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February 4, 2014

**Community Members Celebrate YWCA Hartford Region at  
146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Creating Opportunities Award winners include Travelers, Aurora Foundation for  
Women and Girls and State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier**

**Hartford, CT-** “The Board and I are proud that YWCA Hartford Region continues the organization’s rich heritage of offering exceptional programs and services to Hartford and its surrounding communities,” Stacy Smith Walsh, YWCA’s Board Chair, said to the crowd of 100 gathered at the Pond House in West Hartford on January 28<sup>th</sup> for YWCA Hartford Region’s Annual Meeting. YWCA members and supporters celebrated the past year’s accomplishments and looked to the future. “[YWCA] plans to celebrate our successes while renewing our commitment to meeting the ever-changing needs of the women and children in our community, Walsh said.

During the meeting, the annual **Creating Opportunities Awards** were presented to organizations and individuals who support YWCA’s mission of *eliminating racism* and *empowering women*. The 2013 Creating Opportunities Awards winners were Travelers, Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls and State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier.

Travelers was awarded the Corporate Partner award for their generosity and commitment to the mission of YWCA through philanthropic giving and employee support. The Community Partner Award was given to Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls for being a catalyst of positive change for women and girls in the Hartford community. The Leadership Award was presented to State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier for her commitment to the financial empowerment of women in the State of Connecticut.

“As a firm believer in empowering women in every aspect of life, especially when it comes to financial matters, I’m honored to be recognized by the YWCA Hartford Region,” said Treasurer Nappier. “The YWCA has been and continues to be a powerful force for women and girls, and I’m quite pleased to have had the benefit of its contributions in moving the needle for a more inclusive society.”

“These individuals and organizations have helped the YWCA make a difference in our community. Their support has been vital in building a strong foundation for the future,” YWCA

Hartford Region CEO Deborah Ullman said. “We honor their commitment to the women and families in the Hartford community.”

The Annual Meeting’s theme was *Conversations for Change*. YWCA welcomed guest speaker, Katherine Kane, Executive Director of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. “I’ve always loved the YW’s mission [of eliminating racism and empowering women],” Kane said. “It is clear, and it is direct. It reminds me everyday that I need to act.” She spoke about how Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* changed the world and how the Stowe Center continues Stowe’s message of equality today. “All of our programming is about inspiring change,” Kane said. “We program around equity issues that concerned Stowe.” Using Harriet Beecher Stowe as an example, she encouraged the attendees to confront the issues they care about today and act. “Act today on the issue you’ve been worrying about,” she concluded.

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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 area including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy, and economic empowerment. For more information, visit [www.ywcahartford.org](http://www.ywcahartford.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

[Photos attached]