

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Hartford Region

For Immediate Release

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**YWCA Hartford Region Celebrates at 148th Annual Meeting
Creating Opportunities Award winners include Landmark Partners, United Way of
Central and Northeastern Connecticut and Alisa Sisic.**

Hartford, CT- YWCA members and supporters celebrated the past year's accomplishments and looked to the future at the 148th Annual Meeting on January 26th at the Connecticut Historical Society. "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," YWCA Hartford Region Board Chair Britt-Marie Cole-Johnson said. "We have built and continue to grow an organization that is ready for the future."

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 2015 Creating Opportunities Awards winners were Landmark Partners, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and Alisa Sisic.

"Each year YWCA Hartford Region honors those who help us achieve our mission of *eliminating racism* and *empowering women*," YWCA Hartford Region CEO Deborah Ullman said. "These individuals and organizations have helped YWCA make a difference in our community. Their support has been vital in building a strong foundation for the future."

Landmark Partners 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 United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut for being a catalyst of positive change for women and girls in the Hartford community. The Volunteer Award was presented to Alisa Sisic for her commitment to the mission of YWCA and her impact in Hartford as an emerging leader.

Volunteer Award recipient Alisa Sisic became emotional while thanking YWCA for her award. Alisa came to the United States as a refugee, she became a U.S. citizen while working for YWCA. "This means a lot to me," Sisic said. "It has been a tough road. So many of you have guided me to where I am today. So thank you this means so much to me."

The Annual Meeting's theme was *Maximizing Social Change*. YWCA welcomed guest speaker, Veronica T. DeLandro, Executive Director, Aurora Women and Girls Foundation. DeLandro began her presentation by defining social change and showcasing about a dozen women who changed history by being social change makers. She encouraged attendees to follow their example and become social change makers in their own lives. "Maximizing social change starts with you," DeLandro said. "Start today by getting involved."

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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 and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

[Photos attached]