

YW Matters



Newsletter of the YWCA Hartford Region Winter 2011 www.ywcahartford.org

a road map to prosperity

9th annual *money conference for women* gives women the power to prosper

"If you want to prosper, you have to put yourself on the right path and handle your money responsibly."

-Michelle Singletary



YWCA Hartford Region Board Members with Michelle Singletary (seated) at the 9th annual Money Conference for Women

Over 300 women attended the award-winning YWCA Hartford Region's 9th annual *Money Conference for Women* on October 23 to hear Michelle Singletary and attend financial focus workshops. They learned that whether it is \$500 or \$5, any amount of money can make a difference, and every penny ought to have a purpose.

"The word **want** is no longer part of my day. I found I don't **need** the things that I thought were so important," said Sophia, conference participant, who brought her twenty-year-old daughter to the event. Like the hundreds of women who attended the conference, Sophia and her daughter are more confident in making financial decisions and are on the path to pursue their dreams of a financially secure future.

In these harsh economic times, the road to prosperity is not easy. Michelle Singletary's "tough love and no nonsense straight talk" on money management was motivating and inspiring. She led a room full of women singing, "I am woman...I can do anything!" Participants also received a copy of Singletary's latest book *The Power to Prosper: 21 Days to Financial Freedom*, which features a 21-day "financial fast." "She is my mentor and ally," added Sophia after reading Singletary's book.

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message from the ceo

Dear Friends of YWCA,



We are fortunate that so many in our community have chosen to invest in the work of YWCA and support us either financially or with their time. In 2009, more than 1,600 people donated more than \$300,000. Those are amazing numbers. We are very proud that so many have chosen to support the mission of YWCA. We change the lives of more than 2,000 people every year. YWCA programs create opportunities - housing with dignity, leadership skills for young women, and quality and affordable childcare for working parents. The wonderful women and girls who come to us for help do all the hard work, with your support. They capitalize on the opportunity to transform their lives and our community.

Join the movement

About 600 of you have chosen to support YWCA in a special way, as members. What does that mean? More than 150 years ago, a determined group of women banded together with a common mission – to have their voices heard, improve the working and living conditions for women and people of color, and make a difference. These were our first members. Your membership today allows YWCA to continue creating opportunities for women and children in our community. As part of the world's largest and oldest, multi-racial women's movement, *YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.*

While many members may not directly utilize YWCA services, membership is an investment in the future success of the women and children in Greater Hartford. Members can feel good about supporting an organization that provides services and support for women and their families at critical points in their lives.

Beginning in 2011, membership dues will be specifically allocated to support our racial justice work. This will include our third annual *Stand Against Racism*, a new program for elementary school children to raise awareness about cultural diversity and the existence of racism, and a new continuing education program for our staff to assure each and every staff member is prepared to live our mission.

You will be hearing much more about membership in the next several months. We hope that more of you will choose to become a member and make a statement about your commitment to YWCA and our goal of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Deborah Ullman

Deborah Ullman
Chief Executive Officer

Join the movement. Become a member of
YWCA Hartford Region at www.ywcahartford.org.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
hartford region

YWCA programs are funded in part by grants from the City of East Hartford, City of Hartford, Town of Manchester, State of Connecticut (Dept. of Education/Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services/Dept. of Social Services), Emergency Food & Shelter National Board Program, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, and the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut.

We would like to thank the following organizations for financial or in-kind support of our programs and services:

Travelers Foundation; Harry E. Goldfarb Family Foundation, Inc.; ING Foundation; The Aaron Hollander Fund and The Simon Hollander Fund, Bank of America, Co-Trustee; and Teleflex Foundation.

the power to prosper
continued...

The *Money Conference for Women* is designed to address the financial challenges women face in their work and personal lives. Women earn less than men working in the same job and continue to work in jobs that pay less. The gap between income levels for women of color is even greater.

Breaking down these barriers is the core of YWCA's mission. "As women skillfully apply the training they receive about managing their personal finances, it changes more than their lives; it changes the lives of their children and breaks down barriers," said Deborah Ullman, CEO, YWCA Hartford Region. With this knowledge and newly acquired discipline, conference participants are now on the road to financial success.



Photo top: Conference participants at the Retirement Planning workshop sponsored by Prudential.

Photo bottom: Michelle Singletary, keynote speaker, at the conference speaking to a room of 400 women.

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In their words...

"Michelle was witty and funny. She gave a lot of good advice, and I'll be able to put it to use."

"This is my first time coming to the conference and I can't tell you how happy I am that I came. I learned I'm doing some things wrong, but I am also doing some things right."

"Michelle was very practical and funny. I loved it!"

"I came out of the workshops with tools to achieve my financial goals."

eliminating racism...

free tax preparation with vita breaking down barriers

thousands will start the new year with a financial boost

Tax season is here again, and YWCA will be providing free tax assistance for families in the Greater Hartford area through VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). VITA is just one example of programs that support YWCA's mission of economic empowerment.

A collaborative effort with the Hartford Asset Building Collaborative, VITA offers free tax help to low-to-moderate-income people. Volunteers are trained and certified to prepare basic tax returns. Every year, Hartford area volunteers put in an estimated 6,000 hours to prepare tax returns. This team effort ensures that thousands of individuals and families take full advantage of EITC and other tax credits.

In 2010, Hartford area organizations served 5,811 filers resulting in a savings of \$1,016,925 in tax preparation fees. In addition, \$3,616,570 in earned income tax credit (EITC) were claimed. EITC's often go unclaimed due to the complexity of the forms.

The program will begin January 29 and run through April 15, 2011. VITA will assist taxpayers in filing their returns for quick access to their refunds, including the EITC. The program will operate three days a week on Tuesday (3-7 p.m.), Wednesday (5-8 p.m.) and Saturday (9 a.m.-12 p.m.).

For an appointment, please call (860) 525-1163 Ext. 450. To become a volunteer, contact Shari Smith at (860) 525-1163 Ext. 258.

about the earned income tax credit

EITC is a federal program that returns on average \$1,400 to qualifying taxpayers. To qualify, taxpayers must meet certain income requirements and file a tax return, even if they did not earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return.

ywca child care programs develop racial justice curriculum



The Early Learning and School Age Programs at YWCA Hartford Region are launching a new racial justice curriculum this coming year. The program will help students break down the barriers of prejudice, discrimination and hatred as part of YWCA's mission and commitment to eliminating racism.

The curriculum will raise awareness about cultural diversity and the existence of racism. With a combination of activities and discussions, the curriculum will also build self-esteem and self-awareness. All activities will be incorporated through a combination of art, language, math and literacy.

The curriculum will include anti-bullying to help children reach out, speak about what they are feeling, and change their behavior while treating each other with respect. In recent years, bullying has become an important topic for students and parents.

"The goal of the new racial justice curriculum is to create a safe space for children to talk about their thoughts, feelings and perceptions," said Denise Dionizio, Director of Early Learning and School Age Programs.

To measure the success of this new program, surveys and discussions with children will be developed to gauge the children's level of understanding before and after the planned activities.

advocacy news from ywca

ywca continues the fight for pay equity

On Wednesday, November 17, the Senate failed by two votes to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 3772). Defeat of this bill comes at the height of the economic recession when pay equity is crucial to the future of our nation's economic stability.

Nationally, women earn only 77 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn. The discrepancy between wages for women of color is even larger. Currently, Connecticut ranks among the worst in the gender wage gap with women earning only 74 cents for every dollar a man earns - a 5% wider gap than the rest of the U.S.

True economic security depends on eliminating discrimination based on gender and race. YWCA Hartford Region's advocacy agenda calls for systemic change that promotes economic empowerment for women and racial justice for all. While the Paycheck Fairness Act has been defeated, the fight is far from over. Join us in 2011 as we continue to advocate for pay equity.

ywca declares women's rights are human rights

CEDAW, Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world. CEDAW is a practical blueprint for each country to achieve progress for women and girls.

For the first time since 2002, the United State Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law held a hearing on CEDAW. Ratification of CEDAW would strengthen the United States as a global leader in standing up for women and girls. To date, 186 out of 193 countries have ratified the treaty. The United States is one of only seven countries—including Iran, Sudan, Somalia, and three small Pacific Island nations (Nauru, Palau and Tonga)—that have not yet ratified CEDAW.

2011 stand against racism



friday, april 29, 2011

Take a stand for peace, justice
freedom and dignity for all.
Join us for the third annual
STAND AGAINST RACISM

Registration Now Open!
www.standagainstracism.org

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT CAROLINE L. MITCHELL AT
135 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CT
06105**

**P: 860-525-1163 Ext. 218 or
E-mail carolinem@ywcahartford.org**

take a stand...

eliminating racism...

join the movement... become a member of ywca hartford region

ywca membership includes:

- Being a part of a worldwide network
- Participating in YWCA's diverse program & services including *Stand Against Racism*, *Money Conference for Women*, *Young Women's Leadership Program*, YWCA's annual meeting and more
- Meeting women with diverse backgrounds and building lasting relationships
- Receiving the inside scoop on YWCA happenings & news with our newsletter & monthly e-newsletter
- Gaining personal satisfaction knowing that your membership enables YWCA to help women and girls

**strong alone
fearless together**

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

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hartford region

To become a member go to:

www.ywcahartford.org

ywca in the community

ywlc - these young women are on their way

Over the last two months, *Young Women's Leadership Corps* (YWLC) has been busy developing our future leaders. Currently, there are approximately 120 young women participating in the program. They have made great strides and are ready to face the future equipped with the tools to succeed.

At YWLC, we understand that being a teenage girl is not easy. Young women are often faced with difficult challenges including low self-esteem, poverty and low achievement in school. All these things make it harder for them to succeed and reach their goals.

YWLC curriculum is designed for young women grades 7-12 and includes units on self-discovery, wellness, personal safety, sexual decision-making, job readiness, college/career exploration, money management, civic involvement and leadership development.

So far, YWLC participants have completed workshops including yoga, zumba, sexual assault laws, self-respect and sexual decision-making. The new year will include many more workshops and activities including a community services project where they will send holiday cards to troops overseas.

These activities help build leadership skills and encourage community involvement while fostering self-discovery, personal safety and wellness.

"I always look forward to Wednesdays. I really enjoy coming to YWLC," said one program participant from Windsor.

These young women are well on their way to becoming future leaders and ready to pursue their dreams!

annual craft fair brings holiday cheer

It was all holiday cheer at the YWCA Craft Fair on December 5th. The fair featured craft vendors, baked goods, children's activities, prizes and a visit from Santa. Over 400 people attended the event. Guests enjoyed the 45 crafters that sold a variety of jewelry, holiday crafts, home decorations, clothing and much more. A drawing included a popular Lego gift basket and other great prizes. Baked goods were donated by area bakeries and stores. In its 7th year, the YWCA Craft Fair supports programs at the YWCA's Creative Nursery School in Manchester. The event raised over \$2,500.

Thank you to all the volunteers, donors and guests for making this event a huge success and for supporting our mission to provide quality and affordable child care.



Many of the hand made holiday crafts that were sold at the YWCA Craft Fair.



Volunteers selling donated baked goods at the YWCA Craft Fair.

eliminating racism...

who's who on the ballot

Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill-Charmaine is a Product Manager at CIGNA Pharmacy Management. She is responsible for brand management, product development, and positioning of Specialty Pharmacy. Charmaine has an extensive background with the insurance and financial services industries and has focused her community efforts towards promoting financial literacy among women, small business owners and youth in the greater Hartford area. She is a past President of the Foundation for Educational Opportunities, Inc. and has been an active supporter of the YWCA's *Money Conference for Women*. Currently, she is the VP of Marketing and Communications for the Greater Hartford Chapter of the National Black MBA Association.

Britt-Marie Cole-Johnson-Britt-Marie is an attorney for Robinson & Cole in Hartford. She specializes in labor, employment and immigration law. Britt-Marie also provides pro bono legal services to various nonprofit agencies through the Pro Bono Partnership and is a volunteer attorney for Lawyers for Children America. She currently serves as a member of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Scholarship Committee and was most recently appointed to the panel for the Greater Hartford Arts Council's General Operating Support grant program. Prior to law school, Britt-Marie was a Teach for America Corps member, who taught language arts and coached a girls' basketball team. Britt-Marie graduated with her Bachelor of Arts from Emory University and holds her law degree from Emory University School of Law.

Aleida Herzog-Aleida is Managing Director of Tax-Exempt Markets at RRI, a research and consulting firm. She has extensive experience in areas of product development, marketing and working with executive teams to develop and implement marketing strategies within the expanding context of e-business services and solutions. Aleida joined the YWCA Board in 2006 and is a member of the Development and Nominating Committees. She has a wonderful husband and two amazing children.

Antoinette (Annie) Lazarus-Annie is the Chief Compliance Officer at Landmark Partners in Simsbury where she is responsible for ensuring the firm's ongoing compliance with federal and state securities laws. Prior to that, Annie was a vice president at Prudential Financial and served as the Chief Compliance Officer for Prudential Retirement's SEC-registered investment adviser and insurance company separate accounts. She also held various managerial accounting positions at some of the nation's leading insurance and financial services companies including Aetna, ING and CIGNA. She is currently serving on the Investment Committee of YWCA, the Board of Directors of St. Timothy Middle School and is the recipient of the 2010 Connecticut Immigrant Award.

Sibongile (Bongi) Magubane-Bongi currently leads the Aetna Information Services (AIS) Planning team at Aetna. Her career spans many years in technology, supporting various business areas including Human Resources, Finance and Corporate Communications systems. She is currently a Senior Advisor for the Aetna African American Employee Resource Group and continues to be active in women and minority affairs. Bongi currently serves as Treasurer on the YWCA Board of Directors.

Monica Hoffman-Monica is Director, Performance Measurement Group in Business Insurance Operations at Travelers. She is responsible for oversight and delivery of management information to Business Insurance Operations. She is a graduate of the Financial Management Leadership Development Program at Travelers and has held positions in financial planning and analysis, customer experience and product management. Monica has served as a past executive committee member for Hartford Young Professional and Entrepreneurs (HYPE). She currently serves as a Board of Director for YWCA.

Ann S. Jennings-Ann is a retiree who is involved in many community activities. She served on the YWCA Board of Directors for seven years, two of those years as Board Chair. Ann's other interests include the Hill-Stead Museum, Horace Bushnell Congregate Homes, Christian Activities Council and Faith Congregational Church. She is also a member of the Wadsworth Athenaeum and the Amistad Foundation.

Felecia P. Scott-Felecia is a member of the Human Resources team at The Hartford, serving as Assistant Vice President of Organizational Effectiveness. Prior to that, she was responsible for marketing and communications at Acxiom Strategic Consulting. Felecia also served as the AVP of HR Transaction Services at The Hartford. Before managing HR Transaction Services, she served as the Director of Workforce Engagement & Inclusion. In addition, Felecia managed various teams within the IT function where she started her career at The Hartford. Felecia has a Master's in Public Policy from Trinity College and recently completed a second Master's degree at Harvard University. Felecia currently serves as a Board of Director for YWCA.

Libby Joy Soong-Libby is currently the Head of Financial Management at ING's Retirement Services division. She has held numerous leadership positions at ING and its predecessor companies for the last 20 years, including Retirement Services Chief Compliance Officer; Chief Administration Officer, ING Customer Service and Information Technology; and Vice President, Strategic Planning & Capital Management. Libby is a Certified Public Accountant and was previously employed with the public accounting firm of Price Waterhouse from 1983-1990 as a member of the Financial Services Industry practice group. Libby is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and resides in South Windsor with her husband and two children. Libby was the 2010 *In the Company of Women* event co-chair, and is the

who's who on the ballot

YWCA Governance Committee chair and a member of the Audit Committee.

Lisa Sundean-Lisa is a Registered Nurse, formerly employed at The University of Connecticut Health Center in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She is the former Co-President of Connecticut Children's Medical Center Friends (CCMC), helping to raise and distribute funds for programming at the medical center. She has recently served on CCMC's Corporate Board of Directors and maintains a seat on the board Quality Improvement Committee. Lisa is currently an Ambassador for CCMC to raise awareness about medical center programs in the surrounding communities. She is engaged in graduate studies toward a dual Master's degree in Nursing and Health Administration. Lisa joins the YWCA board after several years of serving as a Table Captain at the In the Company of Women Luncheon.

Stacy Smith Walsh-Stacy is an attorney practicing labor and employment law in the Hartford office of Jackson Lewis LLP. Stacy is an active member of the Connecticut Bar Association, where she co-chairs several initiatives and committees relating to women's issues, and of the Cornell Law Alumni Association. Stacy is a native of South Carolina and holds a B.A. in Communication from the University of Alabama, an M.A. in Speech Communication/Rhetoric from the University of Maryland, and a law degree from Cornell Law School. She lives in West Hartford with her husband and two children. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for YWCA.

Lisa West-Lisa is Director of Provider Relations at Aetna Better Health. She has held several management positions in a variety of areas of managed care (HMOs) for more than 20 years. Lisa has experience in capital campaign/development and personnel development/management through her previous affiliations with: American Association of Managed Care Nurses, Health Services Committee for the Town of Bloomfield, CT, Northwest Catholic High School - School Board, Hopewell Baptist Church Trustee Board. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for YWCA.

Yvette Young-Yvette is a professional counselor who has twelve years of experience working for non-profit organizations in Hartford. She worked for YWCA Hartford Region's Sexual Assault Crisis Service for five years as a training coordinator and then as the program director. She worked for Catholic Family Services Black Family Enrichment Program as an outpatient therapist for two years. Currently, she is the senior program Director for a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for children at the Village for Families and Children, Inc. Yvette previously served on the Board of Directors for YWCA from January 2003 - August 2004. She also served on the Board of Directors for Soromundi Housing Inc.

ballot

Please detach and return to

YWCA Hartford Region

Attn: Association Nominating Committee

135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105

(Fax: 860-543-8919) by January 23, 2011

Board of Directors

11 to be Elected

Third Two-Year Term

___ Bongi Magubane

___ Aleida Herzog

___ Libby Soong

___ Lisa West

___ Yvette Young

Second Two-Year Term

___ Monica Hoffman

___ Felecia Scott

First Two-Year Term

___ Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill

___ Britt-Marie K. Cole-Johnson

___ Annie Lazurus

___ Lisa Sundean

Association Nominating Committee

2 to be elected:

___ Ann Jennings

___ Stacy Smith Walsh

Name (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip

YWCA Membership Card No.

Expiration Date

eliminating racism...

honorees make a difference for the ywca

creating opportunities award winners announced

Each year YWCA Hartford Region honors those who help us achieve our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. These individuals and organizations have helped YWCA make a difference in our community. Their support has been vital in building a strong foundation for the future.

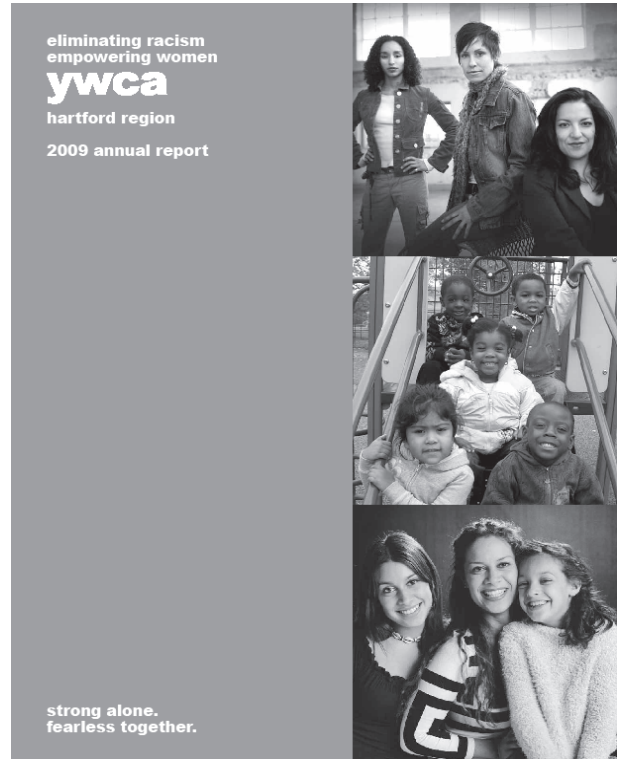
ING is our **Corporate Creating Opportunities** recipient for 2010. ING's long term partnership has provided significant financial and in-kind resources to YWCA Hartford Region. ING has generously supported the *Money Conference for Women* and the *In the Company of Women Luncheon* over many years. In addition, ING has provided a board member and other volunteers who have served the organization in many ways.

City of Hartford - Office for Young Children is our **Business Partner Creating Opportunities** recipient for 2010. The Office for Young Children has been a strong partner supporting YWCA and other early learning providers to assure quality early learning in Hartford. Their commitment to early education is a role model for our state. We greatly appreciate their unrelenting commitment to the children of Hartford.

Ms. Yvette Meléndez is our **Leadership Creating Opportunities** recipient. Her long-term commitment spans almost 30 years and includes serving on YWCA World Council Board in addition to her involvement at the local and national level. Her contributions while serving on YWCA Board of Directors, which included serving as chair of the Nominating Committee, were critical to our success at a turning point in the organization. Her extensive time, commitment and leadership have been truly inspirational for this organization.

ywca announces the release of 2009 annual report

Go to www.ywcahartford.org to view the 2009 YWCA Hartford Region Annual Report. Thank you to all our supporters for a great year and for celebrating our mission of *eliminating racism and empowering women*. We look forward to great things ahead in 2011.



ywca hartford region has gone social!

Join us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Join the conversation and 'like', follow and connect with us. Get up-to-date news and happenings and learn about all the great things we are doing in the Greater Hartford community. Support our mission of *eliminating racism and empowering women*.

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...empowering women

**ywca hartford region's 143rd annual meeting
women leading across generations**

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Elsa M. Núñez

President of Eastern Connecticut State University

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

5 p.m.

Real Art Ways

56 Arbor Street

Hartford, CT

Refreshments will be served

For directions and to RSVP call (860) 525-1163 Ext. 245 or

e-mail leahf@ywcahartford.org

MotleyBeup is proud to support the YWCA Hartford Region's Annual Meeting



**eliminating racism
empowering women**

save the date!

in the company of women luncheon



one women's journey

an afternoon with

alfre woodard

actress and activist

april 6, 2011

connecticut convention center

hartford, ct

for information, contact

deniceg@ywcahartford.org, or

call (860) 525-1163 Ext. 269

www.ywcahartford.org/luncheon.php

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Stacy Smith Walsh
Lisa West
Yvette Young

Programs & Services of YWCA Hartford Region

Early Learning Child Care
Before & After School Child Care
The Money Conference for Women
Time Out for Parents
Young Women's Leadership Corps
Soromundi Commons Supportive Housing
Emergency Shelter for Women
Stand Against Racism
VITA

Save The Dates!

January 25 - Annual Meeting

April 6 - *In the Company of Women Luncheon*

April 29 - *Stand Against Racism*

www.ywcahartford.org

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