



Ames-ISU

# Newsletter

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**July 2009**

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

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## **Women of Achievement Recognition and Award Ceremony**

The YWCA Ames-ISU held its annual Women of Achievement Recognition and Award Ceremony on April 22, 2009 at the ISU Alumni Center from 7:00-8:30. This annual event has gone through a number of changes since its inception in 2001. This year, we worked to make this Recognition and Award Ceremony a more visible community activity. The award categories included the traditional Woman of Achievement and the Community Spirit award, but the committee added new categories of Rising Star and Shining Star. In addition, the 2009-10 scholarship recipients were recognized at the event.

During the social part of the Ceremony, we featured the work accomplished throughout the year by our YWCA through a rolling power point. During the award ceremony, the powerpoint featured each award recipient as she was presented to the audience.

The 2008-09 Women of Achievement Award Recipients were:

Lois Smidt—2009 Woman of Achievement

Susan Benner—2009 Shining Star

Beth Wessel-Kroeschell—2009 Shining Star

Nikki Frazier Thompson—2009 Rising Star

Kelley Kelsey—2009-10 Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient

Srivani Harish—2009-10 Graduate Scholarship Recipient

Also recognized were the 2008-09 Scholarship Recipients, Alissa Stoehr and Ann Marie Yoshida.

The Planning Committee for the Women of Achievement event were: Lauri Dusselier, Elaine Hieber, Pat Miller, Lisa Stephany, Tanya Zanish-Belcher. Very special thank you's go to Erin Rosacker who managed our communication flow and Lana Voga who managed our invitation and program printing.

## **From the Board President**

Dear YWCA Friends and Members

As I wrote in my previous letter, the YWCA Ames-ISU has reached a crossroads and is moving forward to do its part in the Ames and ISU communities. We are continuing our signature programs of GIRLS Power and our Global Programs, which includes the International Friendship Fair and Embracing International Spouses. We are in the process of introducing a financial literacy component to these programs, with seed funding from ISU's women's enrichment fund. We pride ourselves on providing these programs to groups that otherwise would be left out, and our work is so very important for them! What we do does indeed make a difference, but as always, we need your support. Please consider renewing your membership, if you have not yet done so, or volunteering your time to help us reach our new goals—whether donating \$25 or 1 hour of time which means so much to our program participants.

Sincerely, Tanya

## **YWCA Ames-ISU Board of Directors 2009-10**

New Board of Directors for the YWCA Ames-ISU were elected at the annual meeting held at the Iowa House on Saturday, April 25. While five 2008-09 Board members terms ended, there were a number of resignations due to members moving out of the Story County area. Thus, we have nine new Board members. Those individuals and the sector they represent are:

Ames Community:

Nicole Harding  
Ruth Hill

ISU Community:

Ginny Blackburn  
Laura Centano-Diaz  
Carmen Flagge  
Hilary Seo

ISU Students:

Andrea Mallarino  
Erika Womak

Continuing Board members are: Ames Community: Betty Baird; ISU Community: Pat Miller and Tanya Zanish-Belcher; ISU Students: Ellie Skowronek and Jessica White

## **YWCA USA Hallmark Programs and the Ames-ISU Association**

The YWCA USA states that Racial Justice and Women's Economic Advancement are the Hallmark Programs of the YWCA. They carry out our mission. They are a reflection of our brand. They are what distinguished the YWCA from all other socially conscious organizations.

Each local YWCA implements Hallmark Program, although specific programs vary from one community to another based on the unique needs of each market. Our Hallmark Programs have direct impact and create meaningful change with measurable results. We not only intend to raise awareness of the issues, we intend to affect real change. Our goal is not to pave the way for the future. It is to create the future. A better future.

The focus and energy of the YWCA Ames-ISU are dedicated to each of the two areas of the Hallmark Programs:

**GIRLS Power** selects Iowa State women students as mentors for 12-13 year old middle school girls in Ames and Nevada. The groups meet separate twice a month throughout the academic year and each meeting is focused on one of the four goals of the GIRLS Power Program: diversity, community service, career exploration and fun.

For the 2008-09 year, 22 girls, 14 from Nevada and 8 from Ames, participated in the Program. The 22 ISU student mentors are volunteers who are willing to go through training and commit to the year long program. Two additional Iowa State students are paid staff who coordinate the training, communication, activities and oversee the Sunday meetings. The Program is coordinated by two undergraduate students on staff of the YW. This year Katie Guzallis and Sara Ragaller were the undergraduate coordinators.

Nadia Khatib and Jenna Fessler have been hired as the GIRLS Power coordinators for 2009-10.

**Global Programs:** There are two primary components to our Global Programs, the International Friendship Fair, and the Embracing International Spouses. The **International Friendship Fair** offers Iowa State University international students the opportunity to visit an area elementary school for a day and teach the children about their country and their culture. This program operates three days each during Thanksgiving Week Break and Spring Break. This year the participating schools were: North Polk Elementary, North Polk; Willow Brook Elementary, Altoona; North Polk Central, Alleman; Colo Elementary, Colo; Northeast Hamilton, Blairsburg; and this year, we added the Ames Public Library which allowed children from all Ames elementary schools to participate. About 33 international students, representing twelve countries, some of them volunteering more than once, engaged over 1,300 elementary students. This is a highly successful program with schools asking for repeat visits each year. Here is one thank you that is representative of the impact of this program:

“Thank you doesn't seem enough for what you and your students gave to us. Our students are still talking about all of you. One boy came up to me yesterday and told me

that his family was going to Ames this weekend and maybe they would see one of you. He was going to introduce his parents. What a wonder experience you shared with them!!! They love the recess time with you and it was such a great opportunity to interact with our students....This is a wonderful program that you are involved in. No books, could have provided our students with the experience that you gave them..."

**Embracing International Spouses** had 89 spouses actively participating in the program during the 2008-09 year. These individuals are here because of their spouses' academic association with Iowa State as either a student or faculty/staff. The purpose of the program is to make the transition to the U. S., Ames, and Iowa State easier for this population by creating a support network, find community resources, share helpful information, learn better English, and to support the family structure.

### **From the Executive Director**

The YWCA USA held their annual meeting in May in Washington D. C. At this meeting they voted to change the mission statement of YWCA. The new mission statement is: **YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.**

The YWCA USA also uses two tag lines that identify the power of the collective voice of women:

**YWCA 150 Years of Fearless Leadership**

*YWCA eliminating racism*

*Empowering women*

*No easy task*

*No ordinary organization*

Each of the above sends the message that the YWCA has serious work in front of it on the international, national, and local levels.

This next year, the YWCA Ames-ISU will celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary and with this achievement, the local Board of Directors is committing to dedicate their energies to making the YW's presence more visible. To do this we need a strong member base, an established volunteer base, and increases in funding and staff. Can we do this even now as we face hard time? I am convinced that we can---Ames and Iowa State have the good fortune to have very powerful and active cadres of women and their supporters who have been driving forces in making things happen.

Another change in the **YWCA USA bylaws passed in 2006 allows for men and boys over 12 to become members in a category called YWCA associates** through a petitioning process to the National Coordinating Board of the YWCA. The YWCA Ames-ISU successfully petitioned for this to be a part of our Bylaws, thus ensuring that we meet the gender neutral criteria of membership and governance that is mandated by

our status as a United Way agency and as a recognized Iowa State University student organization.

At that 2006 annual meeting there was also a reaffirming statement that while the YWCA USA was founded in the Christian tradition, the guiding principle is: **“The YWCA is an organization for people of all faiths including those individuals without a religious history or affiliation.”**

It is important for us to remember that the work of the YWCA has continually evolved and the lines of separation that defined us at first, melt away as we move forward into the ever-widening global world. We work for our sisters, but we also work for our brothers.... Liz Beck

### **2009-10 YWCA Ames-ISU Staff**

Interim Executive Director: Elizabeth C. Beck

Global Programs: to be filled

GIRLS Power: Jenna Fessler—Nevada

Nadia Khatib—Ames

Office coordinator: Shenieka Perkins

Financial coordinator: Kayla Pinegar