

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

**Hartford Region**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Cokie Roberts inspires over 1,200 guests at YWCA's  
annual luncheon**

Hartford, CT- Cokie Roberts was the keynote speaker for YWCA Hartford Region's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual *In the Company of Women* luncheon Thursday, April 6, 2017. The luncheon brought over 1,200 guests to the Connecticut Convention Center in support of YWCA's mission to *eliminate racism* and *empower women*. Proceeds from the event will support YWCA's programs and services in the community.

Cokie began the afternoon praising women like Dorothy Height, who integrated YWCA in 1946, and expressing her admiration for the current work of YWCA Hartford Region's childcare services and advancement of young women. "I met some wonderful girls that [YWCA Hartford Region is] working with and they are going to make this a better place than it already is because they are engaged and interested..." she said. She spoke about America's history of social service organizations created by women and how women are key contributors to societal growth. She ended her remarks by reminding everyone of the importance of advocacy and the continuous impact women make in their communities. "What you are doing here really does change a society because we have learned if you educate a woman you can save a country"

Special guests included Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Connecticut State Treasurer, Denise Napier, Representative Andrew Fleischmann and Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Catherine Smith. Governor Dannel Malloy gave brief opening remarks honoring YWCA's work. "I can't imagine our community especially greater Hartford, without the services provided by [YWCA Hartford Region]", said Governor Malloy. He ended his remarks thanking retiring YWCA CEO Deborah Ullman for her service.

Monica Hoffman, Hoffman Lexus and Annie Lazarus, Chief Compliance Officer, Landmark Partners, served as the event co-chairs. YWCA thanked sponsors for their support, including Legacy Partner, Aetna and Presenting Sponsor, Travelers.

A group of over 40 young women from area high schools attended the Creating Opportunities Program in the morning before attending the luncheon. The program is designed to introduce these participants to the world of philanthropy. Kerri-Lee Mayland, NBC CT News Anchor, was their keynote speaker. Participants included 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.

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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](#).