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DATE: May 16, 2011

YWLC Graduates Ready to Lead the Way
YWCA Young Women's Leadership Corps Graduates Gain Tools to Succeed



YWCA Hartford Region Young Women's Leadership Corps graduates from Burr School in Hartford.

On May 12th, forty-five graduates from [Young Women Leadership Corps \(YWLC\)](#) were joined by parents, teachers and YWCA supporters who helped them celebrate their accomplishments. YWLC aims to empower young women in Greater Hartford grades 7-12 to identify and to achieve educational and personal goals. Participants focus on increasing financial capability, career planning and exploration, personal growth and the importance of community involvement.

“I saw firsthand the transformation of the girls and how quickly they became a family and developed into leaders,” said Kat Vollono, Parent Engagement Specialist/Pubic Ally at YWCA.

Throughout the school year the young women had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities and workshops including increasing financial capability, career planning and exploration and building self-esteem. The young women also participated in a variety of community service projects including a project at [Soromundi Commons](#), YWCA's emergency and transitional shelter. In addition,

some of the young women attended a special youth program at YWCA Hartford Region's [*In the Company of Women*](#) Luncheon where Kathy LeMay, global activist and author, was the guest speaker.

In its 10th year, YWLC has taught more than 800 young women that all things are possible and helped them reach their goals and dreams. The program is a multi-faceted experience that focuses on practical, life-based, interactive and fun activities. YWLC has a high success rate with past graduates demonstrating increased personal and academic success.

YWCA Hartford Region is currently accepting applications for their 2011 YWCL Summer Institute that will run Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., from July 11 through August 12 at YWCA Hartford Region. For registration materials and information, please call Nikia Newkirk, Youth Development Director at (860) 525-1163, ext. 317, or go to www.ywcahartford.org.

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Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of YWCA, 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 Region including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy and economic empowerment. For more information, visit www.ywcahartford.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).