

# dignity and peace

eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**

winter 2010

issue 42

charleston, wv

## ywca women of achievement



*Honoree  
photographs  
courtesy of  
Steve Payne.*

**14th Annual Awards Luncheon • Thursday, February 18, honoring:  
kay goodwin • star hogan • nina denton-pasinetti • deb copeland**

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**deb copeland** leads a life with multiple starring roles, including educator, entrepreneur, philanthropist, author, life coach, community activist, religious group leader, survivor, wife and mother. Author of the best-selling book, *Attitude Therapy*, Deb admits her greatest joy comes not from her business successes but from her maternal role in a blended family of eight – including three youngsters adopted from abroad. From 1981 to 1994, she served as President and CEO of Smart Temporary Services – a recruitment company she started and grew from just one employee to 4,000 employees serving seven states. After selling the company to a global firm, Deb started Work Smart Business Consultants – a training and development firm that readily became a leading supplier of consultant services to hospitals and major corporations across many industries. She is an active community volunteer, serving on numerous nonprofit boards. As a speaker and seminar leader, her compelling messages continue to draw audiences throughout the country. Deb has now officially “retired” to a lifetime of service, including starting a nonprofit called For Him that will raise money for worldwide charities and a division called A God Thing that will support local charities.



**nina denton-pasinetti** has been passionate about the arts since early in life, when she studied with the National Ballet of Canada, Ballet West, Cecchetti Ballet Council of America, Luigi and the Gus Giordano Center. A former Miss West Virginia, Nina graduated summa cum laude from Morris Harvey College with a major in mathematics and obtained an M.A. from Ohio University. She returned to Charleston to teach math at George Washington High School, where she also managed, choreographed and directed musicals and plays and later opened Ballet and Musical Theatre Dance Arts Inc. During the 1980s, she originated the Appalachian Youth Jazz-Ballet and served as president of Dance West Virginia. She began choreographing for the Charleston Light Opera Guild 38 years ago and became their artistic director 26 years ago – choreographing 136 musicals and directing 96 of them to date. Nina volunteers for FestivALL Charleston and the Clay Center, adjudicates for the WV State Thespian Festival, and serves as a member of the University of Charleston National Alumni Board. Nina is extremely proud of her many successful students that have continued professionally in theatre, film, television and dance, including actress Jennifer Garner.



**kay goodwin** is a lifetime forerunner in arts and education. Secretary Goodwin was reappointed Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Education and the Arts in 2005 by Governor Manchin and currently serves on the WV Higher Education Policy Commission, the WV Humanities Council, and the Professional Staff Development Advisory Council. Named a Distinguished West Virginian, WVU’s Outstanding Alumna, and recipient of the WVU President’s Distinguished Service Award, she was inducted into the WVU College of Human Resources and Education Hall of Fame in 2008. She is the former chair of the University of West Virginia System Board of Trustees, the WV Commission on the Arts, the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, and the Financial Aid Coordinating Council. She was appointed in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush to serve on the Independent Commission to Review the Grantmaking Procedures of the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2004, Secretary Goodwin was designated one of only four recipients of the National Public Service Award and was recognized as Daughter of the Year by the WV Society of Washington, DC. Secretary Goodwin has taught at both WVU and WVSU and has received five honorary doctoral degrees.

Celebrating 14 years of honoring outstanding women who make a difference in our community.

# achievement honorees



**star hogan** has dreamt big her whole life. Even while growing up in a Charleston housing project, she aspired to be the first in her family to graduate college, have a professional career, raise a family, and live happily ever after. Unfortunately, Star's life hasn't always been a fairy tale. During her sophomore year in college, she met the man she believed to be her "prince charming." However, after being diagnosed with Hodgkins Disease and suspending her education to undergo chemotherapy, Star became completely dependent on him for daily support. For the next 15 years, she withstood a relationship that was physically, emotionally, psychologically and financially abusive. In 2004, she filed a domestic violence petition against him and met a legal advocate from the YWCA Resolve Family Abuse Program during a child support and custody hearing. With the information and legal representation she received from the program, and the encouragement and support she received from family and friends, Star finally found

the courage to leave her abuser once and for all. She returned to school and obtained both bachelor's and master's degrees, which opened new doors to her career. Today she works as a benefits administrator at a large financial institution, lives at home with her two children, and teaches the YWCA Resolve Program's "Keys to Financial Freedom" financial literacy course, which empowers domestic violence survivors to engage in financial planning and accomplish their personal goals.

*Honoree photographs courtesy of Steve Payne Photography.*

## will you stand with us?

Join us in taking a **Stand Against Racism** on **Friday, April 30** by become a participating site and hosting your own "stand." Your event, public or private, can be as elaborate as a public rally or human chain demonstration, or as simple as asking your employees to observe a moment of silence or sign a pledge against racism. We will provide the ideas and tools – you decide your own way for your organization to "stand."

Stand Against Racism Day is an annual event of YWCAs nationwide, and will be the first event of its kind in the greater Kanawha Valley. Sign up to take a stand with us by visiting [www.StandAgainstRacism.org](http://www.StandAgainstRacism.org) and clicking "Become a Participating Site." You will then receive a free Stand Against Racism toolkit, which includes suggestions for event activities, "how to" templates, downloadable materials, posters, buttons and bookmarks for your participants. More than 1,500 sites with 200,000+ individuals are projected to participate in Stand Against Racism Day 2010 nationwide. For more information, contact Nell Fleming at [nfleming@ywcacharleston.org](mailto:nfleming@ywcacharleston.org) or (302) 825-9133.

**Against**

## 2010 Women of Achievement

eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**

*Thursday, February 18  
Noon - 1:30 p.m.  
Embassy Suites Hotel*

**Tickets:** \$75 (65% tax deductible)  
**Sponsorships:** \$150 - \$10,000

**tickets/info: (304) 414-3113  
or [ywcacharleston.org](http://ywcacharleston.org)**



**a message  
from new  
ywca board  
president  
sue sergi**

*At the beginning of each monthly meeting, the YWCA Board of Directors recites together the YWCA's mission statement to remind ourselves of our purpose: to eliminate racism, empower women, and provide peace, justice, freedom and dignity to all people. I am honored to have been chosen to lead this organization's Board of Directors over the next year as we continue to actively monitor the programs of the YWCA and ensure the financial integrity of the organization. Our programs are run by qualified, experienced and caring staff members led by Debby Weinstein, and we are grateful to them for the excellent service they provide to the community. I am both confident and excited in the leadership and initiatives that will occur in 2010.*

*I am pleased to announce Kara Williams as First Vice-Chair of the board, who will position us for the future by also chairing the Nominating Committee. Martha Petit will continue as Secretary, Erin Magee will be Second Vice-Chair, and Ruth Josek will continue to serve as Treasurer and ensure that members of the board are informed and are good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. Hallie Chillag Dunlap will continue to chair our Eliminating Racism Committee, and Freddy Davis, who brought much energy and enthusiasm to our \$2 Million Challenge Campaign, has again agreed to lead our development efforts as chair of our Fund Development Committee.*

*In 2010, the board will strive to become more aware of public policies that could have an impact on the programs of the YWCA. Once the impact of policies has been analyzed, our organization should have a stronger voice in advocating for policies that support the women and families we serve. Special thanks to Nancy Tonkin for agreeing to chair our newly formed Public Policy Committee. Finally, Elizabeth Pellegrin concluded her service as president of the board in November but will continue to serve on the board for another year as Immediate Past President and as chair of our Marketing Committee. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you Elizabeth for your dedication and outstanding leadership.*

Wishing you all  
the best in 2010,

*Sue I Sergi*

## 2nd annual eliminating racism art contest



Looking for artists of all ages – kindergarten through adult! In conjunction with our first ever Stand Against Racism Day on April 30, we're encouraging artistic interpretations of this year's theme: "**Racism Hurts Everyone.**"

Submissions will be displayed in a juried art exhibit April 21 - May 2 at the YWCA. Any two-dimensional piece of artwork no larger than 11" x 17" is eligible for the exhibit – including paintings, sketches, posters and photography. The overall "Best in Show" piece will grace the front cover of the Spring 2010 YWCA newsletter in early April. **Submission deadline is Thursday, April 1** at 5:00 pm. Visit [ywcacharleston.org](http://ywcacharleston.org) or call (304) 340-3584 for contest rules and submission forms.

## women with biracial children support group



Beginning **January 18**, the YWCA's Racial Justice Program will host and facilitate a new support group open to 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. This group will take place on the third Monday of each month from 6-7:00 pm in the YWCA O'Connor-Autz Room. For more information, visit [ywcacharleston.org](http://ywcacharleston.org) or contact Nell Fleming at (302) 825-9133 or [nfleming@ywcacharleston.org](mailto:nfleming@ywcacharleston.org).

## spring into style!

Spring into fashion at the Soroptimist International of Charleston's annual Style Show! On **Saturday, March 27** from **11:30-1:00** in the **University of Charleston Ballroom**, see the



latest fashions while checking out the silent basket auction and enjoying a delicious lunch. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds benefit YWCA Sojourner's. Buy tickets online at [ywcacharleston.org](http://ywcacharleston.org) or call (304) 340-3553.

## e-version of newsletter

Want your YWCA info delivered once a month right in your inbox? Sign up for our e-newsletter at [ywcacharleston.org](http://ywcacharleston.org) for a greener, cheaper and timelier way to get your YWCA updates.



# 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

## hope for the homeless

The YWCA Sojourner’s Shelter would like to thank the **Guys Night Out** planning committee (lead by committee chair **Jeff Sandridge**), sponsors, volunteers and participants for their continued dedication and support. We appreciate your many various contributions that made this event successful and raised **\$24,000** for us this year. Thanks also to **Wellington’s of Scarlett Oaks** for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Benefit Dinner to Aid the Homeless, which raised **\$5,855** for our program (especially to co-owners **Dave Frazier, Tom & Bobbi Grant**, and their wonderful staff); **Corey Brothers, Shoney’s, Kroger, Foodland, St. Francis Hospital** and other local food vendors for their donations to this event; and **Trillium Piano Trio** for providing us with wonderful music. Thanks also to **Kim Shirkey** and the **Beau-Tea-Full Moments Tearoom** for hosting a Tea & Fashion Show fundraiser, which raised **\$1,856** toward the cost of a new van for our children’s program.

## generosity abounds

The YWCA Resolve Family Abuse Program thanks all of our generous supporters this holiday season: **Christ Church United Methodist/Priscilla Circle, Kanawha Valley Senior Services, Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church Women, Vandalia Rotary Club** and **Women of the ELCA/St. Timothy Lutheran Church** for their generous monetary donations; the **Women’s Club of Charleston** and **Edgewood Country Club** for the donation of their facilities; **Debra Board, Kenneth Huffman, Crossroads Community Chapel Women’s Ministry**, and the **St. Francis Hospital Domestic Violence Committee** for clothing, stuffed animals, gift bags, and other personal items for women and children at the shelter; **Dunbar United Methodist Church – United Methodist Women; Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love, LLP; Madison Baptist Church**; and to all who have donated cell phones.



*Above: YWCA Exec. Director **Debby Weinstein** pauses for a quick photo with **Donnie Blackshire** and **Bob Butterfield** at this year’s **Guys Night Out**.*

*Left: Wellington’s co-owners **Tom & Bobbi Grant** at the Thanksgiving Benefit Dinner.*



*Members of the **St. Francis Hospital Domestic Violence Committee**, who hosted their annual **Bunco Night** on September 10 and raised **\$8,323** for the YWCA Resolve Program.*

## residents say thanks

The residents of the YWCA Shanklin Center and the YWCA Alicia McCormick Homes thank the **Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees** for Christmas gift bags and for all they do throughout the year to enrich the lives of our ladies. Thank you also to **Bailey & Wyant PLLC** for the Christmas luncheon and cash gifts, and to **Horace Mann Junior High Chorus** for their wonderful performance.

## united in a day of caring

Thanks to all who participated in the **United Way Day of Caring** on September 16. Through your volunteerism, our programs and facilities received some wonderful improvements!

*Top: Volunteers from BB&T cleaned the windows inside and out at the YWCA Shanklin Center.*

*Right: BrickStreet Insurance volunteers spent the day landscaping at YWCA Past & Present.*

*Below: Volunteers from Star USA Federal Credit Union spruced up a few rooms at the YWCA Child Enrichment Center.*



### KCARSE cares

*Left: Members of the Kanawha County Association of Retired School Employees hard at work at the YWCA Alicia McCormick Homes: (back row) Ellen Wirth, Pat Shillings and Sandi Huff; (front row) Patty Dillon, Pauline Shaver and Cassie Bickham.*

## the joy of giving back

The YWCA Sojourner's Shelter thanks the following organizations and individuals for joyfully giving to those in need this holiday season: **Randy Moss** for taking the time out of his busy schedule to visit the shelter and provide gifts for the children; the **City of Charleston, Mayor Danny Jones** and the great **mailroom staff; Chapman Printing; Sharon Harms of Image Associates, LLC; Dee Hill; Ed Bass; Martha Osborne; Kyle Monk; Kirsten Santana;** our wonderful volunteers from **Capitol High School, Charleston Job Corps, University of Charleston, West Virginia State University, Winfield High School** and other **faithful community volunteers;** and the **YWCA Board of Directors.**



*SURPRISE! Hometown NFL superstar **Randy Moss** (far right) surprised us by stopping by the YWCA Sojourner's Shelter on Thanksgiving to drop off a truck full of bedding, games and toys for the children. Thank you Randy!*

Sending a BIG THANK YOU to the following for supporting YWCA Sojourner's in a variety of ways: **Philip Michael, Thomas Haddad, Joseph Farris, Sarah Shayre, United Bank, Verizon, Carte Warwick, Rene and Joan Sullesta, John Mitchell, Jr. Dingess Rum Property, Hanson Chapel, Nancy Birthisel; Rick and Kimberly Mallory; Delores Summers; Lee A. Mitchell; Richard Lehman; St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Crusader SS Class; Presbyterian Women of St. Andrews; Charlena Fisher; United Methodist Women, Dunbar United Methodist Church; Amy Smithson and Susannah Carpenter from CCUM Consignment Sale; Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church and Mr. and Mrs. David King. Cathy Nutter, Imogene Bennington, Teresa Calhoun, First Presbyterian Church, James McJunkin, Michelle Haddox, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, (Rod Hackerman, Lindsey Counts and our faithful Board member Toni Ellis, Triad Engineering, Inc., Delta Phi Delta University of Charleston, Junior League of Charleston, Ladies of the Pilot Club, Soropitmist International, South Charleston High School "Eagles Who Care," Kanawha Medical Society Association "Breast Cancer Awareness," Lighthouse Worship Center and Farm Table.**

## fresh faces of the ywca

Meet three of the newest members of our staff: **Elizabeth Teel**, Director of the YWCA Child Enrichment Center; **Nell Fleming**, Racial Justice & Hate/Bias Crimes Coordinator; and **Jonathan Bean**, Co-Coordinator of YWCA Resolve's Battersers Intervention/Prevention Program (BIPP).

**Elizabeth Teel** is a native of Charleston, WV and graduated from WVU with a B.S. in Child Development. She started her career as a teacher/program coordinator at the YWCA Child Enrichment Center and then moved on to help open the child development center for CAMC as the Assistant Director. She married in 1994 and moved to Rockville, MD, where she ran two child development centers. After relocating back to WV in 2004, she worked as the Operations Manager for a marketing firm in Charleston until returning to the field of early childhood education as the new director of the YWCA Child Enrichment Center. Contact Elizabeth at (304) 340-3560 or [eteel@ywcacharleston.org](mailto:eteel@ywcacharleston.org).



**Nell Fleming** was raised in a small coal mining town in Southern Illinois and has resided in Charleston for three years. She has 20 years of experience working with marginalized and oppressed communities and a passion for the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Ten years of advocacy work in the deaf and immigrant communities in Chicago and fighting poverty as an AmeriCorps Volunteer in Kanawha and Lincoln counties are a few of her career highlights. She also served as the president of Women with Biracial Children in 2006 and has a master's degree in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Nell is currently conducting research in the demographics of children's picture book covers and children's identity development. Contact Nell at (302) 825-9133 or [nfleming@ywcacharleston.org](mailto:nfleming@ywcacharleston.org).

**Jonathan Bean** has been committed to help end family and relationship violence for more than 10 years. Before moving to West Virginia from Florida this fall, he worked as a domestic violence advocate, sexual violence prevention educator, BIPP facilitator, parenting educator, and administrator for a domestic violence victim's services organization. Now in WV, Jonathan plans to remain involved in the process of making families and relationships the safe havens they should be. Contact Jonathan at (304) 395-3479 or [jbean@ywcacharleston.org](mailto:jbean@ywcacharleston.org).



*Children, teachers, and even a few parents enjoyed a Halloween costume parade at the YWCA Child Enrichment Center on October 30.*

## precedent set in wv supreme court

On November 23, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals reversed a January ruling by Clay County Circuit Judge Robert Facemire, who had denied a former Clay County resident a domestic violence protective order against her ex-boyfriend. In this precedent-setting decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the fear of physical harm is enough to grant a domestic violence protective order to West Virginia residents. This ruling was an excellent example of the partnership that exists between the **YWCA Resolve Program** and **Legal Aid of WV**. Special thanks also to Kevin Baker and Sarah K. Brown of **Baker & Brown, PLLC**, who filed an amicus brief in support of the appellant on behalf of the **West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence**.

## PGA tour benefits ywca



Support the YWCA and attend the biggest golf event in West Virginia history! We will receive **30%** of the proceeds of all weekly badges to The Greenbrier Classic purchased on our behalf **before February 26**. This much-anticipated PGA TOUR FedExCup event will be held July 26 - August 1 on the historic Old White course at The Greenbrier. Purchase your badge today at [www.greenbrierclassic.com](http://www.greenbrierclassic.com) and support the YWCA of Charleston by clicking "Badges for Charity" and selecting "YWCA" from the drop-down menu after you've selected the badge level you wish to purchase.

# inside

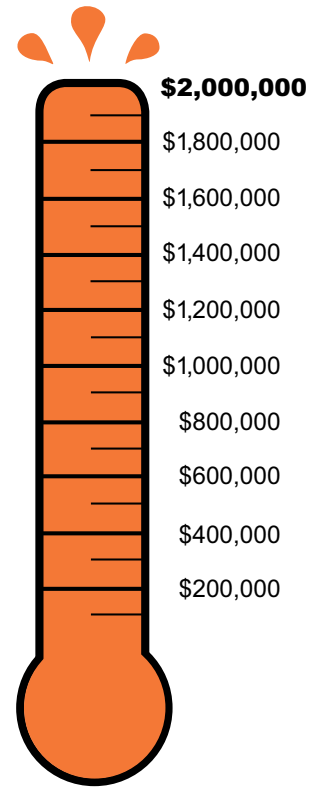
- welcome & announcements from our new board president
- standing against racism
- this year's women of achievement honorees
- NFL superstars, fashion shows, art contests, PGA tours, and much more!

## \$2million challenge

eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**  
charleston, wv

### \$2 MILLION EXCEEDED!

Despite battling an unanticipated economic downturn, we successfully exceeded our \$2 million fundraising goal—creating a \$4 million endowment fund for the YWCA and our critical social service programs. Later this month, watch for a special edition newsletter dedicated solely to the volunteers and donors that made this campaign a huge success and to whom we are grateful beyond words!



## plus

read more about our newest Racial Justice Program's initiative: a support group for women with biracial children



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