

dignity and peace

eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

summer 2010

issue 45

charleston, wv



Girls Night Out

Luau on the Lawn
Thursday- August 12, 2010

Photo courtesy of Chris Gosses Photography



Viva Las Vegas BUNCO

Thursday- July 22, 2010



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high hopes summer parties 2010

to benefit hope house, the ywca resolve shelter for domestic violence victims and their children



Thursday, July 22, 2010
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Edgewood Country Club

\$35 in advance, **\$50** at the door (*tickets are 50% tax deductible*)

It's Bunco, baby, Vegas style! Join the **St. Francis Hospital Domestic Violence Committee** for a fabulous evening of rolling the dice, hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, door prizes and a cash bar. Bring a gal-pal, some extra cash/plastic for the silent auction and reserve early, as seating is limited. No experience is needed, since Bunco is a game of 100% luck and 0% skill! Bring a personal/toiletry item to donate to the YWCA's domestic violence shelter and you'll be entered to win a beautiful seasonal wreath.

**REGISTER FOR
BOTH EVENTS TODAY**

gnowv.com • buncowv.com
or call 304.340.3573



Thursday, August 12, 2010
6:00 pm – 11:00 pm
**Sunrise Mansion offices of
Farmer Cline & Campbell, PLLC**

\$75 per person through August 7
\$100 per person effective August 8 and at the door
Tickets are 75% tax deductible.
Shuttle available from Bridge Road shops. Must be 21 to attend.

Aloha! Join us for fun in the sun at this year's **Girls Night Out – Luau on the Lawn**. It's a traditional Hawaiian *lu'au* at this summer's biggest *wahine* (women) only event in Charleston. A record 650+ people attended last year's event, so this is one party you won't want to miss! This year's theme brings the allure of the islands right here to our city. We'll turn the beautiful grounds of Sunrise Mansion (graciously offered once again by the law offices of Farmer, Cline and Campbell) into an exotic paradise with the help of Valley Gardens, chauffeur guests in lavish vehicles from Moses Automotive, and cater your thirst with tropical cocktails from Men in Bartending.

Wear your favorite island-inspired fashions and feel like a true Hawaiian princess from the moment you're greeted at the grand entrance. Be sure to tuck extra cash/cards/checks in your purse for the live and silent auctions or to purchase extra raffle tickets, as this year's items will be hotter than a tiki torch! Then sit back and listen to the inspirational testimony of a domestic violence survivor and be reminded of the event's primary purpose. Finally, dance (or *hula*, if you'd like) the night away to live Pacific/Latin-inspired tunes by Comparsa. Stroll home with an exotic gift bag on your shoulder, a smile on your face, and the knowledge that you have helped make a difference!

sojourner's to find a temporary new home during summer renovations

Now that summer is in full swing, and the YWCA Sojourner's Shelter is gearing up to work on some much-needed projects. Since the program moved to its current location on Washington Street East in 1992, it has provided shelter and services around the clock, 365 days a year to those in greatest need in our community. While occasional renovations and repairs have been made, the facility has never received an extensive overhaul during these past 18 years. Therefore, we realize that a **temporary program relocation will be necessary to accomplish these long-overdue but greatly needed remodeling, repair and maintenance projects.**

Necessary facility improvements include but are not limited to: renovating the kitchen; relocating the laundry facility from the basement to the ground floor; removing carpet and replacing it with tile; replacing industrial size hot water tanks; fully eliminating a persisting bed bug problem from a few bedrooms; and increasing shelter safety and security features. We are currently looking into alternate facilities to temporarily house residents this summer while we undertake these projects to create a safer, more sanitary and updated facility for our clients.



When a location is established, a 4-8 week work plan will be implemented at the shelter and more specific details for client support will be identified. **During any temporary relocation, the YWCA Sojourner's program will still fully operate at its temporary location** and will continue to provide shelter, food and clothing, along with comprehensive supportive services such as counseling, case management, children's programs, and housing relocation and transportation assistance. When a location is established, we will be able to provide more specific details on the project and we'll keep you posted as these exciting changes take place!

We wish to extend a huge thank-you to the **West Virginia Housing Development Fund** for taking the lead in underwriting the cost of these critical renovations. Thanks also to the **WV Department of Health & Human Resources** for their help in bringing other critical resources to the table, and to the **United Way of Central WV** for its one-time allocation to the YWCA and other partner agencies. Finally, we are so very grateful to **Lloyd Miller of Lloyd W. Miller Architects, John Jarrett of Jarrett Construction, and Bobby Reishman of Reishman Associates** for their instrumental work in identifying numerous projects and solutions at the shelter.

ywca 24 for 24 pledge campaign wins "best in west virginia" award

Kudos to the YWCA's marketing & communications office along with several invaluable pro bono partners – your hard work and creativity paid off! Four YWCA submissions to the Public Relations Society of America's West Virginia Chapter Crystal Awards won the highest awards in their respective categories, with a fifth submission earning an honorable mention. We were even more honored to be awarded the "Best in West Virginia" award at the end of the evening for our 24 for 24 Pledge campaign. We are so grateful to our pro bono partners, who deserve equal recognition for each of these honors: **Amanda Easter with Inside Out Creative, LLC; Alex Morgado of Morgado Design; and Dan Shreve and Joe Stevens of The Media Center.**



(L to R): YWCA Marketing Committee Chair **Elizabeth Pellegrin**, YWCA Executive Director **Debby Weinstein**, **Dan Shreve** of The Media Center, YWCA Marketing Director **Laura Jordan**, PRSA-WV President-Elect **Lisa Wharton Turner**, **Joe Stevens** of The Media Center, **Alex Morgado** of Morgado Design, and PRSA-WV President **George Manahan**.



**a message
from ywca
board of
directors
president**
sue sergi

Highly functioning non-profits are successful in part because they take advantage of opportunities, and in part, because they utilize challenges to improve performance. As an example, the YWCA now has the amazing opportunity of a \$4 million program endowment thanks to the leadership and vision of Lyell Clay and the generosity of hundreds of donors. We are now faced with the challenge to complete much-needed repairs and maintenance at the YWCA Sojourner's Shelter.

Our ability to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities can only be enhanced if we have a clear strategic direction in place. Therefore, I have appointed a strategic planning committee facilitated by Becky King and led by Board 2nd V.P. Erin Magee with representatives from both our Board of Directors and the community. This committee is charged with developing our next 3-year strategic plan (2011-2014) to further the mission of the YWCA of Charleston.

During the next few months, the committee will review our history and conduct an organizational analysis. Committee members will conduct interviews with key community leaders and donors, and Ms. King will conduct focus groups with persons we serve. The committee will also solicit input from our former Women of Achievement honorees. If you are contacted, I sincerely hope that you will participate. The committee will then analyze all the information gathered and summarize key findings, which will be presented to the Board of Directors to set goals and strategies to meet those goals. Of course the strategic plan will be available to our contributors and friends as well. We welcome your input.

To quote Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Yogi Berra, "If you don't know where you are going, you are certain to end up somewhere else."

Wishing you all a wonderful summer,

Sue H Sergi

**ywca charity
tuesdays at
tricky fish**



It's been a sizzling summer so far, and the deck is hopping at **Tricky Fish**, a casual restaurant on Charleston's East End featuring beach shack food, cold beer and frozen drinks. **Each Tuesday during the month of July**, the day's profits benefit the YWCA, so stop by from 11:00 am - 10:00 pm for your favorite seafood, tacos, BBQ and wings, and support the YWCA!



**music with
a message**

Take advantage of the City of Charleston's "Live on the Levee" free concert series **each Friday this summer** (through Sept. 3) from 6:00 - 10:00 pm on the new Schoenbaum Stage in Haddad Riverfront Park. Fifty-fifty raffle drawings benefit YWCA programs and other local social service nonprofits.

**women with biracial
children support group
summer schedule**

As part of the YWCA's Racial Justice Program, this support group exists to provide support and information for women who are raising biracial children. Participants must be mothers or female guardians raising children who are biracial and need support dealing with identity development, child rearing, racism, discrimination, and any other issues unique to caregivers with multiracial children.

DATE/TIME: 3rd Monday of each month, 6:00-7:00 pm
PLACE: See summer schedule below
CONTACT: Nell Fleming at (309) 825-9133 or nfleming@ywcacharleston.org.

July 19 - Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Outside on playground - 520 Kanawha Blvd. West
(Rain: Inside in UUC Webb Room)

August 16 - Celebration Station
Piedmont Elementary - 203 Bradford Street
(Rain: YWCA O'Connor-Autz Room - 1114 Quarrier Street)

September 20 - Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Outside on playground - 520 Kanawha Blvd. West
(Rain: Inside in UUC Webb Room)

ywca people

a tribute to the many faces of the ywca of charleston

the program participants, volunteers, staff, and donors that make our work worthwhile

sojourner's supporters

The YWCA Sojourner's Shelter receives donations and volunteer help on a daily basis, and we are so grateful for ALL who support our program. In this issue, we especially want to thank the following individuals, groups, foundations and companies for their contributions: **Nancy Birthisel; Charleston Fire Department – East End; City of Charleston; Ric Cochran; Julie Crouch; Joni Deutsch** and students of the **George Washington High School Book Club; Dollar General Foundation; Energy Corp of America; Fairlawn Baptist Church Women; First Presbyterian Church; Gould Motor Technologies; Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation; Michelle Haddox** for Mother's Day gifts; **Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jarrett; Johnson and Johnson; Junior League of Charleston; Betty Koontz; Logan Kennedy Eagle Project; Rick & Kimberly Mallory; Maranatha Fellowship Church; Catherine Martin; Mr. and Mrs. John Martin; Mike McCallister; Mr. and Mrs. Steve McGrath** for the "Run for the Wall" bike wash; **Lee A. Mitchell; Mothers and More** for preparing a luncheon and donating purses and other gifts; **Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ramirez III; Riverside High School** for teddy bears for the children; **Pastor Frank Shomo** and members of **Elizabeth Memorial United Methodist Church; St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Crusader Sunday School Class; United Way of Central WV; Unity of Kanawha Valley** for their quarterly donation of much-needed supplies; **Wendy's of Charleston – West Side;** and the **Women's Club of Nitro.**



Above: **UniCare Health Plan** representatives **Stacey Huffman** and **Billie Moore** (top row on left) brought fun games and activities to teach children at the **YWCA Sojourner's Shelter** about healthy lifestyles.



Right: Sisters **Brooke** (L) and **Trinity** (R) colored books from the **Charleston Police Department** that taught about kids' safety.



"**Mothers and More**" ladies group prepared lunch for residents at the **YWCA Sojourner's Shelter**, followed by a showering of purses and other gifts for residents.

Thanks also to our outstanding volunteers: **Imogene Bennington; Connie Bergstedt; Alberta Chapman; Kelly Cottrell; Guys Night Out** committee members; **Kanawha County Drug Court Division – Adults; Mary Manor; Loraine Tyson;** and the **WVDJ Kanawha Youth Reporting Center.** Thank you to ALL of the volunteers who give of their time and resources both inside and outside the facility assisting us with daily tasks, preparing special Sunday dinners, and hosting various fundraisers and other events.

shanklin shenanigans



Above: YWCA Shanklin Center Program Director **Sandy Benedict** spruced up the Shanklin Activity Center's front door with a bold new logo.

Left: YWCA Shanklin resident **Loretta Epling** (left) received her birthday gift from **Sandi Huff** of the Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees (KCARSE), who shares the same birthday.

Right: Shanklin resident **Nelda Broughton** put the first contents in the center's new compost bin.



hope house gifts

The YWCA Resolve Family Abuse Program thanks: **Megan Bailey** for her generous donation of personal items; **Cheryl Dolan** for her generous monetary donation; **Lorena Selario** for her generous monetary donation in memory of her mother; and to **all who donated cell phones** to help provide a means of safety for domestic violence victims.



(R to L): **Joan Engle, Clara Clay, Cindy Count, and Brenda Goldman** prepared a fabulous feast for YWCA Sojourner's Shelter residents.

a helping hand



Pastor Frank Shomo (left) and members of **Elizabeth Memorial United Methodist Church** (above) lent a helping hand at the YWCA Sojourner's Shelter.

NEW GIRLS NIGHT OUT WEBSITE:
gnowv.com CHECK IT OUT TODAY!



spotlight on:

two ywca volunteers who make a difference daily

glenna hughes

embodies empowerment. As a two-year resident of the YWCA's newest initiative, the **YWCA Empowerment Homes** (sponsored by *Appalachian Power*), Glenna has transformed her life from bouts of repeated homelessness to permanent housing and regular volunteer work. She volunteers two days each week at the **YWCA 2nd Seating Gently Used Furniture Store** just down the street from her cozy apartment – donating her time to a store that generates revenue for the very program that helps make Glenna's housing possible. Originally from Lincoln County, Glenna sought refuge at the **YWCA Sojourner's Shelter** twice before being referred to the YWCA Empowerment Homes. For the past six months, she has undertaken numerous responsibilities at 2nd Seating, including cleaning and helping move and arrange newly donated items onto the retail floor. When asked about her community of neighbors and support staff, Glenna couldn't be happier. "I love everyone," she said. "I love my neighbors and program directors, everyone at the store, and especially interacting with the customers." Thank you, Glenna, for your willingness to continue the circle of giving to make our community better.



bryan bennett

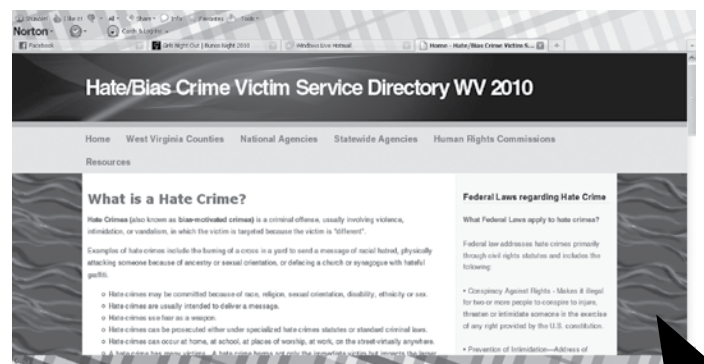
has worked behind the scenes at the YWCA for the past three years; however, his good work is far from unnoticed. Each week, Bryan volunteers at three different YWCA programs in Charleston. One day you may see him in the kitchen helping prepare meals at the **YWCA Mel Wolf Child Development Center**.



The next day, you may spot him sorting, pricing and organizing clothing donations at **YWCA Past & Present**. If you hang out at **YWCA 2nd Seating** for any length of time, you'll probably see him unloading donated furniture and home goods from our box truck. Wherever you find him, you can't help but notice his quiet, humble and hardworking demeanor. Bryan's first YWCA volunteer experience was prompted by a roommate who worked as a cook at the YWCA Mel Wolf Center. There, he met the former manager of YWCA Past & Present, whose daughter attended the center and who immediately saw his potential and heart for giving back to the community. The rest is history! If you happen across Bryan at any of our sites, please thank him for his outstanding contributions to our organization. Bryan, the YWCA is so very fortunate to have wonderful, dedicated volunteers like you!

hope and direction for hate crime victims

The **YWCA Racial Justice Program**, in collaboration with the community group OneKanawha and the West Virginia Hate Crimes Task Force, is proud to present a new **statewide victim service directory for victims of hate and bias crimes**. Victims of hate crimes are an underserved population. Services for victims of hate and bias crimes tend to fall under the scope of a larger umbrella of services for crime victims, including victims of domestic violence. Services that are funded by Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) are required by law to serve victims of hate crimes. For crime victims, it can be challenging to navigate the system of available services when seeking help and advocacy.



This new resource will provide advocates and victims in West Virginia with a valuable tool to more efficiently locate appropriate services to meet victims' needs. The new statewide directory can be found at www.victimsservicedirectory.org.

inside

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- tricky fish, music with a message, crystal awards, and a whole lot more!

gearing up for guys night out saturday, sept. 25



Guys – we know this issue primarily features events for our female audience, but don't forget to save the date for our 5th Annual Guys Night Out! **WVU vs. LSU, Saturday, September 25, at McJunkin Red Man.** We are currently securing this year's event sponsors and still have sponsorships available from \$500 to \$5,000. A portion of all sponsorships are tax deductible, and you receive great visibility for your support! Become a sponsor today. Contact Lesli Beavers at **(304) 414-3113** or lbeavers@ywcacharleston.org. Then be sure to get your tickets as soon as they go on sale later this summer! If you're interested in serving on the committee or would like to receive our event mailer, please send an email to guysnightoutwv@gmail.com.

plus

read more about two outstanding YWCA volunteers who make a difference daily through YWCA programs (pg. 7).



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with me.