



hartford region

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Kristy Lee Downer

YWCA Hartford Region

135 Broad Street

Hartford, CT 06105

kristyleed@ywc Hartford.org

(P) 860-525-1163, ext. 292

(F) 860-543-8919

DATE: 1-29-10

YWCA Hartford Region Annual Meeting Celebrates *Eliminating Racism and Empowering Women*

YWCA Hartford Region held its 142nd Annual Meeting on January 25th at TheaterWorks at City Arts on Pearl. Keynote Speaker Dr. Salome Raheim, Dean, University of Connecticut School of Social Work enhanced the theme for the evening “Together We Stand.” Over 120 people attended the event.

“We continue to thrive as an association, and we will be expanding our efforts to empower women and eliminate racism,” said Deborah Ullman, CEO YWCA Hartford Region. Dr. Raheim gave an inspiring speech that emphasized the importance of the programs and services of YWCA Hartford Region to promote change at a systemic level and improve lives of women and girls in the community. “Make a commitment to social justice. Be an ally,” said Raheim.

Janet M. Castricum, Board Chair, discussed the strategic direction of YWCA Hartford Region that included efforts to eliminate racism in the Hartford community with the *Stand Against Racism* on April 30th, and the annual *In the Company of Women* Luncheon on April 7th. “We look forward to a promising year with great things to come. We will stand together and improve the lives of Hartford’s women and girls,” said Castricum.

In addition, YWCA Hartford Region presented its Creating Opportunity Awards to Prudential Retirement, Knox Parks Foundation and Debra Palermino. The awards are presented yearly to individuals, businesses and other entities that support the mission of YWCA of empowering women and eliminating racism. “It takes the time, talent and financial resources of many people and organizations to make the programs at YWCA possible,” said Ullman.

YWCA Hartford Region would like to thank TheaterWorks at City Arts on Pearl for generous use of their facility.

###

Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate YWCA USA, a women's membership movement dedicated to **eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all**. YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford area including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy, and economic empowerment. For more information, visit www.ywcahartford.org.