



hartford region

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **YWCA Hartford Region Welcomes Angélique Kidjo to 21<sup>st</sup> In the Company of Women luncheon**

Hartford, CT- [YWCA Hartford Region](#)'s *In the Company of Women* luncheon will bring together over 1,200 guests from greater Hartford in support of YWCA's mission to *eliminate racism* and *empower women*. The luncheon will be held on April 7, 2016 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

This year's keynote speaker is Angélique Kidjo. Three-time Grammy Award-winning singer, activist, and humanitarian Angélique Kidjo electrifies audiences around the world with the strength of her voice, the power of her words, and the intensity of her performance. Spirit Rising, Angélique's memoir, embodies her vibrant personality with, as ELLE described, "a dramatic soulful mix of text, photos, and song lyrics." One of The Guardian's 100 most inspiring women in the world, Angélique speaks out for human rights and female empowerment as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and through op-eds for CNN and The New York Times.

Proceeds from the *In the Company of Women* luncheon will benefit the programs and services of YWCA Hartford Region including: 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 is on a mission to help 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, and Presenting Sponsor, The Travelers Companies. Dantaya Williams, Vice President, Human Resources, Commercial Engines, Pratt & Whitney and Lisa Chirichella, Executive Director, Pension and Investment Management, Aetna, 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 Choreographer and Dancer and Hartford native, Jessica Castro, as their keynote speaker.

In addition to the speaker, the afternoon will feature the Persimmon Plaza vendor expo and a [raffle](#). Tickets are still available for the event for \$150 and can be purchased at [www.ywcahartford.org](http://www.ywcahartford.org). For more information about the ***In the Company of Women*** luncheon, please call the Development Office at (860) 525-1163, ext. 118.

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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](#).