

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

hartford region

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April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Lee Woodruff Inspires Over 1,000 Guests at YWCA's *In the Company of Women* to Open Their Hearts**



*Lee Woodruff, author and advocate, speaking at YWCA's In the Company of Women Luncheon on April 6. The event was attended by over 1,000 guests to support YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.*

Hartford, CT-[YWCA Hartford Region](#) held the 16th Annual *In The Company of Women* Luncheon on April 6, 2011 at the Connecticut Convention Center. The event was attended by over 1,000 guests including corporate and community leaders. The *In the Company of Women* Luncheon, a fundraiser for YWCA program and services, featured keynote speaker [Lee Woodruff](#), author and advocate. Woodruff shared the inspiring story of her family's journey to recovery following her husband's injuries sustained in a roadside bombing while reporting in Iraq.

George C. Jepsen, Attorney General, Kevin Lembo, Comptroller, Denise W. Merrill, Secretary of the State, Denise L. Nappier, State Treasurer and Pedro Segarra, Mayor, City of Hartford attended the event to support YWCA. Lt. Governor, Nancy Wyman gave brief remarks commending the work of the YWCA. Lisa West, Director, Provider Services for Aetna Better Health, and Elizabeth H. Zlatkus, Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Manager for The Hartford were the event co-chairs.

A program was held in the morning for young women from the Greater Hartford area. This program, Creating Opportunities, introduces young women to the dynamics of women and philanthropy while fostering community involvement. [Kathy LeMay](#), global activist and author, was their guest speaker. Among the young women attending the event were participants from YWCA's [Young Women's Leadership Corps](#) (YWLC), an after-school program that gives young women the power to persevere both personally and academically.

In its sixteenth year, the *In The Company of Women* Luncheon highlights the role of YWCA as a provider of valuable services to women and girls in the greater Hartford region. YWCA provides services to more than 2,000 individuals a year through programs including child care, supportive housing, child abuse prevention, young women's leadership, and financial literacy.

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