, second-hand smoke and how to change addictive behaviors. Yadi goes into schools, and into home daycare providers and teaches children about how to educate their parents with regard to the dangers of second-hand smoke. She also holds smoking cessation classes at the YWCA in both English and Spanish. The YWCA is the only organization that offers smoking cessation classes in Spanish. Additionally, she educates nursing students about how to help their patients change addictive behaviors—such as substance abuse, alcohol abuse and smoking.

Yadi also works in our Health Equity program and assists women who want to get a mammogram but are unable to afford it. Again, she is able to use her bilingual skills to make women who only speak Spanish feel more comfortable in an uncomfortable situation.

And finally, Yadi is the YWCA's IT Manager. There is no way that we would let all of her technology experience go to waste!

"When I came to the YWCA, it meant that I had to completely re-think my career," said Yadi. "Although I helped people when I was at Liberty Mutual in Caracas, it was a different type of help. Now I am helping with my heart along with my head and it feels wonderful. I love being associated with an organization that truly values women and makes them feel empowered every day."

"People with clenched fists cannot shake hands"

Indira Gandhi

women on the move summer reception....



The YWCA held it's Summer Reception for our Women On the Move Recipients at the lovely home of Diane Harrison Ogawa, a Women on The Move Recipient and President of the PNM Foundation. Diane was kind enough to host the event this summer. For the past two summers, the event has been held at the Governor's Mansion in Santa Fe.

The women who attended had a wonderful time, and all spoke about how honored they had felt when they received their Women On the Move award. The awards started in 1985, and we had attendees from the first year the awards were given, all the way to the 2009 award winners.

The 2010 Women On the Move awards will be held next March. Information will be available on our website soon. If you are a Women on The Move Awardee and you have not been contacted by us for an event, please call 254-9922 and ask to speak to our Development Director. We try to keep our records up to date, but sometimes we do miss someone.

pinon canyon center....

The YWCA announces the revitalization of our Piñon Canyon Center in Tijeras, New Mexico. For many years, hundreds of people enjoyed the experience of getting into the great outdoors at Piñon Canyon Center. Whether it was summer camp for young people, or an event, the Piñon Canyon Center was an asset to the community. Unfortunately, it has been closed for the past several years due to lack of funding. The YWCA has made the decision to bring the camp back to the pristine mountain venue that it was for many years. We will keep you updated as to the progress of this endeavor.

2010 is our 100th Anniversary as an organization in New Mexico! We have some exciting plans for our 100th birthday.....

**Coming this fall—Stay tuned for information.....
Our 3rd Annual Walk a Mile In Her Shoes Community event!
Put yourself in her shoes and stand up against gender violence!**



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