



YWCA of Lancaster
110 North Lime Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

Telephone: 717.393.1735
General Fax: 717.396.0513
SAPCC Fax: 717.391.6707

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Contact:
Angela M. Trout
Communications Coordinator
YWCA Lancaster
(717) 393-1735 ext. 224
(717) 517-0539 cell

YWCA Lancaster hands out honors at Annual Meeting

Volunteers and employees recognized for their dedication in support of women, children and racial justice

LANCASTER, (Pa.) – On May 18, 2011, YWCA Lancaster honored volunteers and employees with awards and recognition for making a difference in the lives of women, children and racial justice. A number of top honors were handed out including **Citizen of the Year, Racial Justice Award, Corporate Citizen of the Year, President's Award and Yellow Rose**. Employees were also recognized for their years of service.

Linda Castagna was named YWCA Lancaster's Citizen of the Year. Linda, a community volunteer and a former member of YWCA Lancaster's Board of Trustees for six years, is an energetic volunteer whose dedication to the YW is outstanding, said Maureen Powers, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Lancaster.

"While on our Trustees, Linda chaired our Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling Center Advisory Committee, helping us evaluate and improve our services to victims of sexual assault," Powers said. "She was a willing and able solicitor for our annual campaigns, and strongly supported our capital campaign as well. All of the organizations with which she has been involved are much the better for her participation. Linda's quiet leadership calls no attention to itself; she simply gets the job done. She has worked to build community for all of us in the arts, on a college campus, and for vulnerable populations needing help from human service providers."

The Racial Justice Award was given to Darlene Colon, former member of YWCA Lancaster's Board of Directors and past chairman of the YW's Racial Justice Committee. Colon's involvement in local historical societies and racial justice organizations is strong and she is well known in Lancaster for her portrayal of Lydia Hamilton Smith. Smith, an African American woman and widow with two young sons, became the housekeeper to Thaddeus Stevens in 1847 and worked with him for 25 years. Lydia

Hamilton Smith managed Stevens' home and businesses in Lancaster and also accompanied him to Washington, D.C. to run his household and to serve as hostess.

Corporate Citizen of the Year was awarded to LIVE Green, a nonprofit environmental organization in Lancaster County that is focused on improving the environment in urban settings. Chief Financial Officer Angie Lightfoot Roth said LIVE Green contacted the YWCA Lancaster a few years ago and volunteered their services to help the YW conserve environmental resources and save money. The result was an overall reduction in electricity usage and paper products consumed, along with other significant cost reduction strategies.

The President's Award went to current Board of Directors member and Board secretary Crystal Mills. Yellow Rose awards went to Kathleen Bowers, Deirdre Foley Citro, Lisa Kennedy and Darren Nye. Yellow Roses are handed out to volunteers who make significant contributions of time, talent and services to the YWCA Lancaster.

Staff members were also recognized for their longevity. Employees who have served five years are: Cathy Diamond, Hallie Greco, Colleen Harrington, Pat Kalish, Amanda Kastner, Beth Kuhns, Jenny Rosario, Juanita Smith and April Wright. Employees who served 10 years are Bill Hannegan and Pamela Smith. And 15 years of service recognition went to Judith Churach and Terry Weis.

Also, at the Annual Meeting, new officers were installed on the YW's Board of Directors, they include: President – Elizabeth Bennett; V.P. Administration – Mary Pat Donnellon; V.P. Finance – Kathleen Aster Bowers; V.P. Programs – Andrea Stoner Lehman; V.P. Policy – Judy Pehrson; Treasurer – Kerri Bogda; and Secretary – Crystal Mills. New board members for the 2011-12 year are: Trudy Brandt, Magdalen Hess, Karyn Regitz and Barbra Bray Smithgall. Outgoing board members are: Darlene Colon (8 years), Ann Gantt (3 years), Ann Jackson (3 years), Mara Cresswell McGrann (3 years) and Colleen Milligan (8 years).

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Captions below:



Photo 1:
YWCA Lancaster's Chief Executive Officer Maureen Powers awards Lancaster resident Linda Castagna with the Citizen of the Year Award at the YWCA Lancaster's Annual Meeting on May 18. Linda served on the YW's Board of Trustees and on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling Center Advisory Committee.



Photo 2:
YWCA Lancaster's Chief Executive Officer Maureen Powers (center) with YW's Board of Directors President Elizabeth Bennett (left) and YW's Board of Trustees President Gina Russo at the YWCA Lancaster's Annual Meeting on May 18.

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