

**ywca board of directors
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Treasurer: Lori Lyons
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Chief Financial Officer: Bev Giloy
Vice President of Child Care Solutions:
Crystal Scarborough
Coordinator, Fund Development &
Marketing: Nancy Baldwin

mission statement

The YWCA of Rockford is dedicated to the elimination of racism, the empowerment of women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

about membership

YWCA membership is all about women supporting women. It is an expression of support for the goals and work of the organization. Members support the programs, such as Child Care Solutions and Racial Justice Programming, and events, such as Leader Luncheon. We are one of the oldest, continuously operated nonprofit organizations in the area. Please consider renewing your existing membership, joining as a new member, pledging a lifetime membership, or giving a gift today.

**“women helping women”
needs your support!**

For just \$10 a month, you can be a part of positively impacting the lives of women and families living around us by supporting “women helping women: one thousand strong”. Together we can make a difference in our community.

Area young women are being presented with the challenge of child-rearing and the demands of balancing work and home alone.

Sadly, more than 35% of these households are living below the poverty level, and even more alarming is the fact that over one-third of Rockford’s children are living in poverty, compared to one in eleven nationally.

These statistics indicate there is much that still needs to be done to assist our area young families in their daily struggle against poverty.

For more than 120 years, we have worked to help the women and families in this community by offering support through powerful programming aimed at eliminating racism and empowering women. We help women achieve their fullest potential, positively impacting their

lives and the lives of their families.

Every month, the YWCA of Rockford assists more than 3,500 area families and 7,000 children with childcare assistance. This assistance helps parents remain gainfully employed or allows them to further their education, thus breaking the cycle of poverty and dependence on government assistance programs.

Nearly 22 million dollars in

financial assistance payments were distributed throughout Winnebago, Boone, Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties last year as well, creating a positive economic impact on the community and preserving early learning opportunities for our children and more.

Last year alone, we also assisted more than 100 area

residents with computer software training, allowing them to improve their job skills and increase their employment potential.

You can be a part of helping us help the women and families in this community. Sign-up online at ywca.org/rockford and join the collective. Your small monthly gift of \$10, paid quarterly or annually, will make a BIG difference in the lives of many!



YWCA of Rockford
at the *PURI Women's Resource Center*
4990 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 610

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca

www.ywca.org/rockford

Membership Application

Date: _____ New Member ____ Renewal ____

This membership is for (circle one): Myself Gift

___ Membership gift in memory of:

Name of Honoree: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Choose your membership category:



- ___ \$ 40 Supporting or Partner in Advocacy Member
- ___ \$100 Anna Ohalla Supporting Member
- ___ \$500 YWCA Life Member (may be pledged over 3 years)

Make checks payable to: YWCA of Rockford
4990 E. State Street, Rockford, IL 61008

Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard

Card #: _____

Signature: _____

Matching gift: If your company participates in the matching gift program, please enclose your company gift form.

**ywca's nicholas conference center
ideal for daytime or evening rental**

Did you know that the YWCA's beautiful Nicholas Conference Center, built in 2000, is available for your daytime, evening, business or social gatherings? It's not only the ideal site for weddings, showers and family reunions, but also for business conferences, seminars, or training sessions - you name it! Conveniently located near I-90 on the entrance road to Rockford College, the center boasts comfortable seating and tables for 108 or theater-style seating for 120, a catering kitchen, high speed wireless internet, A/V equipment, ample parking, and stunning views of the college campus and woods. It's one of the most affordable rental opportunities in Rockford, and best of all, your rental helps support the YWCA's programs for women and families right here in our community! For more information or to arrange a tour, please contact the Office Manager at 815.968.9681 x 301.



our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

Published by the YWCA of Rockford
at the PURI Women's Resource Center
Summer 2011 / Rockford, Illinois

much more than a wine tasting... "wine, women & purses" returns friday, november 4th at the radisson

You asked for it and we listened, so mark your calendar for **Friday, November 4, 2011**, for the second YWCA *Wine, Women & Purses* event.

You won't want to miss this fun "girls' night out". The event provides attendees with much more than traditional area wine tastings! It includes not only a large array of delicious wines, but those exciting wines are then specially paired with extraordinary appetizers, offering wine enthusiasts of all levels an opportunity to sample wines along with a scrumptious variety of hors d'oeuvres.

The event is made even more enjoyable as guests listen to a wonderful selection of music being performed live as they sample the many wines and peruse the latest in stylish handbags and other unique gift items available for purchase.

Last year's guests enjoyed shopping for family members on their holiday shopping list, while alternating with visits with friends over samplings of wines and delectable appetizers.

A silent auction will again take place at this year's event, with must-have items for wine connoisseurs and an assortment of other fun items every guest will want to take home!

If your company or organization is interested in serving as a sponsor or has an item to contribute to the event's silent auction, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail Nancy, the Fund Development & Marketing Coordinator at nancy.baldwin@ywca-rockford.org.

We are again fortunate to have a talented and dedicated group serving on the *Wine, Women & Purses* committee this year. They bring with them a wide variety of experience and a tremendous enthusiasm, ensuring another exciting event this year!

Proceeds from our fund-raiser will enable the YWCA of Rockford to develop and expand programming and advocacies for women and families' economic self-sufficiency with a clear commitment to the

elimination of racism and the empowerment of women.

You won't want to miss this delicious and delightful *Wine, Women & Purses* experience!

Registration will be available soon, so look for further details on the web at ywca.org/rockford, or go to our *Wine, Women & Purses* Facebook page for new information as it becomes available!



wine women & purses

eliminating racism
empowering women ywca



recognizing women in leadership

from board president
Karen Brown



Dear YWCA Friends:

It is a great pleasure for me to highlight two extraordinary women leaders at the YWCA of Rockford. At the recent Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce's Women Leadership event both, Kris Kieper, YWCA of Rockford CEO, and Rebecca Kopf, YWCA Board Member, and owner of PR, Etc were recognized.

In receiving the Woman Manager of the Year Award, Kris was honored for her leadership in many community and organization activities, as well as her mentoring of other young women. Her nomination outlined her strengths as a manager, stating, "Kris is one of the youngest CEOs in YWCA leadership nationwide, as well as being one of Rockford's youngest female not-for-profit CEOs. Her determination to provide a true team environment, where all 32 staff members feel respected and responsible for making a positive difference in the community and amongst those individuals they

represent, makes her exceptionally qualified for this award." Kris' staff described her as - "empowering: giving us the authority and confidence to do our jobs with a great sense of humor", and a "good listener and adjusts her management style according to the situation."

In winning the Chamber's Woman Business Owner of the Year Award, Rebecca's nomination said, "Rebecca is a business savvy woman who is curious, creative, a risk taker and adapts to changing times - all characteristics of an individual with inspiring, entrepreneurial spirit." "Another accomplishment for Rebecca is that her business continues to thrive - even through an economic downturn. Furthermore, she recently added another team member to handle the increase in client work. The fact that the company continues to grow year over year is a testament to Rebecca's hard work and dedication to bring value to her clients." "Rebecca's optimism makes her a natural mentor: she believes that all women can be successful, and she loves giving a helping hand."

I commend the Rockford Chamber for making recognition of women in leadership a priority. However, in the same week we celebrated the individual accomplishments of Kris and Rebecca, I read an article describing the continuing lack of women in leadership positions in the larger business community. The article, "Women pay gap persists", found in Workforce Management, June 2011, displays the current

data on women's earnings disparity compared to men. But what caught my attention was information in a new study from Catalyst that gave some rather dismal statistics regarding women leaders in corporate America.

- Women hold 12 of the Fortune 500 CEO positions (down from a peak of 20 in 2006)
- Women represent 14.4% of all corporate executive officers at the largest US companies
- About 27% of the companies have no female executive officers at all
- Women hold 15.7% of all seats on boards of directors and only 2.6% are board chairs

These findings provide more reason to celebrate the accomplishments of Kris and Rebecca. Both have found roles and organizations that have uniquely matched their leadership talents. I am proud and thankful to know and work with the quality of women leaders they are and others like them. Please join me in congratulating Kris and Rebecca, but also in sharing the stories of their lives and successes with our youth. Who knows, maybe they will be the inspiration to other young women to become the new CEOs of corporate America.

new introductory computer class being held this summer

Did you know the YWCA of Rockford has a computer lab? Our Puri Family Computer Lab is open free to the public and all of the computers have internet access and printing capabilities. Open lab hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Lab hours on Wednesday are from 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



We're also pleased to offer the public, for a very modest fee, varying computer classes to help improve your professional and academic skills, allowing you to set yourself apart from others.

The next computer class being offered will be a Basic Computer Skills Training. The class will meet for 5 hours on Saturday, August 27,

2011. The complete cost for this course is \$20.

The training is specifically designed for beginners and will give participants an opportunity to become formally acquainted with the basic use of a computer.

It is designed for individuals with limited or even no computer experience and it's the perfect way to become formally acquainted with how to use a computer.

Items being covered include the following:

Computer Hardware

- output: monitor/printer
- input: keyboard, mouse
- processing: CPU
- digital storage: hard drive, jump drive, dvd
- USB ports

Organizing Digital Storage

- adding folders, sub-folders
- deleting folders
- file types

PC Protection

- Firewalls
- Virus Protection

PC Maintenance

- Emptying the recycle bin
- Disk clean-up
- Defragmenting your hard drive

If this sounds like the class you've been waiting for, don't delay - registration is limited to 20 participants.

You can sign-up on our website at ywca.org/rockford, or contact Danita Lewis at 815.316.6122. You may also email her at danita.lewis@ywca-rockford.org.

online child care referrals now available



Are you searching for quality child care? Our new online service may be just what you need.

YWCA Child Care Solutions is launching Quality Counts Online Child Care Search, a new resource on our website which provides FREE online customized child care referrals 24/7.

To use this service, simply visit our website at ywca.org/rockford and click on Quality Counts Online Child Care Search.

For questions regarding usage and availability, please feel free to contact us at 815.484.9442, ext.204.



thanks to w.w. grainger inc. for techgyrls/techguys partnership

third psa airing soon



Mr. Robert Gatz, Branch Manager of W.W. Grainger, Inc. presents YWCA of Rockford CEO, Kris Kieper, with a check to support this year's TechGYRLS/ TechGUYS program.

Our thanks to The Grainger Foundation for their partnership and support of a valuable program being presented again this summer to a special group of youth - TechGYRLS/ TechGUYS!

As a leading distributor of industrial supplies, Grainger is committed to helping stem the growing shortage of skilled workers while supporting the increasing technical demands of today's manufacturing workplace. They do this through their strategic charitable contributions and community initiatives supporting technical education programs.

YWCA USA created a program called TechGYRLS in response to statistics showing a widening gender gap in exposure to and interest in technology. Using the STEM philosophy (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), activities are presented to young women, and in our

program young men as well, to assist them in broadening their knowledge of and interest in these four key components.

Individual and group projects will be chosen by area youth this summer, focused on fun, hands-on problem solving and allowing them opportunities to invent, design and present their work. The work will be based upon group discussion of the Rockford's community issues they believe need to be addressed.

Students are introduced to Microworlds Project Builder. This program teaches basic web design, programming and *Microsoft Office Suite*. The software is the stepping stone to the ultimate project, the Lego Mindstorms Robotics System.

The girls and boys create several robots from original Lego pieces, and then program them to do a variety of tasks based upon their identified community issues. The students brainstorm, create and produce their very own infomercials as well, proclaiming the many uses of their "bots".

TechGYRLS/TechGUYS prompts students to use technology to develop character, understand community action and recognize gender equity.

The YWCA continues to uphold our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women through an ongoing two year public service campaign. The third PSA (Public Service Announcement) in the series, again designed to spark conversations, has now been produced and will be airing shortly.



Our thanks once again go to WREX, WTVO/FOX, WIFR and Rockford Register Star for their continued support! To view the first two PSA's in the campaign, visit our website at ywca.org/rockford and follow the link!

Many steps are needed to eliminate racism, with open and honest dialogue being the first step. These PSA's are designed to assist us in talking about race, so we can act on racism!