

racial justice education & advocacy

As the oldest and largest multi-racial women's organization in the world, the YWCA has often taken a leadership role



in civil and human rights issues. In addition to public statements about the Association's stand on civil rights, members have found simple, direct action to be the most effective.

Many years ago, YWCA members cancelled plans to hold a Regional YWCA conference here in Lancaster when they learned that local hotels would not accept African American/Black delegates as guests. The action was effective because three years later a YWCA conference was held here and African American/Black delegates were housed in hotels with their white colleagues. Today the YW's Racial Justice Committee works with the community at large to use our collective power to eliminate racism wherever it exists through a wide variety of activities.

our mission

The YWCA of Lancaster is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

racial justice education & advocacy 2010



programs

- ◆ Day of Commitment
- ◆ Race Against Racism
- ◆ Racial Justice Institute
- ◆ Anti-Bias Curriculum
- ◆ Racial Justice Award
- ◆ Study Circle Groups
- ◆ Customized Racial Justice Trainings

eliminando el racismo, potenciando a la mujer

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

ywca

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A United Way Agency

5/10

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Lancaster

12th annual race against racism

Saturday April 24, 2010

The YWCA of Lancaster's commitment to eliminating racism is probably best recognized in its Race Against



Racism which began in 1999 and is now the longest-running YW event of its kind in the world. The 5K/3.1 mile race attracts around 3,000 runners and walkers on the last Saturday in April each year, and serves as an important fundraiser for the YW's racial justice initiatives.

ongoing programs

Anti-Bias Curriculum

The YWCA Anti-Bias Curriculum is a five-session, school based program (grades K through 8) that breaks the cycle of prejudice, hate and racism by teaching children at their most impressionable age the value of celebrating our cultural and ethnic differences. The hands-on sessions are included in the regular classroom curriculum.

Study Circle Groups

These guided discussion groups bring together people from diverse viewpoints and backgrounds to explore concerns about concerns related to racism and look for ways to make things better.

Customized trainings are available.

annual racial justice institute

June 14-16, 2010

The Racial Justice Institute is an intensive 3-day workshop that brings national trainers to Lancaster to examine the subtle ways racism permeates our society and provide guidance as to what can be done to counteract them.

Teams of participants from area businesses, government offices and community organizations develop a common framework for identifying racist behavior and effecting positive change in their organizations and lives.

While individuals are eligible to participate on their own, it is strongly recommended that diverse teams of two or more people from the same organization participate as a team.

Ongoing feedback and support through peer gatherings and strategy sessions continue during the year as the teams direct anti-racist initiatives in their own arenas.

The goals of the Racial Justice Institute Part I are to encourage a deepening awareness of all forms of prejudice and oppression, especially racism, and to mobilize a significant number of community members to make a long-term commitment to eliminating racism and forging a just community.

The Racial Justice Institute has been awarded 1.825 Continuing Education Units by Millersville University.

A Racial Justice Institute Part II is also offered.



annual day of commitment

Wednesday November 10, 2010

Sharing a meal and conversation with friends may be part of your daily routine, but how often does this include someone who has a different ethnic background?

Imagine the divisions that could be bridged if hundreds of people committed to sitting down with new friends to discuss racism, ethnic and cultural differences, and social issues over a meal. That's the idea behind the YWCA Day of Commitment.



Groups of three people from diverse backgrounds, who've never met before, commit to getting to know one another over a meal.

Ways to participate:

Individuals – The YWCA groups three ethnically diverse individuals to share a meal and conversation.

Schools – The YW helps organize a "Mix-it-Up" Day within the school to encourage kids to expand their circle of friends by "mixing" them up in their cafeteria at lunchtime.

For more information about the YWCA Racial Justice Programs call the Racial Justice & Advocacy Coordinator at 717-393-1735 ext. 269