

yw words

eliminating racism
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St. Paul

For Friends, Members and the Greater St. Paul Community

Winter 2013-2014

employment services on the move

YW Works Relocates to 375 Selby Avenue



Construction is underway at the YWCA. The renovation will centralize our Employment & Economic Development programs.

A symphony of drills and hammers is filling the hallways at the YWCA St. Paul. Since October, a crew has been hard at work renovating a space that will soon house our Employment & Economic Development Department—and as part of the project, the YW Works program (YWW) will be getting a new address!

In December, YWW will vacate its leased space on University Avenue and move to the organization's administrative building at 375 Selby Avenue. The relocation will bring all our employment programs together, increasing their capacity to work as a department and to collaborate with programs agency-wide.

"As we continue expanding our services to move more people into work, this transition will help us serve both job seekers and area employers more efficiently," explains Danielle Taylor, Chief Program Officer at the YWCA.

Once construction wraps up this winter, the remodeled space will be equipped to accommodate staff from YWW, YW Jobs and the Commercial Driver's License Training Program. In addition to offices and a conference room, the space will also include a computer lab, where program participants can take tests, participate in trainings and work on their job searches.

With winter quickly approaching, the YWCA eagerly awaits this exciting transition and looks forward to opening our doors to even more job seekers!

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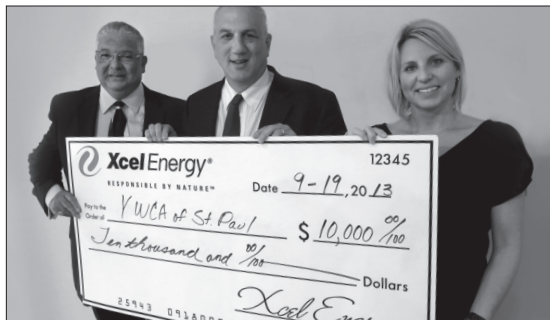
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within our walls

A Glimpse at Programming and Happenings



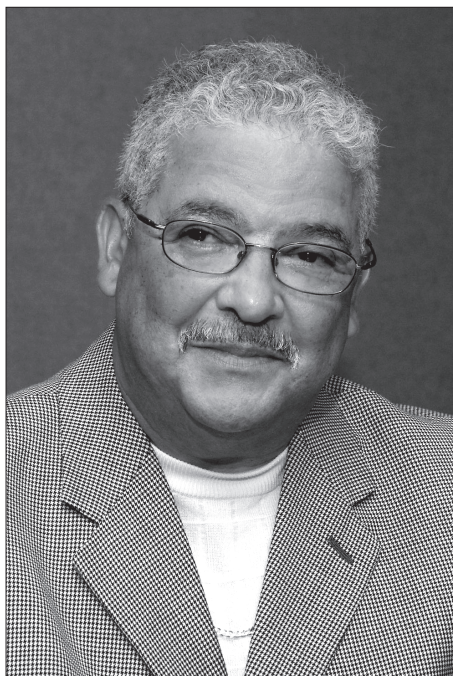
YAP participants helped fight hunger by packing potatoes at Second Harvest Heartland.



Xcel Energy's recent donation will help families fighting homelessness in the Transitional Housing Program. Pictured: Allen Krug, Xcel Energy (center); Billy Collins and Krissy Zimba, YWCA St. Paul



On behalf of the YWCA St. Paul, president Debbie Montgomery (left) welcomed Dara Richardson-Heron (right), CEO of YWCA USA, during her recent visit to Minnesota.



Chief Executive Officer, William L. Collins, Jr.

home for the holidays

More Homes for the Homeless at the YWCA St. Paul

This fall, the YWCA St. Paul welcomed not only changing colors and cooler temperatures—but also the acquisition of some new properties! In September, we purchased a cluster of duplexes in the Summit-University neighborhood. The 8 units provide homes for families who have experienced homelessness and are living with a disability.

The path to ownership began in 2011 when the YWCA began contracting to provide property and case management services for the properties and their residents. When the opportunity to purchase was presented, it was a logical extension for our Permanent Supportive Housing Program, and we are thrilled to be able to play a role in helping more families to overcome homelessness at the YWCA St. Paul.

Now that we have assumed ownership, case managers will continue to provide supportive services to help families stabilize their lives, manage their disabilities and take better control of their health. We're confident that within our walls, families will find not only a place to call home, but also the support they need to break the cycle of homelessness.

Your support makes these successes possible. Thank you and happy holidays to you and yours!

William L. Collins Jr.



Robyne Robinson and Shannon Hoagland creating keepsakes for the women of THP.

making memories

Handmade Jewelry Honors Achievements

A small group of community members recently engaged both their hands and their hearts to create thoughtful keepsakes for women combatting homelessness. With nimble fingers and abundant generosity, they made more than 50 pendants for participants in the Transitional Housing Program (THP).

The group was inspired by a necklace worn by Rozan, a Housing & Supportive Services participant who was honored at this year's Sweet Success celebration. Reflecting on her journey out of homelessness, Rozan shared that her necklace had become a powerful symbol and reminder to focus on the future.

Wanting more women to have a keepsake like Rozan's, YWCA supporters Shannon Hoagland and Robyn Hansen organized an event and invited others to come lend a helping hand. The group got expert guidance from local jewelry designer Robyne Robinson and together they created pieces that will be given to women celebrating milestones like landing a new job, earning a new credential, paying off debt or exiting the program.

While the necklaces will help the women to celebrate their achievements, the keepsakes will also serve as a meaningful expression of community support.

To learn more about Rozan's story and the inspiration for her necklace, please visit <http://bit.ly/YWRozan>.

holiday giving

Sharing the Joy of the Season

Each year during the holidays, our members, neighbors and friends show remarkable generosity toward people in need. Driven to make the season brighter for families fighting homelessness, supporters take part in holiday giving by donating hundreds of gifts for the families served by YWCA Housing & Supportive Services programs.

From November 25 – December 14, wish lists will once again decorate the branches of trees in the Health & Fitness Center. To help make holiday wishes come true, simply stop by, select a tag and use it as your guide when shopping. Unwrapped gifts will be collected at the Member Services Desk through December 14.

More than just holiday wishes, the donations ensure that basic needs are not neglected during the winter months. "Families working to overcome homelessness live on an extremely limited budget," explained Krissy Zimba, Director of Housing & Supportive Services. "In order to purchase gifts for their families, they would have to forgo basic needs like food, utilities, rent and child care."

In-kind gifts and financial support ensure there is something for everyone at this time of year, and your generosity has a profound impact. As one recipient shared, "It means a lot that someone else in this world thought and cared about us. We [now] feel more a part of the community."

Looking for other ways to show your support during the holidays? Financial contributions help change lives throughout the year. Give online at <http://bit.ly/ywdonate> or call 651-222-3741.



Help make holiday wishes come true. Giving Trees will be located in the HFC Nov. 25 – Dec. 14.

celebrating success

Becoming a Leader

Equipped with the talent to go far, Khalique needed extra support to help realize his potential. At the YWCA, he found a team of people who helped him to chart a positive course for high school and beyond.

As a participant in the IMPACT program, Khalique has explored post-secondary options, developed his leadership skills and gained paid work experience. "The YWCA has helped me to become a good young man, stay on the right track and actually want to do something with myself," he explains.

Last year, Khalique put his leadership skills to use at Jackson Elementary. Working part-time in the afterschool program, he helped lead fitness-focused activities and offered homework assistance to low-income students in grades K-3.

With ongoing encouragement and support from IMPACT, Khalique is working to complete his final credits of high school and plans to continue his education at Inver Hills Community College.



Khalique, IMPACT Participant



Tina Grant

profile in leadership

Board Welcomes Newest Member

The YWCA St. Paul is pleased to introduce our newest board member, Tina Grant. With more than 25 years of experience in finance and accounting management, Grant has held positions at Ecolab, the Pillsbury Company and S.C. Johnson Wax. In her current role at Ecolab, she serves as Controller of Global Human Resources and supports functions relating to employee benefits and merger and acquisition integration.

Grant is a founding member of two Ecolab employee networks focused on empowering women and people of color in the workplace. She is active in the Minneapolis Chapter of Jack and Jill and holds degrees from Clark Atlanta University (formerly Clark College) and Marquette University.

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YWCA St. Paul is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

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St. Paul



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