

**eliminating racism  
empowering women**

**ywca**

**hartford region**

**2009 annual report**



**strong alone.  
fearless together.**

# listen to the voices

Dear friends and supporters,

“Standing together means I’ve got your back and you’ve got mine. Listen. Be open and be humble.”

When Dr. Salome Raheim, Dean and Professor, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, used those words at YWCA Hartford Region’s 142nd annual meeting, she challenged us to exemplify the spirit of our community – a spirit of compassion, of support, of standing together that represents all of us at our best.

In 2009, with a new strategic plan and a refined and focused mission, we believe that we met that challenge – by standing proud and strong for the elimination of racism and the empowerment of women.

YWCA Hartford Region is honored and privileged to touch so many lives as a true ally, each and every day.

“YWCA helped me ...

... become a leader among my peers, through the **young women’s leadership corps**.”

... learn how I can help fight racism in my neighborhood, at one of the YWCA’s **stand against racism** events.”

... find a safe place to call home, at **soromundi commons**.”

... figure out my income taxes and file for the Earned Income Tax Credit, using the **volunteer income tax assistance program**.”

... work, with real peace of mind, while my son learned to read in a **ywca early learning program**.”

Listen. Be open and be humble. And then, from Dr. Raheim, “Make a commitment to social justice. Be an ally.”

We stand together with a common goal of **eliminating racism and empowering women**. We are listening.

With gratitude,

*Deborah G. Ullman*

Deborah G. Ullman  
Chief Executive Office

*Janet M. Castricum*

Janet M. Castricum  
Board Chair



# a changed life

## maria's story



Maria didn't have friends. Her parents had neglected her, and now Maria lives with her grandmother.

Because she was so shy and distrustful, she was unable to communicate with her peers.

So Maria became very frustrated – and aggressive.

Concerned about her future, Maria's grandmother enrolled her in the YWCA Growing Tree Early Learning Center. In small group sessions, YWCA teachers were able to identify children who worked well with Maria. They helped nurture these relationships. A special curriculum

was developed to help her with social and emotional challenges.

Maria learned to put words to her emotions. Her self confidence grew.

Maria began trusting her teachers.

Maria made friends.

Maria has successfully mastered the skills needed to socialize with her peers and enter kindergarten on schedule – a feat that her grandmother had thought impossible.

**and for the first time in her life,  
maria feels part of a family.**

# programs & services



**tomorrow is coming faster than you think. these young women will be ready.**

YWCA believes that every woman, every girl and every child deserves the opportunity to shine at each stage of life. YWCA creates opportunities one woman at a time with the *Young Women's Leadership Corps (YWLC)*, a free after-school program for young women where they gain the skills to become future leaders in their schools, workplaces and communities. The YWLC curriculum is designed for young women grades 7-12 and includes units on self-discovery, wellness, personal safety, sexual decision-making, job readiness, college/career exploration, money management, civic involvement and leadership development.

**an end to racism is central to the ywca's core mission.**

Racism is unacceptable and can no longer be ignored or tolerated. The annual *Stand Against Racism* raises awareness about the existence of racism in our communities. The program combats the spread of hate, celebrates the richness of diversity, and proclaims that racism will not be tolerated. It invites organizations of all types to take a stand by hosting or participating in an organized activity. The event unites thousands of individuals who stand together as allies and pledge to rid our society of racism.

**children learn, grow and flourish while parents have peace of mind.**

At YWCA, we know that the value of good child care cannot be overstated. YWCA offers peace of mind with convenient and affordable child care programs. Our *Early Learning Centers* offer convenient, affordable, *quality child care* for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The centers are rich with activities that stimulate physical, mental, social and emotional development. Programs are located in Hartford, East Hartford, Manchester and West Hartford. *YWKidslink*, for students in kindergarten through 5th grade, is a before- and after-school child care program that offers creative activities for children. YWKidslink programs are located in Bolton, Manchester, Rocky Hill, West Hartford and Wethersfield.

**children learn to be their best, while parents get the services they need in order to do their best.**

Even in the best of circumstances, parenting can be a tough job. With financial difficulties, divorce and separation, unemployment, educational needs, alcohol and drug abuse, and the presence of physical and mental illness in a home, a child might feel as if she has no place to hide and no friend in sight. *Time Out For Parents (TOP)* is a *child*



*abuse prevention* program that provides a safe, nurturing environment for children and support to families at risk of child abuse. The program offers professional assistance to help parents and caretakers manage their own challenges as they improve relationships with their children. Our experienced staff provides care for their children in our licensed centers.

**attendees leave the conference well equipped and ready to take charge of their financial futures.**

With the economic downturn, we all need *financial literacy*. The *Money Conference for Women* is a free annual conference focusing on money management and investment and retirement strategies for women of all ages, economic backgrounds and levels of financial knowledge. The program addresses the unique financial issues women face in their work and personal lives.

**soromundi means “sisters of the world.” at soromundi commons, sisterhood means shelter and empowerment.**

Women who find themselves homeless and in crisis need more than a bed and a hot meal. Fortunately, they can turn to YWCA’s emergency shelter at *Soromundi Commons* to help them get their lives back on track. Soromundi Commons is an innovative *supportive housing* facility managed in collaboration with Chrysalis Center, Inc. It provides an emergency shelter for women and both transitional housing and permanent affordable apartments for men and women as they move toward self-sufficiency. This nationally recognized model offers a continuum of services on-site, including case management, job counseling, health care and a community learning center.

**many individuals and families are able to receive a financial boost - even in the worst of economies.**

No one can afford to throw good money away. Yet, many area residents are doing just that. Because of the complexity of the IRS tax forms and eligibility requirements, the *earned income tax credits (EITC)* have often gone unclaimed. From January through April, YWCA participated in the *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)* program, which provides free tax preparation for individuals and families with low-to-moderate incomes. YWCA Hartford Region sponsored a tax preparation site which was staffed by certified tax preparation volunteers and YWCA employees.

# ywca's impact

## 2009 results



### ywlc - preparing tomorrow's leaders

YWCA Hartford Region helped prepare more than **180** young women to become confident leaders in their communities.

### racial justice - committed to the pursuit of lasting change for a more just society

YWCA Hartford Region advanced racial justice by involving more than **1,700** area residents in a variety of awareness and educational activities.

### child care - taking care of the future

YWCA Hartford Region provided quality, accessible, affordable child care for more than **850** children in seven towns.

### time out for parents - supporting families through tough times

YWCA Hartford Region provided childcare for **71** children of families in crisis and guided their parents in building a better life for themselves and their children.

### vita - helping individuals and families make the most of their tax dollars with free tax preparation

YWCA Hartford Region gave an important financial boost to more than **180** individuals by providing them with free tax preparation services.

### economic empowerment - empowering women with financial literacy

YWCA Hartford Region set more than **400** women squarely on the road to financial literacy with the *Money Conference for Women* – and helped make their dreams come true.

### soromundi commons - providing shelter and services to those in need

YWCA Hartford Region provided safety, support, and hope for more than **130** individuals facing a housing crisis.

### in the company of women luncheon - an afternoon of amazing women and inspirational stories

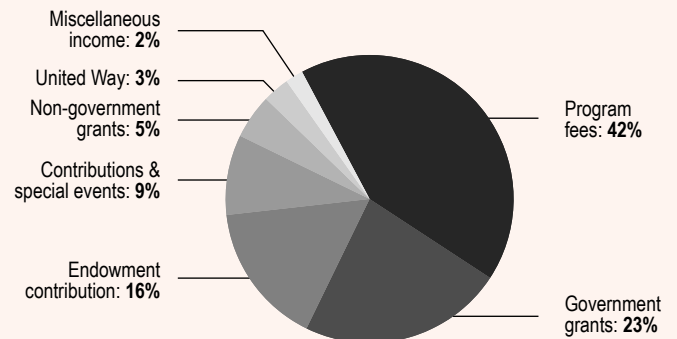
YWCA Hartford Region's *In the Company of Women* Luncheon brought together **1,400** women and men to be entertained, moved and inspired to support services and programs of YWCA.

# financial report

## revenue

## fiscal year 2009

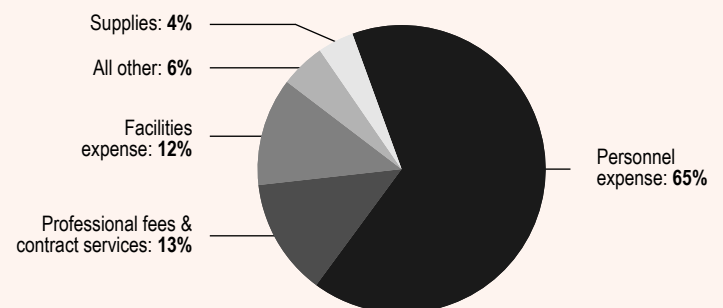
Program fees	\$2,124,900
Government grants	1,160,700
Non-government grants	239,700
United Way	169,200
Contributions & special events	439,000
Endowment contribution	793,900
Miscellaneous income	80,700
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,008,100</b>



## expenses

## fiscal year 2009

Personnel expense	\$3,262,400
Facilities expense	621,900
Professional fees & contract services	636,300
Supplies	212,800
All other	274,700
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,008,100</b>



# moving forward



## in 2009, ywca hartford region completed a strategic planning process that reaffirmed its guiding principles:

*“As an organization, YWCA Hartford Region is committed to the pursuit of lasting change for a more just society. We are inspired by the idea of women helping themselves and each other and by the prospect of equal opportunity, justice and dignity for all people.”*

*“We believe social inequalities that arise from racism and sexism in our community must be addressed. We believe that every woman, every girl and every child deserves the opportunity to shine at each stage of life. We believe in creating opportunities one woman at a time.”*

## over the next four years, ywca hartford region will:

- Build on program strengths and assure that all programs meet identified needs in the community, and are aligned with YWCA’s mission and are financially sound
- Advocate in support of systemic change that promotes economic empowerment for women and racial justice for all
- Build sustainable organizational capacity – human, financial, and physical – that supports attainment of the YWCA’s goals
- Build the YWCA’s credibility as a recognized voice for women and girls – and as a key advocate for equal opportunities and the elimination of discrimination based on gender or race

## and the plan became action. ywca established a public policy agenda to fight for:

- High quality child care and early learning, including adequate funding of the Care4Kids program
- Programs that prevent the domestic sex trafficking of minors and support its victims
- Equal access to quality education to close the achievement gap
- Reproductive choices and access to services for every woman



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thanks to your support, we can continue to strengthen our communities. thank you for joining the movement.

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#### YWCA Hartford Region

135 Broad Street  
Hartford, CT 06105  
(860) 525-1163

#### Soromundi Commons

(Emergency Shelter and Supportive Housing)  
135 Broad Street  
Hartford, CT 06105  
(860) 727-0645

### child care locations

#### Bolton School YWKidslink

104 Notch Road  
Bolton, CT 06043

#### Bowers School YWKidslink

141 Princeton Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

#### Buckley School YWKidslink

250 Vernon Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

#### Bugbee School YWKidslink

1943 Asylum Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117

#### Charles Wright School YWKidslink

186 Knott Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

#### Duffy School YWKidslink

95 Westminster Drive  
West Hartford, CT 06107

#### East Hartford Early Learning Center

9 Signor Street  
East Hartford, CT 06108

#### Elmwood Early Learning Center

1106 New Britain Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06110

#### Growing Tree Early Learning Center

195-205 Garden Street  
Hartford, CT 06105

#### Keeney School YWKidslink

179 Keeney Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

#### Manchester Creative Nursery School

78 North Main Street  
Manchester, CT 06042

#### Martin School YWKidslink

140 Dartmouth Road  
Manchester, CT 06040

#### Stevens School YWKidslink

322 Orchard Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

#### Hartford Time Out for Parents

195-205 Garden Street  
Hartford, CT 06112

#### Manchester Time Out for Parents

Center Congregational Church  
11 Center Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

#### Waddell School YWKidslink

163 Broad Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

#### Webster Hill School YWKidslink

125 Webster Hill Boulevard  
West Hartford, CT 06107

#### West Hill School YWKidslink

95 Cronin Drive  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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