

yw words

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

St. Paul

For Friends, Members and the Greater St. Paul Community

Spring 2016

focused on the future

Young Mom Works to Put Homelessness in the Past



Keeanna, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Participant

At 18, Keeanna faced the challenges of trying to raise a child while still growing up herself. “I had just become an adult, and then I was a mom,” she reflects. “So I had to find myself, be a good mom, and still find a way to stick to my dreams.”

At first, Keeanna and her daughter made ends meet by staying with family and friends and moving from couch to couch. When they had exhausted their options, they began living in their car.

Quickly realizing she couldn’t raise a toddler from a car, Keeanna soon enrolled in YWCA’s Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program. “Once I got connected to the YW, my life got brighter,” she says. “I was able to reach out, let go of my pride, and get the help I needed.”

At the YWCA Keeanna found safe, affordable housing and so much more. With a stable place to call home and ongoing support from her case manager, she began to focus on improving her finances and making plans for the future. In just one year she secured a higher paying job, paid off old debts and enrolled in college!

Currently working full-time while pursuing a degree in accounting, Keeanna is determined to provide a legacy of strength and stability for her daughter as she grows. Being a single mom, balancing school and work, trying to make ends meet – it’s all challenging, but she also sees the opportunity. “My daughter is going to know what school is,” she explains. “She’s going to know what being financially stable looks like!”

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within our walls

A Glimpse at Programming and Happenings



Our staff went Orange to the Max for GiveMN's Give to the Max Day! Thanks to our generous supporters, we raised over \$15,000 for the women, children and families we serve.



This winter, we dedicated the Collins Conference Center in honor of Billy Collins in recognition of his 20 years of service as Chief Executive Officer.



At the 2015 Holiday Wrapping Party, our members, donors and friends wrapped more than 900 gifts donated to families fighting homelessness.

mission motivated

Uniting to Advance Common Goals

Last month, I attended the YWCA USA's Leadership & Capacity Building Institute. It was a chance to connect and learn with leaders from YWCAs across the nation. As we got to know each other, we also had the opportunity to learn about the important work that YWCAs across the country do to further our mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

The YWCA has always been on the forefront of social change for racial equality. Whether participating in the March on Washington or declaring the YWCA's One Imperative, YWCA leaders have played important roles in the civil rights movement by creating public policy and social change. Their accomplishments and passion continue to guide us today.

I'm excited to share with you that YWCA USA has been working to develop a national framework for mission impact. The framework will focus on ways that all YWCAs can unite to make a difference for racial justice & civil rights; women's empowerment & security; and women's health. This work has never been more important.

Locally, I'm proud of all we do to help change minds bodies and lives. Whether offering housing and supportive services, health and wellness, youth programming or employment and economic development, ensuring that we continue to advance our mission and effectively serve the community is of the utmost importance. Please know that as we continue our work to eliminate racism and empower women, your enthusiasm, wisdom and support makes a tremendous difference.

Gaye Adams Massey



**Gaye Adams Massey, YWCA St. Paul
Chief Executive Officer**

community ambassadors

Engaging Teens, Decreasing Crime

Whether building relationships, helping to de-escalate problems or referring youth for services, Community Ambassadors (formerly known as the Saint Paul Youth Intervention Initiative or SPYII) is making an impact on youth crime rates in the City of Saint Paul!

The project grew out of a pilot program in 2013 and has since expanded to a city-wide initiative. Taking aim at a spike in youth crime and arrests, the initiative literally meets kids where they are at by deploying experienced youth workers to city streets, parks, transit stops and other gathering places.

Recruited from the very communities they serve, the Ambassadors have been successful in stopping trouble before it starts and de-escalating situations that may have otherwise resulted in violence or police contact.

A collaboration between the City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Police Department and a network of service providers, program administration for the initiative has been housed at the YWCA St. Paul since its inception in 2013.

To better meet the needs of the growing initiative, this spring exciting changes are ahead. The program administration function will transfer to another service provider and the initiative will relocate to new office space. YWCA St. Paul is proud to have played a role in the launch of Community Ambassadors and looks forward to future opportunities to collaborate and support this important community work!



The Community Ambassadors help engage teens and stop trouble before it starts.



2015 Sweet Success Honorees

sweet success

Celebrating the Achievements of Women, Children & Families

Mark your calendars! Sweet Success is just around the corner. The celebration will bring together members, donors, volunteers and friends to celebrate the many successes made possible by YWCA programs and services.

An hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception, the event will include a social hour and short program to honor the accomplishments of four program participants as well as recognize the outstanding contributions of volunteers.

The event will take place on Tuesday, May 24 at Saint Paul College on Marshall Avenue in St. Paul. To RSVP or for more information, contact Liz Spielman at lspielman@ywcaofstpaul.org or 651-265-0792.

welcome deena zubulake

Director of Youth Development



New Director of Youth Programs, Deena Zubulake

Please join us in welcoming Deena Zubulake, as the new director of youth development! Deena comes to the YWCA St. Paul from St. Paul Public Schools where she worked helping students from the justice system re-integrate into school and the community. Passionate about youth empowerment, Deena she has also held positions at Bridge for Youth and Avenues for Homeless Youth.

Deena has a master's degree in education with a focus on youth development from the University of Minnesota and is excited to put her skills and expertise to work at YWCA St. Paul. "I find that young people are authentic and committed to their lived experiences, values and ideas," she says. "I'm passionate about engaging in identity work with youth and creating safe spaces for them to learn and grow."

For Deena, the YWCA's mission of empowering women and eliminating racism is a perfect fit. "As a person who values social justice, and strives to live that way, it's really important to feel connected," she says. "Which is why I'm thrilled to be doing community youth work in a place that shares those values both professionally and personally."

Outside of work, Deena enjoys spending time with her close group of friends, reading a good book, playing video games, and going on adventures with her 18-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter.

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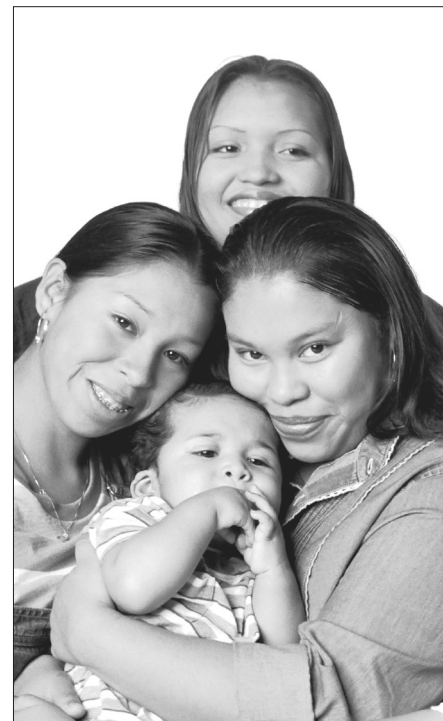
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YWCA St. Paul is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

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