



NEWSLETTER

MEMBERS

ONE IMPERATIVE: To thrust our collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary

YWCA Assumes Full Ownership of Belmont Hotel

True to our 1989 development plan, the YWCA of Madison assumed full ownership of our downtown housing facility from Heartland Properties, Inc. (HPI), the affordable housing subsidiary of Alliant Energy, on Jan. 1, 2002. HPI owned 99 percent of the facility managed by the YWCA. This purchase was made possible by a generous reduction on the buyback price by Heartland Properties.

Ruth Domack, president of Heartland Properties, Inc., said the YWCA's 'buy-back' is a success story, both in terms of downtown revitalization and creating affordable rental housing opportunities for families in need. "We're proud to have played a role in preserving one of Madison's historic sites and bringing much needed affordable housing to the downtown area," Domack said. "The YWCA is a shining example of what can be accomplished when the public and private sectors partner for the betterment of a community."

Twelve years ago, the YWCA, Heartland Properties, Inc., and the City of Madison partnered to renovate the YWCA, formerly the historic Belmont Hotel on the Capitol Square. The

renovation into 106 apartment homes was made possible through a \$3.1 million investment by Alliant Energy, tax credits from the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, additional financial support through low-interest loans and grants from the City, and contributions from the YWCA and individual supporters.

Assuming full ownership of the facility will streamline administration and enable the YWCA to combine operational efficiencies with management of the facility according to Eileen Mershart, Executive Director. "Our decade long partnership with Heartland Properties made the renovation of this landmark facility possible," said Mershart. "They provided the necessary financing to turn our vision into a reality."

As part of Alliant Energy's commitment to community and economic development, over the past 12 years, HPI has worked with local communities, non-profit organizations and private developers throughout Dane County to create more than 800 affordable apartment homes for seniors, families and persons with special needs.

Better Late Than Never: DWD Issues New Report on W-2 Leavers

By Bob Jacobson,
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Reprinted with permission from *Capitol Comments*,
January/February 2002, Volume 21/Number 1

It took almost three years to happen, but the Department of Workforce Development has finally issued its report on the status of families who left the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program between April and December of 1998. The first "leavers study," covering those who left W-2 in the first quarter of 1998, was published in January of 1999. Advocates and other interested observers have been waiting for the next "quarterly" report ever since.

The current report is based on interviews with 1,239 leavers, out of a randomly drawn sample of 1,650 (550 from each quarterly cohort). A separate report focusing only on "continuous" leavers (those who left W-2 assistance and did not return) who left W-2 in the second quarter of 1998 was also issued around the same time. This article focuses on the larger study.

The leavers study found that 58 percent of leavers were employed at the time they were interviewed. They were working an average of 35 hours per week at an average wage of \$7.95 per hour. That compares to 62 percent working for an average 36 hours per week at \$7.42 per hour found in the earlier report on the first quarter 1998 leavers. The decrease in percentage working was not unexpected, since it was assumed that those who left the program earliest were those with the fewest barriers.

Among respondents who were employed when interviewed, 39 percent said they had received a pay increase in their current or most recent job, which probably says as much about the low starting wages that leavers are commanding as it does about their success in climbing the employment ladder. Only 23 percent who had gotten a raise indicated that the increase was associated with new job duties. The fact that nearly half of respondents said they were not offered or assigned to any job skills training while they were enrolled in W-2 may have contributed to that modest record of earnings increases.

Problems with transportation and childcare remained substantial employment barriers for a large percent of leavers. Twenty-four percent reported problems with transportation to work, which is not surprising since only 43 percent of employed leavers actually owned a vehicle. More than one-third of employed respondents who had employment transportation problems said it was because of car trouble. Another 31 percent cited lack of bus fare as their transportation issue.

Childcare is an even bigger obstacle for many leaver families. Thirty percent of respondents with a child in childcare reported that a childcare problem had interfered with work efforts. Sixteen percent reported lacking childcare for at least one child under age 13. More than a quarter of respondents who had a child under 13 in childcare said they "sometimes" or "frequently" had difficulty with transportation to childcare.

Housing and utilities remain a major struggle for families leaving W-2. The share of leavers who reported falling behind on rent or mortgage payment

See *W-2 Leavers Study*, page 3

Third Street Thanksgiving/Holiday Party



Billy & Julian having fun at the holiday party.

Third Street women and Bob Wrenn, our volunteer master chef, prepared a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. Everyone who attended prepared

something that was a family favorite. We had several turkeys, homemade dressing, pork and cabbage, Jamaican rice and beans, an African rice dish, potatoes, fried chicken, lasagna, sweet potatoes, pies and more. After a day of preparation we had a hearty Thanksgiving family meal.

Third Street hosted its Annual Holiday Party in December. Ninety people including current and past Third Street families, friends and volunteers joined in the celebration and feast. Our volunteer master chef cooked several turkeys and hams complete with all the fixings. Santa visited with all the children and gave each child a teddy bear or stuffed animal. Each family went home with a gift bag filled with wrapped gifts.

The Holiday Party has grown each year as the number of Third Street graduates grows. Old and new neighbors share stories, memories and thoughts about the ways in which Third Street has helped them. Many continue to share the friendships they made while in the program, and enjoyed the opportunity to return for the party.

Thanks to all who make these events a success!



Master chef Bob Wrenn with the Gift Elf, Ida Wrenn.

...and thanks from Third Street and the Kids Programs

Many individuals, groups and local companies and their employees made contributions to Third Street and the Kids program over the holidays. These donations enhanced our programs and made the holidays special for everyone, especially the kids at the YWCA. Contributions have come from:

Bernie Hartwig and the Lake Edge United Church of Christ
Nakoma League families
GTECH Corporation and their employees
Linda and Blayde Elert and friends
Attic Angels
Madison Fire Fighters
Stoner Prairie Elementary second graders
FFA from East High School
RSVP
Temple Bethel Sisterhood
UW Physicians Plus Fitchburg Clinic employees
First United Methodist Church and the Hispanic Methodist Women's group
Z-D Studios
Madison Jaycees
Ida and Bob Wrenn
Girl Neighborhood Power
Pleasant Company and employees
Ouati Ali (SANTA)
Joyce Wenner
Suzanne Mathews
James and Kathleen Darwin
Financial Women International

The First United Methodist Church and the Hispanic Methodist Women hosted a holiday party for the single women who are permanent residents at the YWCA. The church made gift bags for each resident and then had a dinner made by the Hispanic women's group and music. It was a festive evening that was very special for the women who live in the building.

The YWCA 3rd Street Program is 10 years old!

Come join us for the
10th Anniversary Celebration
Thursday, April 18

Open house with
hors d'oeuvres & much more.
4:00-6:00 PM
Vilas Room
YWCA of Madison

Success Story



Michael Simpson

In October 2001, a 14-year-old young man named Michael Simpson, along with his mother, father and younger brother, moved in to the YWCA homeless family shelter. His parents had decided to move to Madison from Chicago, looking for a better place to raise their two boys.

Michael and his brother became a pleasant addition to the nightly children's programs at the YWCA. Being the oldest boy attending the programs, Michael soon showed his maturity to all volunteers and staff who met him. On most evenings, Michael could be found at the front desk of the YWCA, receiving some tutoring from the receptionists on his homework.

Michael made a lasting impression on one volunteer in particular, Tom O'Day, Education Policy Assistant to Governor McCallum. Tom soon found Michael an internship position in the Capitol. Michael is still an intern at the Capitol and continues to delight and amaze all who meet him.

He is an A Honor Roll student at O'Keefe Middle School and is an active participant on the school yearbook committee, the Black History Quiz Bowl team, show choir, and is the recent recipient of the Outstanding Youth award from the Urban League. He has future goals of going on to college and being an archeology anthropologist.

Michael and his family moved to their new two-bedroom house in November, but Michael says he will never forget all he learned and the people he met at the YWCA. Michael's positive experience with the staff and volunteers at the YWCA has given him a foundation to build a better life for himself. "The YWCA gave me opportunities to get in to positive things," said Michael. "I feel like it's a place that I can always come back to."

*The Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers
Cordially Invite You to Attend
the 28th Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon*

**Monday, May 13, 2002
The Concourse Hotel
\$45 per person**

Please join us as we honor six women whose community service, professional achievement, integrity, leadership and dedication to the lives of others stand as a reflection of the YWCA's historic mission and values.

• **2002 Honorees** •

Betty Barrientos
Cultural Ambassador
Dr. Molly Carnes

Professor of Medicine and Director, UW Center for Women's Health and Women's Health Research

Nancy Christy

Former Restaurant Owner and Consultant

Ann Haney

*Executive Vice President, Breast Cancer Recovery Foundation, and
Vice President for Public and Governmental Affairs, Dean Health System*

Frances Huntley-Cooper

Volunteer Community Activist and Social Worker

Sue Ann Thompson

President and Founder, Women's Health Foundation

The YWCA gratefully acknowledges Madison Gas & Electric, American Family Insurance, Dean Health Systems, UW Health and the many area businesses and individual contributors for making this event possible. Corporate and individual donations help underwrite the costs of the Women of Distinction event and will help fund the YWCA's programs and operations throughout the year.

Sustaining (\$5000 and above)

- Two tables of 10 at the luncheon
- Preferred seating at the luncheon
- Special recognition during the event
- Special designation in the event program
- Mention in all pre-event publicity

Leadership (\$2500 - \$4999)

- Table of 10 at the luncheon
- Special recognition during the event
- Special designation in the event program
- Mention in all pre-event publicity

Benefactor (\$1000 - \$2499)

- Table of 10 at the luncheon
- Special recognition during the event
- Special designation in the event program

Patron (\$500 - \$999)

- Special recognition during the event
- Special designation in the event program

Sponsor (\$150 - \$499)

- Special designation in the event program

Please detach the form below and mail with your contribution. Thank you!

**YWCA OF MADISON 2002 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS
MAY 13, 2002 ~ CONCOURSE HOTEL**

Yes, I/we want to be a part of the 28th Annual Women of Distinction Awards!

Name _____

Name of Firm _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Please send me/us _____ luncheon tickets at \$45 each. I have enclosed \$ _____.

I/we have enclosed a contribution at the following level:

Sponsor (\$150-499)

Patron (\$500-999)

Benefactor (\$1000-2499)

Leadership (\$2500-4999)

Sustaining (\$5000 and above)

Other \$ _____

Please contact me about an in-kind contribution.

Please make checks payable to the YWCA of Madison.

Mail this form along with your contribution to: YWCA, 101 E. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703

Thank you Magic 98 and Michael's Frozen Custard!

Juli Hinds of Magic 98 was pregnant with her second child and wanted to do something that involved the community and helped out a local organization with donations. The YWCA of Madison was the fortunate organization she chose to help. As a result, Juli's Community Baby Shower was created with lots of help from Michael's Frozen Custard. During the week of February 18-25, 2002 the community was asked to donate items from the YWCA wish list for infants and toddlers. People were asked to drop off their donations at any Michael's Frozen Custard site or at the YWCA. Michael's also offered an additional incentive - a special on "baby" sundaes that turned out to be more "teenager" sized. A special thank you also goes out to all the community members who donated the much needed baby items.



Coming Soon!

New website for consumer organizations and grassroots organizers.

The website will offer opportunities for consumer organizations to post and exchange information and events in their respective communities. It will close many communication gaps that currently exist between agencies and consumers and provide an opportunity for networking. Please check it out at: <http://networkingexchange.advoc8.com>. (Please note that www is not part of the address.)

For additional information, please contact Jessica Barton at (608) 269-3285 or jazzbo@chorus.net.



What Do You Wish For Racial Justice?

We Asked YWCA Board and Guests at the 2001 Annual Meeting:

I wish we had greater diversity in Madison.
I wish we didn't self-segregate as soon as we understood race.
I wish I had greater diversity in my workplace.
I wish we could see how easy it is to change racially based preconceptions in ourselves.
I wish more of my friends didn't look like me.
I wish that people of all colors would read poetry of other cultures.
I wish that the people of all colors would participate in different ethnic events instead of only the group that is being honored.
I wish for open and honest discussions of racism on the Board, among staff, among YWCA members and the community.
I wish for all of us to better understand institutional racism, and to work in making changes.

I wish for us to identify and strengthen our learning about racism.
I wish for whites to recognize the daily effects of their white privilege.
I wish for people to be willing to learn and understand other cultures.
I wish for more people to speak out when they hear racist remarks.
I wish people would treat each other individually and not as one group.
I wish to make friends of different races.
I wish for whites to truly understand what it is like to be a minority.
We look the same inside, but I wish for us to accept the differences that we can see on the outside like skin color, hair styles, eye, nose and lip shapes.

• W-2 Leavers Study, from page 1

(55%) remained the same as in the earlier report, while the percentage who got behind on utility bills (71%) or had their phone service cut off (52%) declined slightly. One-fifth reported going without heat, about the same portion as in the quarter cohort. One-fifth also said they had experienced episodes without electricity in their homes. Nearly one-third said they had been forced to move because they couldn't pay their housing costs, and nearly half experienced times when they could not afford food. More than one-quarter of respondents reported that they had moved in with others in order to save on expenses, and 10 percent said others had moved in with them. Nine percent had stayed in a homeless shelter at some point during the previous two years.

Leavers' assessments of the W-2 program itself were mixed. Agency staff were given very high marks in general; 70 percent rated staff as either "somewhat helpful" or "very helpful." On the other hand, more than half (53%) thought W-2 was worse overall than AFDC, with 36 percent calling it "much worse." Over 60 percent found W-2 rules to be confusing and 78

percent said W-2 did not help them find a job.

In spite of ongoing struggles and reservations about the merits of W-2, many leavers reported that their well-being had improved since leaving the program. Nearly half said their decision-making and goal-setting skills had improved. Slightly more than half indicated that their life-management capabilities and attitude toward work had improved since leaving W-2, and 60 percent reported that they felt better about themselves. In contrast, twice as many leavers saw their money worries and stress level increase as saw them decrease, and a much larger percentage said they worried more about their families (43%) than said they worried less (17%).

While disappointed that it took so long to gain access to this important data, advocates appreciate the fact that the Department had gathered information on some of the most important indicators of how former W-2 families are faring in their post-welfare lives. Both new reports, as well as the earlier leavers study and other reports on W-2, are available via the DWD website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/desw2>.

A Mother's Day Gift

A Day to Honor the Significant Women in Your Life

On this day, we recognize and thank our mothers, sisters, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, aunts, teachers, friends, mentors and other women who have made a difference in our lives.

We invite you to honor women who are special to you through a gift to the YWCA of Madison. For each donation, the YWCA of Madison will send a card to acknowledge that a gift has been made to the YWCA of Madison in her honor.

The YWCA provides safe and secure shelter to homeless mothers and young children through our emergency shelter program. On Third Street, low-income moms with young children are learning to be good parents. Many are pursuing their education or restarting their lives with new jobs.

Please look for the YWCA Mother's Day card in the mail coming soon. Our deadline for gift acknowledgements is May 3, 2002.



After facing much violence and loss in her life, Nancy Gomez moved to the YWCA for a safe place to live as part of the Third Street Program. She has been working hard to learn English and recently passed her exam to become a U.S. citizen. Nancy hopes to someday work as a legal secretary again, as she had in Columbia. She truly enjoys and appreciates the help and support she receives in the Third Street Program.

YWCA OF MADISON BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2001-2002

Elizabeth Barnhill
President

Sally Miley
President-Elect

Gretchen Pfahler
Secretary

Damita Davis-Wren
Treasurer

Janet Ady
Melinda Certain
Mary Ann Cook
Gretchen Dahlen
Eve Galanter
Gloria Green

Ginger Hinderaker
Judge Pat Roggensack
Tracy Washington Stewart

The YWCA of Madison has flourished for more than 90 years, sustained by the generosity of its donors, the commitment of its staff and volunteers and the leadership of the women who have served on its board. Our work is as relevant now as it was in 1909, and our mission endures. In 2002, the YWCA stands as the largest provider of housing for women in Dane County...offers programs and services for its residents and their children...provides job training and employment opportunities...and seeks to further the ideals of justice, equality and dignity for all people.



News From the Employment & Training Annex

Opportunities Abound in Our YWCA Programs

The C.N.A. Career Alliance is currently training six students who will be ready to graduate on Friday, March 22. A graduation ceremony will be held the following Saturday afternoon at the Annex for graduates' family members to join in the celebration.

The Alliance's primary instructor, Joy Pfeffer, has been honored with a most prestigious award. On Friday, February 22, Joy was presented with the Excellence in Clinical Practice Award from the Wisconsin Society of Perianesthesia Nurses. This award recognizes an outstanding nurse whose practice exemplifies a high level of compassion and specialty expertise. The C.N.A. Alliance is indeed fortunate to benefit from Joy's experience and passionate teaching skills.

Kay McGee, Alliance Director, has been invited to be a presenter at a March 8 Long Term Care Workforce Symposium sponsored by the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute of the UW-Madison Medical School held at the Madison Campus Fluno Center. Dr. Robyn Stone, national leader in aging and long-term care issues, will lead the dialogue to develop a Wisconsin solution to workforce problems in long term care.

The TRANS program recently completed its first class of 2002. Eleven students graduated from the intensive six-week training program. The curriculum included mathematics, tool usage, information for the commercial driver's license test, cement finishing,

grading, flagging, surveying, and physical fitness. Students also had the opportunity to learn to drive a Bobcat, use a jackhammer, and operate a gas-powered compactor.

Interview sessions with nine Wisconsin road builders were held at the close of the class; the majority of these were union contractors paying starting wages of \$17 an hour or more. Four other contractors also assisted in the class, either by contributing materials or the instruction time of their managers.

Area labor unions also assisted. On February 22, the class took a field trip to the Wisconsin Operating Engineer's Local 139 training facility in Coloma, Wis., to learn about opportunities in heavy equipment operation. Representatives of the carpenters', ironworkers', laborers', and cement finishers' unions also participated in the classroom.

The next class begins April 8, and the program is now focused on placing recent graduates and recruiting for the next group. To pre-register contact Caryn Fisher at 255-3283. Scholarships are available.

Caryn Fisher, the Job Options/Displaced Homemaker Program Coordinator, has been providing employment outreach services to downtown YWCA residents. She is stationed on the second floor on Thursdays from 10:00 AM-NOON. Stop by and see her if you need assistance locating employment.

Staff Notes

Dawn Buchholz Will Be Missed

Dawn Buchholz, YWCA Residence Counselor, resigned at the end of December. During her nine years of employment, Dawn brought tremendous energy, talent and dedication to the YWCA and those we serve. Her contributions to the YWCA team will be



greatly missed. Dawn has accepted a supervisory position with the Waushara County Department of Human Services. We wish Dawn the best of luck in this exciting new opportunity!

The Residence Counselor position will be shared by two current YWCA employees — Colleen Butler (Tenant Education Coordinator and former Shelter Case Manager) and Torrie Kopp (former Front Desk Supervisor). Colleen will now work half time as Residence Counselor and half time as Tenant Education Coordinator. Torrie will start as half time Shelter Case Manager and, after receiving her MSSW in May, she will become full time, adding 20 hours of Residence Counselor duties to her schedule. Maria Boardman has become the new Front Desk Supervisor. We are fortunate to have well-qualified individuals on staff who are able to step into these vacant positions!

New Partnerships for Women

Consumer Curriculum Trainings Start Soon

New Partnerships for Women (NPW), which began as a continuation of the Women and Mental Health Study Site of Dane County and is a current project of the YWCA of Madison, has been working since January 2001 to build the capacity of the community to promote healing and recovery for women who have had histories of trauma, mental illness, and/or substance abuse problems, including women who are TANF-eligible. We are in the final stages of development of our Consumer Curriculum, which will be a series of four consumer-driven and run trainings, focusing on understanding the effects of trauma on women's lives, symptom management, meeting basic needs, and self-advocacy. We have completed our feasibility plan for a peer-run non-crisis line in Dane County (currently named Warmline of Dane County). The next phase of this project will be the procurement of funding and housing. And finally, we are proud to announce our third training for mental health, substance abuse,

We are proud to announce our third training for mental health, substance use, trauma service providers and consumers:

Pathways to Survival: From Basic Needs to Treatment Readiness, Working with Women with Trauma Histories and Mental Health and/or Substance Use Problems.

trauma service providers and consumers: Pathways to Survival: From Basic Needs to Treatment Readiness, Working with Women with Trauma Histories and Mental Health and/or Substance Use Problems. This training will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2002: 1-4:30 PM at the Wisconsin Memorial Union, UW-Madison Campus, 800 Langdon St. Advance registration is required. For more information, or for registration materials, contact New Partnerships for Women: 608/268-3284, npw@chorus.net.

The YWCA of Madison Annual Meeting April 4, 2002

**8:00 AM Breakfast Buffet
Inn on the Park**

Our program will feature our volunteer award recipients, an update on YWCA activities from our board and staff, a report on changes at the national YWCA level and the introduction of our new board members for 2002-2003. On the agenda this year will be a discussion of the board recommendation to fully include men as voting members of the YWCA community. Hope you can attend this year's annual meeting.

**For reservation information
call Jessica at 257-1436 at the YWCA
before March 28.**

Cost is \$15.00 per person



101 E. Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 988

