

# our voice

Winter 2011 Newsletter for YWCA Lancaster



## our mission

**ywca lancaster is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.**

## ywca programs:

**childcare**

**empowerment center (mentoring & education)**

**parenting support**

**public policy advocacy**

**racial justice initiatives**

**residence**

**sexual assault prevention & counseling center (SAPCC)**

[www.ywcalancaster.org](http://www.ywcalancaster.org)

717-393-1735

A United Way Agency

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## 2012 Annual Campaign for Women and Children

### Help and support from YWCA helps resident regain control of her life

Our 2012 Annual Campaign for Women and Children is underway, and we are asking donors for a **Gift of Empowerment** – a theme directly related to our mission of empowering women. This year we're highlighting our Residence Program which empowers women going through troubled times. We provide a supportive place to stay while they get their lives on an even keel emotionally and financially before moving on to independent housing.

Residents come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are recently separated, some are fleeing domestic violence, some are single mothers with young children, and some have just completed drug or alcohol recovery programs and need time to get back on their feet.

We'd like to introduce you to Kerry Odgers, a 26-year-old recovering heroin addict, who came to live at the YW Residence while she completed a court ordered rehabilitative program after a retail theft.

Kerry says she wasn't raised to live like that, "I had a very stable family life." After high school, Kerry completed a 4-year degree program in criminal justice and seemed all set to succeed. Yet something was wrong with how she felt about herself and when she was 19 started taking heroin to get through the day. On the surface she appeared to lead a normal life and can best be described as a functional addict,



*"The YWCA Residence has given me the opportunity to get my life together. I'm growing, I embrace it, I love myself. I would not change that for anything in the world, and I'm grateful I've had the chance to do it here." - Kerry Odgers, YW resident*

completing her studies while living from one fix to the next.

Then her addiction took control. It stopped her from being able to hold down a job, she couldn't free herself from an abusive relationship with another addict, wrote bad checks and got involved in retail theft.

Kerry says, "Everything I learned growing up was thrown out the window. I just did whatever it took, even if that meant sacrificing me, my respect and my values."

Kerry can remember the moment she decided to turn her life around. It was in a halfway

house treatment facility where others were making decisions for her. She said, "I don't want to live like that."

At the YW she's been encouraged to have a full self-awareness and became empowered. Kerry says the stability and support she's received from the staff and other residents helped her take control of her life, stay with the program and keep away from drugs. She's had regular employment, fulfilled her community service obligations, paid off her fines and put money aside for independent living.

Kerry says, "I never thought I could be happy like this. I always thought it was contingent on a job, money or a boyfriend. Now I'm doing something for me, not someone else and it's a great feeling. I'm a different woman."

*Kerry is one of thousands of Lancaster County women and children in need who have been empowered by our services.*

*Will you please help us help them by sending a Gift of Empowerment in the envelope included with this newsletter?*

*Thank you.*

## YW Donor Thank You Celebration

### *Donors meet the people who've been helped by our services*

More than 60 people came to our Donor Thank You Celebration on a sunny afternoon in October. It was a delight to see so many good friends of the YW from over the years.

In her welcoming address Board President Elizabeth Bennett explained, "We want to express our appreciation for your loyal support of our mission and show you some of the good things you have helped us do. And what better way of doing this than giving you the opportunity to meet some of the people who have benefited directly from our services."

There was no podium or PowerPoint. Instead, we used an informal talk show approach as MC John Jascoll (Chief Development Officer) chatted with three guests and the staff who knew them. We had a teen parent who was able to finish high school by using our childcare center located on site at McCaskey; a former resident who'd been homeless and has moved on to independent living; and a woman receiving counseling in our Sexual Assault Center. All three shared their stories with everyone present.



MC John Jascoll and CEO Maureen Powers share a laugh during the YW Donor Thank You Celebration.



Jane Mueller (former Board Member), Mary Mattson (Board President 1987-1989) and Gina Russo (Trustee Chair 2008-present).

The Celebration included a discussion with Nick Miron as to why he chose to become the Coordinator of the YW's Racial Justice and Advocacy programs, and finished with CEO Maureen Powers looking to the future as she reviewed the HUD project for permanent housing units in the Residence and our upcoming strategic plan.

Our thanks to everyone involved including two anonymous donors for the refreshments and valet parking.



MC John Jascoll (Chief Development Officer) and Residence Director Mary Commero (right) chat with Julie Dellet and her daughter Shea about their time living at the Residence.



Former Board Presidents, Carol Pyfer (1991-1993) and Annemarie Strickler (1954-1959).

## YWCA Lancaster, HUD and community partners team up to make the dream of permanent housing a reality for homeless women

### 12 units of transitional housing will be converted into Section 8 housing at YWCA Residence

In an effort to provide affordable permanent housing for homeless women and in keeping with the United Way of Lancaster's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, YWCA Lancaster is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), local foundations and private donors to convert twelve rooms to Section 8 housing units at the YW Residence, 110 North Lime St., Lancaster.

"This truly is a community effort that will enable us to turn twelve units of transitional housing into permanent housing for the homeless," said Maureen Powers, YWCA Lancaster's Chief Executive Officer. "The beauty of the project is that it fits with our mission, strategic plan, and our historical and current expertise in managing housing for low income women."

The project is part of Lancaster's Continuum of Care Plan and furthers the United Way's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. YWCA Lancaster has secured a \$633,000 10-year grant from HUD for site-specific Section 8 housing, for which the YW will receive fair market rent. The project is expected to be completed by early 2012 and will provide twelve permanent housing units for homeless women. Residents will pay a percent of their income towards rent, with HUD making up the difference. Unlike the YW's transitional housing, the permanent units will be under a landlord/tenant agreement and not limited to a 2-year stay.

YWCA Lancaster will have to make some physical improvements to its facility and upgrade its infrastructure to meet HUD requirements. Construction bids are currently being sought for what is estimated will be a \$191,000 project. Funding will come from



Painting crews scrape old paint and apply coats of fresh paint to the window frames of the Orange Street side of YW's building. The window painting is part of HUD requirements for Section 8 housing.

a number of sources.

The Lancaster Housing Opportunity Partnership is providing a loan of around \$52,242 for construction work, and the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority a CDBG grant of \$58,796 for painting the exterior windows.

The Lancaster County Community Foundation has provided a Sustainability Grant that will make it possible for YWCA Lancaster to put \$40,000 toward operations with a \$40,000 matching grant from The High Foundation. Two private donors have contributed a total of \$13,500. Another foundation grant is pending.

YWCA Lancaster was established in 1889 to provide safe, affordable housing for women. The YW has steadily adapted its many services for women over the past 122 years to meet emerging community needs, but has continued to maintain its transitional housing program, the oldest and second largest in the county. While many YWCAs have abandoned their residences, YWCA Lancaster has remained a beacon of hope for women who would otherwise be unable to find shelter for themselves and their children.

YWCA Lancaster is dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women. The agency provides more than 10,000 Lancaster County residents with empowerment services that include housing for women and children going through troubled times; developmentally appropriate childcare for ages six weeks to 12 years; free counseling and support for victims of sexual assault/abuse; youth services to prevent sexual violence, teen pregnancy, school dropout, gender bias and racism; parenting classes; and a range of customized racial justice initiatives.

# YW Received Bequests from Anna Maria Brunke and Betty Wintersteen

We recently received two generous legacies from Anna Maria Brunke (1922-2009) and Laura Elizabeth "Betty" Wintersteen (1914-2009).

Anna Maria Brunke is best remembered for helping form



Anna Maria Brunke

Universal Friends of the Lancaster YWCA devoted to giving women of different nationalities a fuller understanding of each other's cultures.

No one was better qualified for making this a success than Anna Maria who had a truly international background and was

fluent in several languages. Born and raised in Germany, Anna Maria Muller met her future husband, U.S. Col. William Brunke, when he was stationed there in 1955 and she was serving as an interpreter for the French Army. The couple moved to the US the following year, eventually settling in Lancaster County where she immersed herself in the Association's activities.

Anna Maria said her work developing Universal Friends into an influential organization of international understanding made her a citizen of the world.

Betty Wintersteen came to Lancaster in 1970 to assume a position as a math teacher at McCaskey High School. She had just retired as a lieutenant commander with the US Navy, stationed at Lakehurst, New Jersey, where she had been Chief



Betty Wintersteen

Meteorologist with the lighter-than-air aircraft known as "blimps".

Lancaster was new to Betty and, not knowing the area, she took up residence at the YWCA on North Lime Street. Finding an ad on a bulletin board at McCaskey, she

moved to an apartment in the 200 block of East Orange. Its close proximity to the YW enabled her to remain involved with the many activities she had enjoyed there, particularly the swimming pool.

Betty's love for the YWCA and its mission of empowering women and girls remained a guiding force throughout her life.

## Volunteer bakers brighten birthdays for children in the Residence

Volunteer bakers with Sweet Dreams US, Inc. make birthdays for children in YW's Residence sweeter by delivering a custom made birthday cake free of charge to the parent or to the YW.



Sweet Dreams is a volunteer operated and supported organization whose mission is to offer baked treats to children, families and social service organizations who otherwise might not be able to celebrate birthdays,

holidays or special occasions.

YW Residence Case Manager Lori Yelk said she is amazed at the generosity of the volunteers who bake custom cakes for up to 16 children in the residence a year. Lori asks the children what kind of cake they want and relays

it to the volunteer bakers.

"The children really love receiving the cakes. It really makes their birthday extra special."

## Please remember us in your will

Many donors have made provisions for us in their wills and for that we are truly grateful. Legacies are an important way of ensuring the future of YWCA Lancaster. But we often don't find out about a donor's intentions until we receive the gift many years later, and by then we've lost the opportunity to personally recognize their generosity.

That's why we encourage donors to share their plans with us, so we can thank these generous women and men who are thinking about the YW in the years to come.

If you have made provisions for the YW in your will or would like information about doing so, please call our Chief Development Officer, John Jascoll, at 393-1735 or e-mail [jjascoll@ywcalan-caster.org](mailto:jjascoll@ywcalan-caster.org).

## Join the YWCA and support the world's community of women!

Membership in the YWCA joins you with other like-minded adults to support the Mission of the YWCA locally, nationally and internationally. When you join the YWCA, you join an international movement that works to empower women and girls and eliminate sexism and racism.

YWCA membership is required for Childcare, Residence and use of the Physical Fitness Center at 110 N. Lime St. To sign up for membership, fill out the registration form and

**1. Mail-in:** Mail the completed registration form with payment to YWCA Lancaster, 110 N. Lime St., Lancaster, PA 17602.

**2. Phone-in:** In order to register by phone, a credit card must be used. Calls will be returned in the order they are received.

**3. Walk-in:** All payments for membership are accepted at the Front Desk Monday-Friday (7am-6pm) and Sunday (4pm-6pm).

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Please make checks payable to **YWCA Lancaster.** We accept Visa & MasterCard.

### The YWCA at Lime Street hours

Mon-Tues 6:15 am - 7:00 pm  
Wed 6:15 am - 9:00 pm  
Thurs-Fri 6:15 am - 7:00 pm  
Saturday Closed  
Sunday 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The YWCA building will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 24-27 and Christmas Dec. 24-26

### YWCA Action Network

We urge you to add your voice to ours to strengthen the YW's impact in the nation's capital and in state and local governments by sending your e-mail address and zip code to our Action Network at: [advocacy@ywcalan-caster.org](mailto:advocacy@ywcalan-caster.org). We will alert you when impending state or federal legislation related to our Mission is coming to a vote so you can take action with a phone call or the click of a mouse.

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_  
Partner/Parent \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  Female  Male

### Member/Ally Fees

Check your categories:  
 New  Renewal Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_  Member  Ally  
YWCA members are women and girls. Ally members are men and boys.

Check your membership type:  
 Adult (18+ and out of high school) **\$35**  
(Preschool children are included under a parent's or guardian's membership)  
 Family (includes 2 adults & children under 18 in the same household.) **\$55**  
Please list names and birth dates for Family Membership and pre-school children to be covered under Adult Membership.  
 Senior Citizen (60+) **\$25**  
 Student (5-17) **\$15**

Full Name	Birth date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Fees for use of the Physical Fitness Center at 110 N. Lime St. are in addition to membership fees.  
 3-month pass **\$45**  
 6-month pass **\$85**  
**Physical Fitness Center:**  12-month pass **\$145**

**Fitness Pass** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Member/Ally fees** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL Payment Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

