



Welcome to “our voice” quarterly newsletter.

It is our goal to share and update you, the membership of the Young Women’s Christian Association (**ywca**) of Metropolitan Detroit, with our advocacy position on issues, mission focused activities and noteworthy occurrences. Currently, there are over 200 policies directing our national and local advocacy activities. To this end, many good things occurred during the first quarter of 2007.

First, the **ywca** geared up full implementation of its strategic plan. The areas of focus were improving financial management, program planning (inclusive of evaluation, alignment and implementation), streamlining fund development activities, manageable communication and marketing and facility reviews. Each focus area was addressed with thought provoking intended results. Additionally, the **ywca** focused on issues and circumstances that reflected historical significance and current issues that drive our mission.

Before we begin to share our mission and values, let us re-introduce the **ywca** to you. The **ywca** was founded nationally, in New York City in 1856 and in Metropolitan Detroit in 1893.

Further, the **ywca** is the oldest autonomous women’s membership movement in the United States. Its’ mission, “**eliminating racism and empowering women**” is the guiding principle for all **ywca**’s.

Since 1893, the **ywca** of Metropolitan Detroit has provided relevant programs for women, girls and families in Southeast Michigan. With more than a century of experience with programs that addressed the housing, social and spiritual needs of women and girls, **ywca** programs have evolved to continuously meet their changing needs. **ywca** was the first to teach keyboard skills so women could secure positions as typists, taught women to read blueprints during World War II, provided the first breast cancer surgery recovery programs and were among the first to provide shelters for women, children survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and childcare programs. Nationally, the **ywca** is known as the largest provider of child care programs in the United States.

Did you know that the **ywca** through its life skill development programs, rescue women in very desperate and seemingly hopeless situations through; domestic violence and sexual assault programs; child abuse prevention programs and the joys and frustrations of parenting pre-school and middle school children.

The YWCA Mission Statement:

The Young Women’s Christian Association is a women’s membership movement nourished by its roots in the Christian faith and sustained by the richness of many beliefs and values. Strengthened by diversity, the Association draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women’s growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. The Association will thrust its collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary.

Did you know we also provide peace of mind for working parents of school age children in every socio-economic status through childcare programs and advocate for important issues as dictated by our mission, “**eliminating racism and empowering women**”?

That is why it is so important for us to continue our legacy in the metropolitan Detroit community.

The articles in this edition will begin to share the values surrounding “our voice” in Detroit. Join us by helping us to speak louder by becoming a member today! A form is enclosed for you or to give to your friends, co-workers and family. Please check out our website at www.detroitywca.org for additional information on our mission, programs and services throughout metropolitan Detroit.

I look forward to speaking with you in upcoming issues of “our voice”.

Emma Peterson, President & CEO

Upcoming Events

**August 2007
Women’s Equality Day
Luncheon**

**November 2007
ATHENA International
Award Luncheon**

**If you are interested in
more information or
being a sponsor**

**please contact
Barbara Bolden,
Director of Fund
Development
313/259-9922, Ext.211**

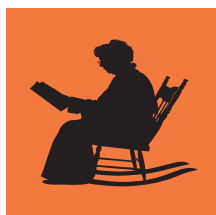
A Tribute to Women’s History Month

Each year, March is celebrated as Women’s History Month. Although March 2007 has ended, the role women played in shaping this great nation must not be forgotten. **The YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit is worthy of recognition during this month and all year long. Why?**

The YWCA is the oldest autonomous women’s membership movement in the United States. Founded nationally in New York City in 1856 and in Metropolitan Detroit in 1893, our life long mission, “**eliminating racism and empowering women**” is to advocate for the rights of women, children and families. When issues affecting women and families were kept quiet, the YWCA was the **voice**; i.e., affordable and safe childcare, pay equity for women, better jobs, voting, higher education, and advocating against domestic violence and sexual assault . . . just to name a few. The YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit’s life skills development programs are designed to benefit the social, economic and physical well-being of all women, children and families. Because of that, recognition is appropriate.

Today, the YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit receives many requests from local and national schools, colleges and universities to research and learn of our rich history and our role in shaping the women’s movement.

The popularity of women’s history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women’s forgotten heritage. A President’s Commission on the Celebration of Women in History in America recently sponsored hearings in many sections of the country. It took reports about effective activities and institutions that are promoting women’s history awareness and heard recommendations for programs still needed. The Women’s Progress Commission will soon begin hearings to ascertain appropriate methods for identifying and then preserving sites of importance to American women’s history. In many areas, state historical societies, women’s organizations, and groups have worked together to develop joint programs. In support of the **ywca**, many women’s organizations have been formed in an effort to carry the torch to educate. Under the guidance of the National Women’s History Project, educators, workplace program planners, parents and community organizations in thousands of American communities have turned National Women’s History Month into a major focal celebration, and a springboard for celebrating women’s history year round. Websites have been developed with a specific focus on the role of women history in our communities.



**A bold reinvigorated YWCA
gives **voice** to women’s concerns
while reaching out to meet their **needs**.**

**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
metropolitan detroit**

Advocacy Position: The **ywca** supports anti-violence policies that protect victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and work to eradicate sexual assault and domestic violence, trafficking of women, and dating violence. Specifically, we support the continuance and increased funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The **ywca** also supports legislation that ensures employment stability and economic security for victims of violence against women.

What is YWCA Interim House?

YWCA Interim House is a twenty-four (24) hour/seven (7) days a week sixty-seven (67) bed facility program dedicated specifically for the women and children survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In 1979, the **YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit** responded to a call to action and established YWCA Interim House. This response reflected our strong belief in the **YWCA's mission principle of advocating for the God given rights of women, children and families to live free of harm and in a harmonious relationship and/or environment.** YWCA Interim House ranks amongst the largest in the State of Michigan and is currently the only domestic violence shelter in the City of Detroit.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is defined as a pattern of assaultive, controlling behavior that one person uses in order to gain or maintain power in a relationship. The assaultive behavior may be committed against a spouse, former spouse, person residing or having resided with the offender, or a person with whom the offender has a child in common or a dating relationship. This violence also comes in the form of sexual assault.



Over the past several weeks, the media and the newspapers, have unraveled before us the senseless murder of a **Macomb County woman, Tara Grant, who was a beloved mother, a beloved daughter, a beloved sister, and a beloved family member.** Prior to that, a **Detroit mother, Lisa Shelton and her four children, a Southfield woman, Marie Irons and just recently a Redford Township woman, Daniella Erica Munoz, and many more; let us not forget about Laci Peterson and Nicole Brown Simpson.** Each day, we become aware of the suspected murder or disappearance of a love one with suspicions around domestic violence and sexual assault. And how many other murders and/or assaults are there that go unprofiled? This senseless act is a crime against women, but most importantly, it is a crime

Did you know?

Annually, YWCA Interim House provides temporary shelter and supportive services to over 1,800 women and children who are survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Additionally, non-residential supportive services are provided to more than 3,000 women who are survivors/victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

YWCA Interim House Needs?

Right now, because the needs of the metropolitan Detroit community is so great, one may not see a solution at this point, but there is a solution to help prevent domestic violence and sexual assault. You can help the **YWCA Interim House** service the needs of the women and children survivors of domestic violence. Gaps in our services now are related to rising cost to maintain the facility due to:

- ☞ operational support dollars due to high utility costs and reduced funding,
- ☞ inadequate transportation due to reduced cuts from other agencies,
- ☞ reduced staffing due to reduced cuts in traditional funding.

The **YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women** is just as strong today, as it was in 1979 and certainly when the YWCA was established over 114 years ago in Metropolitan Detroit. That same strong belief is why we exist today. The YWCA's Mission is a voice for **all** women, children and families who cannot speak for themselves.

We recognize that we are strong alone, but fearless together in **every** cause. For that reason, we need **you** to join the YWCA Leadership Team, its President & CEO and Staff of the YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit in our cause to provide assistance to the many women and children in need.

How can you help?

Become a VOICE and supporter for all women, children and families who cannot speak for themselves.

Join the ywca of Metropolitan Detroit!



A Global Experience
Summer Program for Children
June - August 2007
Educational, Fun, Stimulating and Engaging

This can be the summer your child **travels the globe** without leaving the country. The **ywca** of Metropolitan Detroit will offer up to twelve (12) one week sessions of different countries for children in primary through middle school.

Each week the children will be introduced to the culture, games, music, field trips and more of the country. Each program will offer its own signature activity. The countries are: **England, Mexico, Canada, United States, Africa, Japan, Australia, Germany, Poland, Spain, Iceland and Heritage Week**. You can sign your child up for one week or as many weeks as you need. These programs will be offered at the following Metropolitan Detroit **ywca's**.

ywca Northwest Branch (313) 537-8500
25940 Grand River Avenue
Redford, MI 48240

ywca Downtown Branch (313) 259-9922, Ext. 212
1411 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

ywca Oakland Branch (248) 435-9100
839 So. Crooks Road
Clawson, MI 48017

ywca Downriver Outreach (734) 284-9030
Wyandotte, MI 48192

Contact your local branch today for additional information. **Limited Space!**

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
metropolitan detroit

Executive Offices &
Downtown Branch
1411 E. Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 259-9922
www.ywcadetroit.org

Downriver Outreach
P.O. Box 121
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 284-9030

Northwest Branch
25940 Grand River Ave.
Redford, MI 48240
(313) 537-8500

Oakland Branch
839 S. Crooks Rd.
Clawson, MI 48017
(248) 435-9100

YWCA Camp Cavell
3335 Lakeshore Rd.
Lexington, MI 48450
(810) 359-2267

YWCA Interim House
P.O. Box 21904
Detroit, MI 48221
(313) 861-5300

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