



For Immediate Release

hartford region

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YWCA Hartford Region Celebrates at 147th Annual Meeting
Creating Opportunities Award winners include The Phoenix Companies, Inc., Millennium
Real Estate Services, LLC and Aetna employees

Hartford, CT-YWCA members and supporters celebrated the past year's accomplishments and looked to the future at the 147th Annual Meeting on February 3rd at the Connecticut Historical Society. "The relevance of our mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all is reinforced by the headlines on a daily basis," incoming YWCA Hartford Region Board Chair Britt-Marie Cole-Johnson said. "We have taken an in-depth look at who we are and how we can make the most impact in our community by providing critical services and by being a voice for racial and gender justice."

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 2014 Creating Opportunities Awards winners were The Phoenix Companies, Inc., Millennium Real Estate Services, LLC and the employees of Aetna Inc.

"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."

The Phoenix Companies, Inc. was awarded the Corporate Partner award for their generosity and commitment to the mission of YWCA through philanthropic giving and employee support. The Business Partner Award was given to Millennium Real Estate Services, LLC for their commitment to the success of YWCA. The Volunteer Award was presented to employees of Aetna Inc. for their support of YWCA's Young Women's Leadership Corps program.

"It is a pleasure and honor to spend the summer with these young women," Aetna employee Amanda Pérez-Aponte said when accepting the award on behalf of her colleagues. "Thank you for the opportunity and this is only the beginning."

The Annual Meeting's theme was *Generations Leading Together*. YWCA welcomed guest speaker, Thea Montanez, Managing Director of Montanez Consulting, LLC. Montanez shared her

story of coming back to Hartford as a young woman hoping to make a difference in her community. Early on Montanez met with a variety of community leaders and began to learn the value of having different voices and perspectives represented in community conversations. “The way we can be innovative is to be diverse,” Montanez said. “You learn so much when you have both generations sitting at a table learning from each other.”

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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]