YWCA & YOU

NEWS & UPDATES: WHY *You* MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SPRING **2022**

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Hartford Region

135 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06105

We have news for you!

1. **Please follow us !**
   #ywcahartford
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   Access our newsroom and event calendar at **ywcahartford.org**
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OUR MISSION

YWCA Hartford Region is dedicated to

eliminating racisim, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

FROM CHILDREN TO ADULTS, YOU ARE CHANGING LIVES

Women who want to pursue a career need to know their children are being well cared for. And the cost of quality childcare is often beyond the means of too many women. That's why, with support like yours, we run several Early Learning Centers in the Hartford area.

When Linda, teacher assistant and kitchen staff at our East Hartford location, shared her story with us, we knew we had to share it with you too. **Because of your caring, her long-held goal was possible.**

Linda knew she wanted to work with children years ago. She earned a degree in Elementary Education and went right to work in a preschool.

Then she became a mom herself. And she wanted to be sure her son had all the quality time possible with her. She chose to stay home with him.

Until her marriage ended. And providing for her son meant holding a series of jobs, including work as a dental assistant.

Please continue reading inside ▶

INSIDE: Aspiration to action » A champion for women » YWCA accelerates!

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ANSWERING A CALL

Years later, Linda knew it was time to follow her heart. She applied for a position with YWCA Hartford Region.

She was terrified at the interview, her confidence gone. But the Site Managers for the program soon put her at ease. And after the interview, both women praised her effort and her courage.

> *That was the day I realized the empowerment piece of the YWCA mission statement. These women empowered me to believe in myself and welcomed me to be a part of YWCA."*
>
> **LINDA**
> *Assistant Teacher/Kitchen staff*

Linda says going to work each day brings her joy. She loves preparing healthy meals as much as tending boo boos or offering a hug to a child having a bad day. The children feel loved and secure. And Linda feels empowered, accomplished and appreciated. As she says, "I AM AN EDUCATOR!"

This is the work *You* make possible, creating communities built on caring. Thank you!

ADVOCACY NEWS

WITH YOU, WE CAN TURN ASPIRATION INTO ACTION

Eliminating racism. Empowering women.

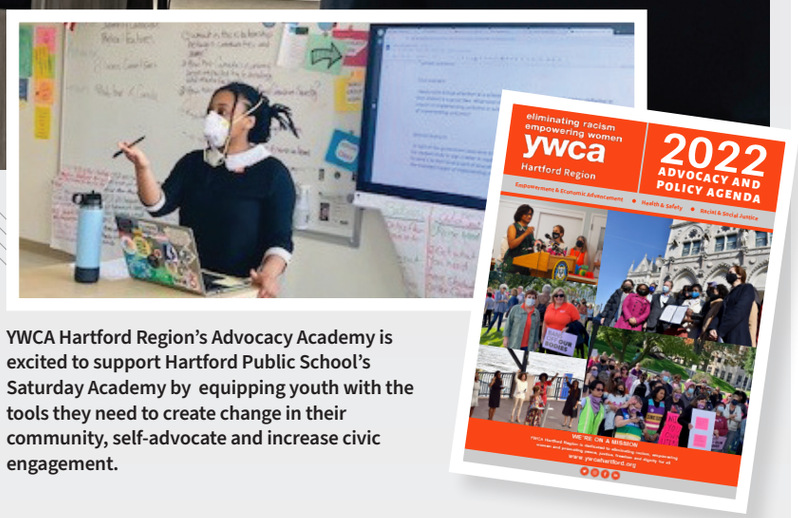
Those are so much more than words. They're in our mission. And we're so grateful that you share our drive for a more equitable world.

We have more than a dream. We have a *plan* and we hope **you'll be part of it**.

Recently, we unveiled our Advocacy Agenda for the year. It's big. And bold. **And we'll only make progress with the help of committed people like you.**

Our Advocacy Agenda takes on issues that directly impact communities in the Hartford Region and beyond. And this agenda is acknowledgment that the needs of these communities are evidence of inequities that still exist in Connecticut.

We must address the systemic and structural barriers to equity, opportunity, and security for women, girls and families.



YWCA Hartford Region's Advocacy Academy is excited to support Hartford Public School's Saturday Academy by equipping youth with the tools they need to create change in their community, self-advocate and increase civic engagement.

HERE ARE THE AREAS THAT NEED OUR ENERGY – AND YOURS!

- Improve childcare and early education programs and family economic security
- Affordable housing and equitable urban revitalization
- Improve maternal health and doula care services
- Equity for women and girls in sports
- Regulate health care for Department of Corrections inmates
- Reauthorize of the Violence Against Women Act
- Declaration of racism as a public health crisis
- Inclusive representation on municipal boards and commissions

PLEASE JOIN US

You **have the power to create urgently needed change. Together we can urge Connecticut lawmakers to pass legislation that dismantles systemic racism, promotes an equitable economic landscape and ensures access to quality healthcare for all. Together we can become a community with unlimited opportunities to un-limit opportunity.**

WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

REMEMBERING LYNN PLUMMER: A CHAMPION FOR WOMEN

"WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER."

Lynn Plummer acted on that belief. She wanted to support women working to complete their college education and begin meaningful careers. Lynn was an advocate and an ally, nurturing the women in our YW Career Women program as well as our staff.

When we asked why she was so committed to this work, she told us, "I wanted to support women continuing their education because I know firsthand the power a meaningful career can have on one's family. I feel connected to that purpose at the YWCA."

Lynn passed away suddenly last November. But her example of commitment and kindness will be remembered for a long time, especially in the lives of the women she championed here.

Lynn touched the lives of many and once you met her, you wouldn't forget her. She had a curiosity for learning and an affinity for talking to others. Being a therapist, she naturally wanted to help, and she always felt blessed to have the opportunity to do so. Lynn was a woman of great strength, courage and warmth. She will be forever in our hearts.

~LYNN'S DAUGHTERS KRISTEN ROWLAND AND STACEY TATA

IN THE NEWS

START A NEW BUSINESS AND DO GOOD?

WE CAN WITH YOUR HELP!

We're thrilled to share with you that YWCA Hartford Region is one of six nonprofits in the area chosen by Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to participate in a Social Enterprise Accelerator.

A social enterprise seeks to maximize profits while maximizing benefits to society. The profits are mostly used to fund social programs – in our case, YWCA programs and services.

We're so grateful for their vote of confidence. And we know it's because they've seen our mission at work in our programs, in our service and in our advocacy efforts. Work that happens because of **you**!

With the expert advice of consultants from No Margin, No Mission and The Sara Leonard Group – part of the support from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving – we've drafted a business plan, built a budget and presented the plan to a small group of mission impact investors. The response was amazing and we're on our way!

One big surprise was the matching gift Hartford Foundation for Public Giving offered. They will match up to $20,000 of donations received before June 8, 2022! Again, we are so grateful.

Over the next few months, we'll continue to share the plans and our progress. If you would like to learn more about our social enterprise and **how you can help**, email **ywcainfo@ywcahartford.org** and we'll set a time to share our plans with you.

As our plans evolve and are completed, we'll keep you updated. And thank you for all *You* do to make YWCA Hartford Region a success!

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JOIN US!
IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN
Luncheon
Our Learners Today, Become Leaders Tomorrow

APRIL 7, 2022 | 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
CONNECTICUT CONVENTION CENTER, 100 COLUMBUS BLVD., HARTFORD, CT 06103

FOR TICKETS VISIT *ywcahartford.org*

Keynote Speaker:
SONIA MANZANO
Actress "Maria from Sesame Street" & Author