



NEWSLETTER

MEMBERS

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

YWCA Announces Major Reorganization

The YWCA of Madison joined over 300 YWCAs across the country on June 15, 2002, to announce a top-to-bottom re-structuring of its national organization. The action resulted from a four-year effort called the "Change Initiative" and involved thousands of YWCA members. "The process started with a grassroots meeting in Pittsburgh in 1998 when the members decided it was time for systemic change from the 96-year-old method of operating," said Eileen Mershart, Executive Director, YWCA of Madison. "And, by the time it ended in 2002, we had convened three national meetings and held a referendum vote which carried approval by 83.5% of all the associations."

Audrey Peoples, newly elected chair of the National

Coordinating Board, accepted the gavel from Letty Paez, retiring National Board president, and pledged to move quickly to implement the major changes the members had approved. The new YWCA shifts from a top-down to a bottom-up organization and puts renewed emphasis on local associations linking together in regions and sharing programs specifically designed to carry out the YWCA mission of empowering women and eliminating racism. New emphasis is also placed on bringing young women into leadership and connecting local members with the more than 25 million World YWCA members. Interested persons are invited to call the YWCA of Madison at 257-1436 for more information and to find out how they might get involved.

Safety Saturday

The YWCA of Madison was honored once again to be one of the more than 20 organizations from Dane County involved in Safety Saturday on the capitol square on June 22, working to educate parents and children on ways to prevent injuries and encourage the use of safety devices. YWCA board members, residents and staff participated in the event. A group of YWCA children and families marched around the square in the Safety Saturday parade, and handed out safety whistles. The YWCA's booth on the square was centered on the theme "Everyone has a Right to Feel Safe." Children colored in pictures of faces showing their different emotions, while their parents gathered information on keeping their children safe.



Low-Income Families Feel the Hurt

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Although experts are predicting the U.S. economy is in an upswing, low-income families have yet to experience any relief. In fact, reports coming in from across the country suggest the poor were the hardest hit by the economic downturn and are continuing to feel the hurt. Here is what they have been facing:

Last Hired, First Fired. With December's high unemployment rate, low-skilled workers are among the first fired. Some lack skills that are easily transferable from one job to another.

Unemployment Gaps. Many jobless workers are ineligible for unemployment insurance or might get benefits that are below poverty level. Fewer than 40% of jobless Americans were able to receive unemployment benefits last year, according to the Department of Labor, and researchers estimate that a smaller percentage of former welfare recipients, perhaps as low as 20% will qualify.

Welfare Gaps. Some welfare recipients are becoming ineligible for assistance just as businesses halt hiring, leaving them with few or no options. Congress set a five-year lifetime cap on the number of years people can receive benefits.

Still Struggling in Poverty. Many former welfare recipients working in low-paying jobs are not earning enough to escape poverty, and the recession threatens to prevent many of them from finding a better job — if not put them out of work altogether.

State Cutbacks. In response to fiscal crises, many states have cut programs that serve low-income populations, including health care programs, childcare, and job training programs.

Strained Support Agencies. Social service agencies are less able to cope with the increase in demand due to tight state budgets and contributors who are tapped out. The effects of these strained economic conditions on vulnerable families are not good. Reports indicate rising welfare caseloads, an increase in demand for food stamps, and a disturbing increase in the need for homeless shelters for families. In Midwest Partners' six-state region, news is especially grim. In Indiana, welfare caseloads have increased by 16%. In Chicago, all of the city's shelter beds for families are full, forcing the city to regularly look for emergency alternatives, such as hotels. Food stamp cases in Wisconsin increased from 83,678 to 101,919 during 2001, a 22% increase, with part of that increase, however, coming from reinstated families who were led to believe they were previously ineligible.

What This Means for TANF Reauthorization

The president has acknowledged that families are struggling because of the faltering economy and need to be supported during these difficult times. The administration's FY 2003 budget does not call for cuts in the TANF block grant and reinstates two expired TANF provisions — the TANF supplemental grants and the contingency fund. The administration's budget, however, would freeze funding for the basic block grant at the same level it has been funded at since 1997, allowing inflation to

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YWCA Volunteers Make a Difference

Throughout the year, we have the opportunity to work with many individuals and groups in various volunteer capacities. These volunteers help us with our Suited



for Success clothing boutique, children's programs, special events, and many other service projects and outings. Pictured here is a group from our annual outing to Noah's Ark on June 21. Over 50 YWCA residents, volunteers and staff attended the outing.

During our Annual Meeting, we had the opportunity to honor some outstanding long-term volunteers. Sarah Tiller has been a volunteer with our children's programs since 2000. Sarah brightens up our programs with her friendly, laidback attitude. Lois Sater has been a Suited for Success volunteer for five years. Lois has helped numerous women find clothing to wear on job interviews. Bernie Hartwig from Lake Edge United Church of Christ has done holiday shopping for our Third Street and permanent residents for almost 10 years. She donates countless hours making sure that each resident gets what they ask for for the holiday season. All three of these volunteers are invaluable to the YWCA and the many women and children we serve in the community and in our building. We could not continue with the work that we do without the help of volunteers from our community. If you are interested in helping, please call Marcy Stutzman at 257-1436.

■ TANF, from page 1

erode its value and substantially hindering states' ability to respond to the needs of those continuing to struggle in poverty and those negatively impacted by our nation's economic downturn.

The job of reforming welfare is far from over, and many challenges remain. We must ensure that low-wage workers negatively affected by the economic downturn do not fall into homelessness and further despair. We need to ensure that those with jobs have enough income to support their families. And we also need to ensure that the most disadvantaged mothers, who still have not crossed the bridge to work, have access to appropriate services.

Midwest Partners encourages advocates for the poor and those working with low-income families to call on Congress to consider our new economic reality and ensure that the following recommendations are incorporated into the reauthorized TANF legislation:

1. **Secure funding** with increases for inflation.
2. **Expand the supports** for families still working to ensure that people can keep the jobs they have.
3. **Refocus the outcome** of TANF from caseload reduction to poverty reduction. There are proven ways and lessons learned from the past five years to ensure families will be more likely to weather economic downturns.
4. **Maintain appropriate help** for those who never left welfare due to mental illness, learning disabilities, or abuse so that they do not end up in the streets.
5. **Reconsider the five-year time limit** to ensure that needy families receive the help they need during recessions.

The next few months are crucial for raising awareness of the struggles and challenges faced by low-income families in our nation's weak economy. The reauthorization process will gain momentum this spring/summer and provide a historic opportunity to create real and lasting change for vulnerable families.

Third Street Celebrates 10 Years!

In December 1991 the first residents moved into a Third Street apartment. Since that time, 115 families have lived on Third Street. The program started with six apartments on the third floor of the YWCA (how it got its name) and in 1996 expanded to the fourth floor with a total of 12 apartments. Third Street provides safe and affordable housing in a supportive environment to single moms with one small child. It is often a starting place for families who have been homeless, have limited resources, or lack support and other housing options. Third Street allows them to pursue goals and parent their children. The program's original goals, to end the cycles of homelessness and abuse, hold today.

Third Street celebrated its 10th anniversary with an Open House in April. The Open House was held in the newly developed and renovated Resource Room on the fourth floor. The Open House was a success with members of the community, residents, staff and YWCA Board members touring and sharing stories. Residents offered tours of their apartments and refreshments were served.

The Open House was also a celebration of the completion of the Resource Room and the kitchen and window renovation projects. The YWCA received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the City of Madison to add ovens and new countertops to the Third Street apartments. Each resident on the third and fourth floors was able to choose new countertops and is enjoying being able to bake in their own apartments rather than in a community oven. We also used CDBG funds to



install window safety gates on the floors where children live and participate in activities. The gates look great and make the windows much safer.

The kitchen renovations made way for the development of the new resource room where the community kitchen had formerly been on the fourth floor. The resource room was made possible by a

grant from the Community Development Block Grant program, the 786 Foundation, Attic Angels, and Mary Lamar. The resource room will have computers with Internet access and computer workshops for moms and their young children. This will provide families with quick and easy access to information and technology in addition to a space where mother-child activities and groups can take place.

Third Street has seen many successes in the past 10 years. Families can thrive and grow in a safe, stable place and with support services.

Third Street looks forward to celebrating many more decades and memories with the families we serve.



Sally Miley, President, YWCA Board of Directors; Nancy Wrenn Bauch, Third Street Coordinator; and Jacquelyn Hunt, former Third Street resident and Member, YWCA Board of Directors

Passing of the Gavel

At the YWCA 2002 Annual Meeting: Incoming President Sally Miley with Outgoing President Elizabeth Barnhill



Juneteenth Celebration!

The 13th annual Juneteenth celebration took place on June 15 at Madison's Penn Park. Juneteenth is the commemoration of June 19, 1865 — the date the last slaves were freed from Texas. What was originally observed as private family festivities has evolved into large community festivals. The day is a celebration of freedom, independence, and African-American heritage.



The YWCA participated in the Juneteenth celebration by having an informational booth on YWCA programs and services. Other non-profit organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County and the Tenant Resource Center, were present as well.

Many different activities took place throughout the day for all ages and interests. Drums were heard from the Caribbean tent where there was dancing and authentic clothes/artifacts on display. The church tent featured gospel music, dancing, and words of inspiration. Power 105.9 held a black history trivia game for school-age children. Musical acts, speeches, dancing, and more were prevalent all over the park for the entire day.

The Juneteenth celebration honored all aspects of African-American culture, past and present. The day, originating as a day celebrating freedom, has now become a day celebrating pride in all the aspects that shape the African-American community. The YWCA was honored to have the opportunity to participate.



Congratulations Once Again to This Year's YWCA Women of Distinction!



Betty Barrientos



Molly Carnes



Nancy Christy



Ann Haney



Frances Huntley Cooper



Sue Ann Thompson

Visit Our Website!
ywcamadison.org

Second Chance Program Growing

CUNA Credit Union is providing mentors for graduates

The Second Chance Program at the YWCA is growing! We have recently partnered with CUNA Credit Union and are recruiting other banks and credit unions to provide financial mentoring for graduates of the Second Chance Program. Graduates who need more assistance than can be provided in a group workshop will meet with volunteer mentors one-on-one on a monthly basis to go over their budgets, to make sure the bills get paid on time, and to work towards long-term financial independence.

CUNA has supported this initiative by recruiting mentors and arranging an orientation at their westside office. Volunteers were trained and are being matched with families who have graduated from Second Chance and are now living on their own. Their partnership with the YWCA has helped make some clients feel more like a valued part of the Madison community and is working to give people the skills they need to be independently successful. These mentors volunteer once a month and will work with a family for up to a year. Families that are involved are self-motivated to make positive changes in their lives! We feel that this program, in combination with the Second Chance Workshops, will really help some people in our community to be more successful in all aspects of their lives.

The Second Chance program is also looking into ways to provide more affordable housing opportunities for graduates of the program. We are exploring a partnership with Interfaith Hospitality Network in which we would work together to provide case management, employment training, and tenant education to graduates and match people receiving these services with congregations that will provide mentors to work with the family, tutors to work with the children in the family, and funding for an apartment. IHN has already placed their first family in an apartment with the very generous support of Covenant Presbyterian Church. These two new aspects of the Second Chance program are in the very early stages; however, we are excited at the possibilities that the both provide for both the families that we serve at the YWCA and for the volunteers in our community who will be working with them.

You're Invited... Become a Friend of the YWCA

Friends of the YWCA was launched under the leadership of Lynne Spielman and Peg Luby. The Friends were formed to provide opportunities both for those who want to support the YWCA's activities at a higher financial level and for those who want to find out more about ways they can become involved in the YWCA's important work.

Yes, I would like to become a Friend of the YWCA!

Name/s _____ My check is enclosed:
 Address _____ Friend \$250 – \$999
 City, State, ZIP _____ Sustaining Friend \$1,000
 Telephone _____ Other _____
 Email _____
 Mastercard or Visa Number _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____ Amount \$ _____

I would like to know more about planned giving. Please send me some information.

The Vision of the YWCA

Women are empowered and the quality of their lives greatly improved in partnership with the YWCA. As more women find personal strength, together we build a community where diversity and the elimination of discrimination are celebrated and honored.

• Mail to the YWCA, 101 E. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703. Thank you! •

YWCA OF MADISON BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2002–2003

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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

CNA Program Strengthens

The last week in May the Annex received a special gift from one of its neighbors in the Bay Creek Neighborhood. Nora Cecchini, Owner of Billygoat Graphics, who lives just down the street from the Annex, designed and installed two window signs using the official YWCA logo. Nora gave these signs to the Annex as a gift, which she said is her way of "giving back to the community." We thank her very much for her generosity.

The C.N.A. Career Alliance is currently screening applicants for the next class starting Monday, July 8. With over 60 people on the waiting list to enter this training program, it is expected that a full roster of 12 students will be accepted to begin in July. The third class is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 9. The training program has been revised from eight to seven weeks to get graduates into the

workforce sooner. The Alliance staff continues to work toward securing more permanent funding for this vitally necessary training.

The Alliance also continues to gratefully accept your donations of used automobiles if they are running and in fairly good condition. A program change has been made to eliminate operating a fleet of loaner cars for C.N.A.s and instead will give your donated automobiles directly to needy graduates of the program.

The Annex is scheduled to begin holding regular computer training lessons in its computer lab in mid-July. There will be Internet access for those wishing to do online research. Flyers will be posted around town and in the neighborhood announcing the exact days and times. For more information contact Leslie Westerfelt, Program Assistant, at 255-3098.

TrANS

Third Construction Class Began June 24



Sunny skies may bring to mind boating, bathing suits, and barbecues for many, but for TrANS graduate Spencer Calvert a sunny day means one thing: "It's a good day to make money," he says.

As the ground dries and bright orange signs begin popping up along Dane County highways, the TrANS program has been kicking into full gear.

Already 12 graduates of TrANS' first and second classes of 2002 have landed jobs in construction or related industries. Many, like Spencer, will be working high-paying jobs on highway road crews. On dry days he'll gross as much as \$200 on a grading crew with Henshue Construction, but a summer thunderstorm can turn a dusty excavation site into a mud pit. One hard rain and Spencer and his crew may have to sit at home for as many as three days without pay.

Currently TrANS is recruiting for its third road construction class, beginning June 24 and running through July 27. Minimum requirements for application to the program are a valid driver's license, 6th grade math and reading scores, physical ability to do strenuous labor, and a good attitude.

"The TrANS program worked out all right for me," says Spencer. "I knew I was getting laid off at Goodyear and I wanted something else that would be high-paying. It's been hard work but it's been worth it so far."

Volunteer for Week Without Violence

IT'S PLANNING TIME! We are currently seeking interested parties to volunteer with various related projects and/or participate on the planning committee for the 2002 Week Without Violence. Please contact Jessica Spotts at 257-1436 for more information.

Meet YWCA Resident Helen Lund

Years at YWCA: Twenty-two years – moved to the YWCA in 1980. Helen has been at the YWCA longer than any of the staff. She loves being the oldest resident.

Children: Helen has two sons – one lives in Texas and the other is here in Madison. She also has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Former Jobs: Seven years were spent running the manual elevators at the YWCA. You could always find her there singing songs and playing music for everyone. Helen spent eighteen years delivering telegrams for Western Union on her bicycle all over Madison. Back in "the day" Helen would do the jitterbug at the USO Club where she also worked for a period of time.

Enjoys most about the YWCA: She loves being around younger people, watching parades, bike races & the Farmer's Market out her apartment window.

Favorite Memory: Thinking about her grandmother who used to play the fiddle, sing folk songs and alternately smoked a corn-cob pipe and cigars.

Favorite Musician: KD Lang; Helen has a rose tattoo on her right forearm with the initials "KD". She enjoys country music, jazz and big band.

Misses Most: She used to love roller-skating and wishes she could race on her roller skates again.

Looking Forward: To turning 80! (She's got to wait another year for that, but you'd never know it by talking to her.)

Other Thoughts: Helen is "happier here than anywhere else." She thinks that the security at the YWCA is "tops," that Eileen, the Executive Director is "super", the front desk staff are "very kind" and loves all her neighbors.



"There is no place on earth I'd rather be than the YWCA."
— Helen Lund

Third Street Story

Miluse and her four-year-old daughter, Amelia, moved into the Third Street program last winter. They had been homeless for a couple of years and were very excited to finally settle down in their own apartment. Miluse is now working at Yahara House and Amelia is in preschool and registered to start kindergarten in the fall. Both mother and daughter are very pleased with their apartment — they volunteered to have it open for tours at the recent Open House. Miluse finds the help she receives from staff and residents very useful and important in her life.



101 E. Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703
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