

YWCA & YOU

NEWS & UPDATES: WHY *You* MAKE A DIFFERENCE

FALL 2020

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Hartford Region

135 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06105

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YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE, YOUR FUTURE!

How You Can Help YWCA Get Out the Vote!

With your help, the YWCA Hartford Region Community Engagement and Advocacy Team have been beating the drum, promoting voter registration and encouraging participation in the census and the upcoming election. This year, the team launched a “**Get Out the Vote**” campaign to inform Greater Hartford residents to use the power of their vote.

To accommodate social distancing, the team used social media to bring community members information on YWomen Vote and created a safe space to rally together. Over the summer they hosted a “**Get Out the Vote Caravan**” with Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise Merrill.

With your partnership, YWCA has built an advocacy agenda focused on empowerment and economic advancement for women and families, racial justice and civil rights, and women’s health. These priorities are critical to underserved communities and disenfranchised voters. Your generosity allows YWCA to push these priorities forward and ensures our communities are represented at the polls.

YWCA actively sends updates on registration deadlines and voting procedures on social media, by e-mail, and texts. In July, the team hosted an Instagram Live series “**YWeVote GenZ: The Not So Silent Generation**” to promote a conversation about wealth and racial inequality and health disparities. YWCA encouraged more discussion with a presidential debate watch party on Facebook Live.

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Melinda Johnson, Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy rallies residents of Greater Hartford to “**Get Out the Vote!**”

INSIDE...

More ways you make a difference!

Save the Date



Opportunities you won't want to miss!

OCTOBER
19-23
WEEK

WEEK
WITHOUT
VIOLENCE

Monday - Friday
Facebook LIVE
12 Noon

Take part in this global movement with YWCAs across the country and worldwide to address violence against women and girls! Join YWCA Hartford Region on Facebook LIVE each weekday this week to share information, stories, and advocate for a common goal to end gender-based violence!

OCTOBER
27
TUESDAY

IMPORTANT
VOTER
REGISTRATION
DEADLINE!!

LAST DAY:

- voters can register online
- voters can register in person
- voter registration by mail can be postmarked

To find out if you are eligible to vote, to register online, to obtain an absentee ballot, or to find your polling location, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/sots>

All Connecticut voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot due to COVID-19, pursuant to Public Act 20-03 July Special Session. Just check the COVID-19 box on the application. Absentee ballots must be received by election day on November 3rd.

NOTE: Absentee ballots will be mailed on **October 2nd** to all residents who submitted an application. **Questions? Call your Town Clerk.**

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

YWLC Grad Launches Career with Help from YOU!



The doctor will see you now. Those are the words Dr. Olayinka (Yinka) Edwards has worked hard to hear. An achievement *you* helped make a reality.

Yinka was a member of the Young Women's Leadership Corps (YWLC) program when she attended Windsor High School (Class of 2007). Since finishing the program, she pursued her dream of becoming a doctor, attending the University of Connecticut as an undergrad and medical student.

Today, Dr. Edwards is practicing family medicine at Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo, NY. But before leaving Connecticut to begin her career, she wanted to "give back to the community that gave so much to me."

In August, Yinka participated in a virtual career fair for girls attending YWLC Summer Institute. It reminded her how much the program meant to her.

"I was surrounded by peers and supportive adults and they really helped get me out of my shell," explained Yinka of her time with the YWLC.

"The importance of staying connected to the community is a lesson I learned from YWLC that has stayed with me."

Yinka shared with students the importance of developing self-discipline, which helped her in medical school, residency, and internships. "I was impressed to see young girls, poised and driven, who also dream of becoming doctors, lawyers, or entrepreneurs," added Yinka. "I was also inspired by their openness to other opportunities."

Hearing Dr. Edwards describe a typical workday in a family clinic made a YWLC participant reconsider her future. "Listening

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DENISE L. NAPPIER THE MONEY CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

MONEY CONFERENCE RETURNS IN 2021

Due to the restrictions on public gatherings because of COVID-19, YWCA Hartford Region will postpone the **Denise L. Nappier Money Conference for Women** until 2021. Your safety is our top priority!

In the meantime, we are reviewing the feedback we have received from you to improve upon and develop financial literacy programming in the new year! We will be sure to update you as details are confirmed.

We remain committed to providing you with the tools you need to implement effective money management strategies and take control of your financial future. For updates on this event and other YWCA Hartford Region programs and services, please sign up to receive e-mails at www.ywcahartford.org.

Your Voice, Your Vote, Your Future continued from page 1

The team will continue outreach at events, like the Voter Registration & Census Day at the Hartford Public Library, up until election day. On October 29th, another “YWeVote” on Facebook Live will address key policy issues for women as we head into the most controversial presidential election of our time. YWCA Hartford Region will be open election day as a polling site for voting district #9.

Post-election, YWCA plans a series of listening sessions to hear what matters most to community members concerning issues of racial justice and gender equity. With your support, with your voice, we have the power to shape the future. Interested in receiving advocacy updates from YWCA Hartford Region? Sign-up at www.ywcahartford.org/advocacy/.

OCTOBER

29

THURSDAY

**YWOMEN
VOTE 2020**

Ensuring women’s voices are at the forefront of policy decisions is a priority of YWCA Hartford Region. Now more than ever, women, particularly women of color, are primed to continue their unprecedented roles as candidates and as a decisive voting constituency. Join us for a virtual discussion about policy issues women care most about and what’s at stake as the nation heads into the most controversial presidential elections of our time.

**Facebook LIVE
at 12 Noon**

Topic of discussion:

- **Women at the polls:** highlighting the importance of having a plan to vote to overcome challenges unique to women.
- **Women on the ballot:** highlighting the historic presence of women running for office in the 21st century.
- **Women on a mission:** key policy issues of concern for women: economic, health, and workplace equity; racial justice, and gender-based violence.

NOVEMBER

3

TUESDAY

**ELECTION
DAY!!**

Connecticut polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To find your polling location, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/sots>

YWCA Hartford Region will be open as a polling site for voting district #9.

NOTE: Absentee ballots must be received by your local Town Clerk by the close of the polls at 8:00 pm or they will not be counted!

Anyone encountering problems on Election Day should contact the Election Day Hotline at: 1-866-733-2463 or email elections@ct.gov.

YOU are Inspirational IN THE VIRTUAL COMPANY OF WOMEN



THANK YOU to our sponsors, Table Captains, and all those who joined us on September 9th for *In the Virtual Company of Women*. While we missed being in your company, you managed to make this milestone year a “virtual” success!

To view the program book and to watch a recording of the event including the interview with Cecile Richards, visit: <http://bit.ly/YWCAVirtualCo2020>



Dr. Olayinka (Yinka) Edwards

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to Dr. Edwards talk about her calling really stood out to me. I had always been interested in going into the field, but after speaking with her, I was able to solidify my decision to pursue a career in medicine,” said Leah G.

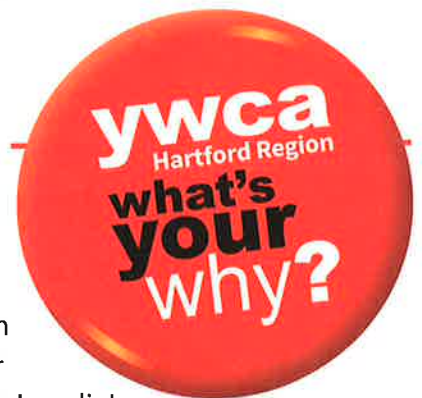
You might not know it, but you were a cheerleader for Yinka, and she is so grateful for the opportunity to do the same for current YWLC participant.

Why YWCA?

“I love the sense of community I get from YWCA Hartford Region. It is inspiring to see how YWCA empowers young girls to be strong, loving, and gracious. The importance of staying connected to the community is a lesson I learned from YWLC that has stayed with me.”



YOU are an important partner in helping YWCA Hartford Region empower women, eliminate racism and create *unlimited opportunities!* Tell us why **YOU** choose to give. Allow us to share your “Why” and you’ll be entered to win **TWO tickets to the 2021 IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN!** Send your submission in the return envelope or e-mail: karolj@ywcahartford.org and we’ll include your “Why” as part of our “**What’s Your Why?**” Campaign in print, e-mail and on social media!



Name (print)

Phone

Email Address
