



hartford region

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**YWCA Hartford Region Welcomes Viola Davis to the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
*In the Company of Women* luncheon**

Hartford, CT- [YWCA Hartford Region](#)'s *In the Company of Women* luncheon will bring together over 1,800 guests from greater Hartford in support of YWCA's mission to *eliminate racism* and *empower women*. The luncheon will be held on April 9, 2015 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

This year's keynote speaker is Viola Davis. Classically trained, award-winning actor, Davis has conquered every medium from stage to television to film. From her Tony Award winning performances in *King Hedley II* and *Fences* to her Academy Award nominated performances in *The Help* and *Doubt*, Davis has burst through every barrier to become one of the most accomplished and celebrated actors today. She was most recently seen in the new Shonda Rhimes' ABC series *How to Get Away with Murder*, that premiered in Fall 2014.

Proceeds from the *In the Company of Women* luncheon will benefit the programs and services of YWCA Hartford Region. These programs and services include: childcare, emergency shelter, supportive and transitional housing, young women's leadership development, racial justice awareness and financial literacy. Serving 2,000 people annually, YWCA Hartford Region helps women and girls bridge the education, career and financial gaps that are obstacles to life-long stability and economic security.

The luncheon is made possible in part by Legacy Partner, Aetna, Inc. Aetna, Inc. has supported YWCA's luncheon since its inception in 1996. Tina St. Pierre, Partner, Landmark Partners and Felecia P. Scott, Assistant Vice President, The Hartford, will serve as this year's event co-chairs.

A group of 55 young women from area high schools will attend the Creating Opportunities Program in the morning and then join other attendees for the luncheon. The program is designed to introduce these young women to the world of philanthropy. Participants include young women from YWCA Hartford Region's *Young Women's Leadership Corps (YWLC)*, an after-school program that gives young women the power to persevere both personally and academically. The young women will enjoy a special program with Dr. Rochelle Young, Associate Professor of Business Administration, University of Saint Joseph, as their keynote speaker.

In addition to the speaker, the afternoon will feature the Persimmon Plaza expo and a raffle. The event is at capacity and seats are no longer available.

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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 and empowering women**. YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford Region 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](#).