

# eliminating racism empowering women

ywca news release

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## YWCA NOW ENROLLING FOR TechGYRLS® CONNECT CLUB

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For Immediate Release

The YWCA of Kalamazoo is pleased to offer **YWCA TechGYRLS® Connect Club** for the seventh consecutive year. The goal of YWCA TechGYRLS® is to keep girls (ages 9-13) excited about technology, math, and science. Through MicroWorlds computer animation software, they invent, design, and showcase their work in an all-girl environment. **This year girls will create robots!**

Sessions are held on Tuesday or Thursday from 5:30—7:00 p.m. at the YWCA of Kalamazoo, 353 E. Michigan Avenue, beginning Tuesday, October 5, 2010. The cost is \$30 per girl, which is due by the first session and is nonrefundable. Snacks will be provided. Limited scholarships may be available. **Only 10 spots are available, so apply today!** Applications are due no later than Friday, September 24, 2010. Those accepted into the program will receive a confirmation phone call.

Research shows that girls who formerly had an interest in computers lose it during adolescence. This is partly due to a plummet in girls' self-esteem during teenage years (Kimmel, 2000). However, there are several factors that contribute in girls disinterest in technology. Among these were: girls approach technology differently, lack of role models, games are geared toward male interests, gender bias in classroom settings, and parental influences (Eck et al., 1999).

According to YWCA of Kalamazoo CEO, Jennifer Shoub, "TechGYRLS® offers girls the opportunity to become comfortable with technology in a supportive environment. Technology is quickly becoming a dividing line between those who will succeed in their chosen careers and those who may not. The YWCA is committed to introducing technology to girls as an attainable career choice as well as an asset in any field in addition to advocating for gender equity in technology."

For a YWCA TechGYRLS® Connect Club schedule and application or to register, please call Jennifer Frank at (269) 345-6025 or email [jifrank@ywcakalamazoo.org](mailto:jifrank@ywcakalamazoo.org).

### About the YWCA

The YWCA of the USA, of which the YWCA of Kalamazoo is a member Association, is the oldest, largest autonomous women's membership organization in the world. Its mission is eliminating racism and empowering women. The YWCA of Kalamazoo, the oldest Association in Michigan, was founded in 1885 and began as a residence service provider to young women who gravitated to the city to work in its factories. Today, the YWCA of Kalamazoo provides services to survivors of domestic assault, including shelter (the first such shelter in the state of Michigan and one of the first in the United States); a program for survivors of sexual assault, a licensed child care center, a mentoring program for women and teens seeking self-sufficiency through employment and educational goals, and services to YWCA members and the community-at-large.

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### Contact Information

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