

American Women Today

“When we look back over the 20th Century and try to understand what’s happened to workers and their families and the challenges they now face, the movement of women out of the home and into paid employment stands out as a unique and powerful transformation. Unlike the America our parents still remember and even helped build, today: Moms aren’t home all day caring for younger children, waiting for the cable guy or to pick up kids from school, yet quality child care and flexible hours at work are in short supply. Workplaces are no longer the domain of men. Women now comprise half the workers on employers’ payrolls. And while men and women still tend to work in different kinds of jobs, most workers under 40 have never known a workplace without women bosses and women colleagues.

Schools still let children out in the early afternoon, long before the workday ends and they shut their doors for three months in the summer, even though the majority of families with children are supported by a single working parent or a dual-earning couple. Most workers-men and women-now have family responsibilities they negotiate daily with their spouses, family members, bosses, colleagues, and employees. But it is still a rare doctor’s office that is open evenings or weekends, even though so many people work at all hours in our 24/7 economy. Women becoming primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners changed everything. But, even though we were all witness to this phenomena’s slow emergence over many years, these changes seem somehow to have snuck up on us. As a result, our policy landscape

remains stuck on an idealized past, where the typical family was composed of a married-for-life couple with a full-time breadwinner and a full-time homemaker who raised the children herself. Government policies and laws continue to rely on an outdated model of the American family. And, despite the existence of innovative practices in corporate America, most employers fail to acknowledge or accommodate the daily juggling act their workers perform, they are oblivious to the fact that their employees are now more likely to be women, and they ignore the fact that men now share in domestic duties. At one level, everything has changed. And yet, so much more change is needed.”

READ MORE of *The Shriver Report: A Woman’s Nation Changes Everything* at www.awomansnation.com

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

Our new Membership Year: Aug 1-July 31

Friend = \$25

Faithful Friend = \$50

Centennial Friend = \$100

Empowerment Leader = \$250

Eliminating Racism Champion = \$500

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1400 N. 30th St. Ste. 6 Quincy, IL 62301
phone: 217-221-9922 fax: 217-221-9926
www.ywcaquincy.org ywca@ywcaquincy.org

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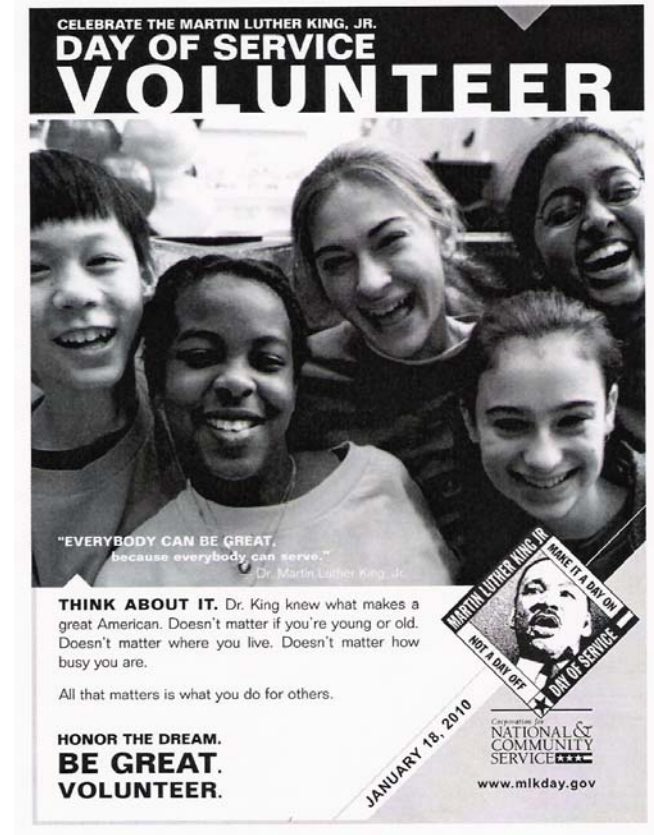
January 2010

Women of Achievement Nominations Due January 15 Award Ceremony February 13

It’s that time of year again! Do you know an ordinary woman who does extraordinary things? Be sure to nominate her for the 2010 Women of Achievement Awards. The awards honor individual women leaders who embody excellence in their fields, are outstanding role models for other women and girls and have made a significant impact on equal opportunity, quality of life, economic, social or racial justice. These awards commemorate the past

achievements of eight well-known home, school or personal Quincy women: Elizabeth Sinnock, Fabiola Cassidy Moorman, Dr. Melinda Knapheide Germann, Caren Kemner, Maggie Thomas, Senator Lillian Schlangenhaus, Nellie Daniels Schwab and Ethel M. Fletcher. Future Women of Achievement Scholarships will also be awarded to two high school seniors. These scholarships recognize young women who have demonstrated qualities of outstanding leadership and excellence in their

endeavors. Both Women of Achievement and Future Women of Achievement nomination forms are available at www.ywcaquincy.org or by calling (217) 221-9922. The dinner award ceremony will be held Saturday, **February 13 2010** at the Holiday Inn, 4821 Oak Street. **Tickets for this gala event are on sale for \$40.** The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.



MLK DAY Celebration
First Baptist Church 739 N. 8th St.
January 18, 10 am

King Day of Service

Initiated by Congress in 1994, King Day of Service:

- Transforms the federal holiday into a national day of community service grounded in his teachings of nonviolence and social justice; and
- The holiday is a day ON, where people of all ages and backgrounds improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the “Beloved Community” that Dr. King envisioned.

On January 19, 2009, a record number of Americans turned out to honor Dr. King by helping their neighbors and communities. The 2009 King Day of Service was the largest in history, with more than one million volunteers serving on 13,000 projects taking place in all 50 states.

Why not organize a service project with your church or service group ?

Supportive Housing Program Update

“Our goal is to create a supportive living environment for women and children where they can obtain the skills and confidence necessary to make the transition from an abusive environment to an independent lifestyle. We also provide permanent supportive housing assistance to women with disabilities and offer opportunities to overcome their unique challenges.”



CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

Costs rise each year and the number of women and children in need continues to grow. We currently have 16 rental units for homeless single women and their children. During 2009, we helped 27 mothers and 54 children rebuild their lives.

solute shortage of affordable rental housing.

- Looking at the number of rental homes that are both affordable and available to the lowest income households, the picture is even worse. (Many of the homes that extremely low income families could afford are occupied by higher income people.) For every 100 extremely low income renter households, there were 39 rental housing units affordable and available for them in 2007. By 2008, the number of affordable and available units had declined to 37. A scarcity of housing that the poorest families can afford is the principle cause of homelessness in the United States.

- The shortage will likely be worse for 2009 and 2010. The increase in unemployment and resulting loss of household income that has occurred between 2008 and 2009 means even more households are competing for fewer homes renting at prices they can afford. This shortage will persist despite the excess supply in the overall housing market caused by the foreclosure crisis and the recession.

- “In the array of subsidies and bailouts that Congress and the Administration have given out in an attempt to repair the economy in the last year, more than \$1.1 trillion has gone to the housing sector through foreclosure mitigation programs, tax credits for homebuyers, and cash infusions to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Not one dollar has been devoted just to addressing the shortage of rental housing for extremely low income families,” NLIHC President Sheila Crowley said.

- Low income housing and homeless advocates have been calling on Congress to put at least \$1 billion in the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) since the Trust was established (but unfunded) in 2008. On

December 16, the House passed H.R. 2847 to redirect \$1bil in unspent money from last year's Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to provide the initial funding of the NHTF, as well as \$65 million for project-based vouchers. The vouchers would be distributed in conjunction with NHTF



dollars. H.R. 2847 would also provide \$1 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund.

- This will support the immediate construction of 10,000 rental homes, creating 15,100 new construction jobs and 3,800 new jobs in ongoing operations. Further, the new jobs bill should include another \$15 billion for low income rental housing construction and rehabilitation through the National Housing Trust Fund in 2010. An additional \$15 billion would create another 283,500 jobs.

Visit housingactionil.org for more information.

Call (217) 221-9922 or visit www.ywcaquincy.org to give a gift!



The More You Know



Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act Advances in the Senate

The Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to consider expanding the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 to include hate crimes against the homeless. Under the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the Justice Department collects data on hate crimes and publishes the information in its annual hate crime statistics report. The report includes crimes because of the actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual

orientation. Between 1999 and 2008, nearly 900 violent acts against homeless individuals were documented by advocacy organizations. Between 1999 and 2007, more fatal attacks were documented against homeless individuals than in all other recognized hate crime categories combined. Victims have included men and women, veterans, children as young as four, and the elderly. The Hate Crimes Against

the Homeless Statistics Act would provide needed data collection through the uniform tracking and reporting of such crimes. Currently, only Maine, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. collect information about hate crimes committed against homeless persons.

For more information about hate crimes against homeless people visit: www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/hatecrimes/index.html

Learn More

February is Black History Month

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied-or even documented-when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

Blacks Absent from History Books

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar

was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population-and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Established Journal of Negro History

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History and in 1926, launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

The YWCA will host **Movie Nights** in February for citizens to learn more about the history of institutionalized racism and segregation.

Feb. 9: February One

tells the inspiring story surrounding the 1960 Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins that revitalized the Civil Rights Movement and set an example of student militancy for the coming decade.

Feb. 16: Brick by Brick

illustrates the results of public policies based in deep-rooted racial prejudice by following the bitter struggle over equal housing rights in New York during the 1980s.

Feb. 23: Tulio, Texas

through its scrupulous investigation of a landmark case convincingly shows how the "War on Drugs" has become a war on due process, waged against African-Americans.

All movies shown at the YWCA 6:30pm.

Save the Date!
Circle of Women
Friday, April 23
11:30am-1pm
The Ambiance



Last year our first ever Circle of Women was a tremendous success! We hope that supporters this year will help us reach our annual fundraising goal of \$20,000.

Mark your calendar now to join our Circle of Women in sharing the powerful message of the YWCA mission: eliminating racism, empowering women.

The Circle of Women is so much more than a fundraiser. This unique event combines a beautiful luncheon with opportunities to learn more about our dynamic supportive housing program that has served 114 struggling mothers and nearly 240 children in this community since 2002. With YWCA help, these families begin to thrive instead of just survive. When families are strengthened, communities do better! The Circle also gives attendees the opportunity to celebrate the possibilities that exist when women unite. By attending, you, too, can make a commitment to changing the world, one woman at a time, through the most effective means possible- women helping women.

Call the YWCA office now to be a Table Captain or be placed on the reservation list - 221-9922.