YWCA & YOU

NEWS & UPDATES: WHY *You* MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SUMMER **2023**

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

Hartford Region

135 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06105

We have news for you!

1. **Please follow us !**
   #ywcahartford
2. **Stay up to date!**
   Access our newsroom and event calendar at **ywcahartford.org**
3. **Sign up online!**
   Receive a FREE subscription to our e-newsletter at **ywcahartford.org**

How Maylia celebrated her 15th birthday will inspire you!

SELFLESS CELEBRATION:

A YOUNG BLACK PHILANTHROPIST IN ACTION

Black Philanthropy Month, celebrated annually in August, recognizes and celebrates the immense contributions made by Black individuals and communities to philanthropy.

In recognition of Black Philanthropy Month, we are proud to highlight the remarkable efforts of a young philanthropist, **MAYLIA JORDAN**, whose dedication and selflessness has made a significant impact in our community. At just 15, she chose to forgo the customary birthday party/gifts most young people want. Instead, she organized a successful fundraiser, with the help of her mother, in support of YWCA's housing shelter, Soromundi Commons. Her inspiring act of generosity not only portrays the power of philanthropy at any age but also symbolizes the spirit of Black Philanthropy Month itself.

YWCA Hartford Region has long been committed to empowering women and girls... and Maylia's story serves as a reminder that age is just a number when it comes to making a positive impact. Maylia's mother shares that Maylia's generosity is not new, as she has been involved in philanthropy since she was in second grade. She organized a fundraiser for babies and children in the hospital and NICU where she gathered baby sleepers, stuffed animals and other toys.

Maylia also is a typical teenager with two younger sisters who are watching her every move as she leads by example. As a sophomore at Loomis Chaffee, Maylia loves studying Science and English. Her dad coaches her in basketball, she dances competitively and she loves baking and dancing in the kitchen with her friends and family. Yet, she candidly shares, "I would rather have dinner with my family and eat donuts than have a party."

Her selflessness and commitment to those in need will hopefully inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

Please continue reading inside ▶

Continued from cover ▼

Maylia shares, "Not everyone has what they need or are able to be in their home dancing and baking with their family and friends. I have extra things and even things I don't need. It makes sense for me to share. To do for others who don't have."

Maylia's mindset is truly admirable. She understands the importance of sharing and caring for others who are less fortunate.

With Maylia's strong foundation in philanthropy, it's likely that she will continue her spirit of giving into adulthood. Her story is not only a testament to the power of youth philanthropy, but also a call for others to make a positive impact in their own communities.

YWCA Hartford Region and the residents of Soromundi Commons are grateful for **MAYLIA'S GENEROSITY**.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN THROUGH

YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY

As we reflect on the impactful YWCA Summer Youth Employment program, we are thrilled to share what **YOU** helped make possible.

Participants learned the importance of financial literacy and how it empowers them for a successful future. With **YOUR** support, we hosted a remarkable event where participants had the opportunity to gain essential skills and knowledge in managing money wisely.

Instilling a healthy relationship with money should begin early in life. By focusing on youth financial literacy, we are ensuring that the next generation possesses the knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions throughout their lives.

In preparation for the Youth Financial Empowerment Summit, we curated a diverse lineup of inspiring and knowledgeable speakers, including Entrepreneurs LaTasha Ruth and Leslie Gomez, YWCA's Chief Strategy and Operations Officer Cathy Zeiner and YWLC Alumna Kruti Dharsandiya. Each expert delivered insightful presentations on a range of topics, from basic money management and entrepreneurship to understanding tax withholdings. We aimed to equip the YWCA Summer Youth Employment participants with the tools necessary to navigate the financial landscape confidently.

The sessions were designed to be interactive, incorporating training exercises that encouraged active participation and practical application of the learned principles. **YOUR** support helped foster awareness and provided the participants with hands-on experiences that will have a lasting impact on their financial well-being.

Youth Financial Empowerment Summit was made possible in part by, the generosity and support of donors like **YOU** and Santander Bank.

Together, let's celebrate the progress made. **YOUR** support plays a vital role in empowering the next generation and driving positive change in their lives.

***Kruti Dharsandiya**, a former YWLC participant and current college freshman, led a session during our Youth Financial Empowerment Summit as a part of our YWCA Summer Youth Employment Program. Now, this brilliant young woman is eager to share some wisdom regarding financial literacy with you! Scan here to listen.*

Youth Financial Empowerment Summit is funded in part by Santander Bank

YWCA SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Another successful summer has come to a close! Our participants have had a fantastic time filled with learning opportunities and personal growth.

TIER I *learned valuable skills thanks to our community partners.*

- Connecticut Science Center
- Empowerment through Beading with Bahati
- Goodwin University
- Hartford Healthcare
- Jaye Holly
- Movin'2 Educate
- Posh Paint
- Greater Chapter of The Links, Inc.

TIER II *gained hands-on career skills through internships at:*

- Department of Labor
- Hartford City Mission
- Posh Paint
- YWCA Hartford Region
  - Human Resources Department
  - Early Learning Centers
  - Grants Department

YWLC IS FUNDED IN PART BY:

- Ensworth Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Charles Nelson Robinson Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- Unity-City of Hartford
- George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee
- YWCA USA & Torrid Foundation
- American Savings Foundation
- TJX Foundation
- Petit Family Foundation
- The Prosperity Foundation
- Capital Workforce Partners, Inc.

WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

IRENE SCHEIBNER

"What's Your Why?" is a powerful and thought provoking question. At its core, this is a question about purpose, direction and ultimately, impact. Irene Scheibner shares her "why."

Irene Scheibner, a native of Shelton, CT, attended Central Connecticut State University and then returned home to Shelton after graduating with honors and earning her teaching credentials. Although she contemplated applying for a teaching job in Shelton, Irene knew that in 1972, being an openly gay teacher would not be protected by the law. Instead, she became a computer programmer at Aetna and enjoyed a 25-year career.

During her time in the Hartford area, Irene became an activist for women and the gay community. Irene personally experienced the lack of safe and inclusive spaces for the lesbian community during that time. It wasn't until 1991, that Connecticut became the third state to pass a sexual orientation anti-discrimination law.

As a monthly donor to YWCA Hartford Region, Irene specifically supports the advocacy work because she appreciates the support YWCA Hartford Region showed lesbian women in the 1970s and 80s. At a time when there were no state laws protecting the civil rights of LGBT people,YWCA was a critically important safe place for lesbian women to gather, talk and support each other as a community. YWCA provided a meeting space for a weekly discussion group called Lesbian Rap. Space for events was also provided to The Hartford Women's Center, a group of lesbian feminists created for connection, community and to offer support systems and a sense of belonging.

Irene shares, "At the core of why I support YWCA Hartford Region is…YWCA was there for this marginalized, discriminated against community in a time when there were no state statutes or anything in place to support our right to be. YWCA Hartford Region was there doing programing and providing space. And, it continues to this day, that YWCA is there and the broadness of its mission toward eliminating racism and empowering women and empowering the enactment of civil rights – not just legislating – continues in the organization today."

Irene believes in the advocacy work of YWCA and proves her commitment through her monthly support. Donors like Irene are extremely important to YWCA Hartford Region and the communities it serves. Her unwavering support is greatly appreciated.

PERSIMMON PETALS, a YWCA Hartford Region social enterprise, offers stunning floral arrangements for all occasions. With every purchase, you're not only investing in beautiful blooms, but also supporting YWCA's programs and services!

Fall weddings, corporate events, or other special occasions - Persimmon Petals has got you covered. Our unique floral arrangements and themes are a perfect fit for fall events. With fall-inspired color palettes and designs, your wedding décor is sure to be the talk of the town. Remember, with every purchase from Persimmon Petals, you're not only getting beautiful flowers but also supporting YWCA's important mission. Make your events more special with Persimmon Petals!

GET EXCITED and **SAVE THE DATE** for the most anticipated event of 2024 – In the Company of Women Luncheon on April 18 at the CT Convention Center. We are thrilled to welcome Collette V. Smith as this year's keynote speaker. Collette is the Founder and President of Believe N You, Incorporated. She gained international fame when she became the NFL's first African American female coach and the first female coach in NY Jets franchise history.

SAVE THE DATE

DENISE L. NAPPIER

THE MONEY CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

OCTOBER 14TH

STAY TUNED: MORE INFORMATION TO COME