

Skysward

News for Friends and Supporters of the
YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County

Winter 2009
Spring 2010

eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

A Legacy of Service

Lifelong Advocates for Women

Remembering Betty Jane Altier and Ermine B. Byas



Looking back on 2009, I am so proud of all the accomplishments of the YWCA's dedicated staff and the women they serve. I am grateful to our kind volunteers and generous donors. But 2009 also brought great sadness with the passing of two of the YWCA's most gracious and effective leaders—Betty Jane Altier and Ermine B. Byas.

Betty first came to the YWCA in the 1950s to attend art and literature classes. Ermine became a volunteer in 1960. They remained dedicated supporters of the YWCA for the

rest of their lives. Both often mentioned how important the YWCA had been to them as the place where women could develop leadership abilities and give back to the community in a meaningful way

Ermine and Betty served together on the YWCA Board. Ermine became President in 1966, the first African-American elected to that position. Betty served as President from 1970 to 1972. These were very challenging times for the YWCA and our community. Betty and Ermine guided the YWCA with courage and compassion, inspiring women all across our community to join together to promote racial justice.

Still active volunteers in 2008, Ermine and Betty helped us plan and celebrate our 125th anniversary. They were also co-chairs of the Annual Appeal. And I am so glad that we had the opportunity to publicly honor Betty and Ermine for their extraordinary service and dedication at our 2008 Empowering Women Luncheon.

I miss their friendship, their guidance, their wit and wisdom, but know that their impact will continue in the years to come. To learn more about Betty and Ermine's contributions to the YWCA and to our community, please visit our web site at www.ywcarochester.org.

Jean Canoll

Emergency Housing Update

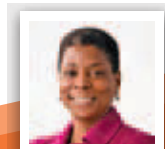
In our last issue, we shared how a recent grant from The Community Foundation allowed the YWCA to purchase additional beds for our Emergency Housing units. This grant was issued in response to a critical need in our community for emergency housing for homeless women with one or more children. Unfortunately, this number remains on the rise.

In 2009 the YWCA served **three times** the number of children in our Emergency Housing Program compared to 2008.

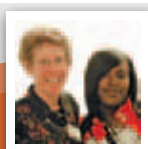
Thanks to the Foundation's strategic support in addressing this need, as well as the continued efforts of donors like you, the YWCA was able to provide these children a safe place to stay, comfort, and hope during a very difficult time.



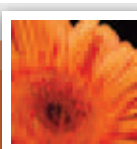
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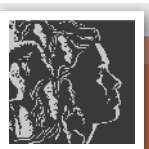
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Burns Shares Insights on Success

The excitement was palpable as over 1200 local business and community leaders, corporate sponsors, and friends of the YWCA gathered to celebrate the agency's mission on October 6th as part of the Third Annual Empowering Women Luncheon.

Keynote speaker Ursula M. Burns, CEO of Xerox Corporation, addressing the sold-out crowd, shared her insights on finding your way to success and the importance of giving back. She recalled her mother's advice, "It's who you are, not where you are."

Two past YWCA program participants also shared deeply moving stories of overcoming the seemingly insurmountable challenges they had faced in their own lives.

The celebratory mood was heightened by a \$50,000 two-to-one matching gift challenge issued by the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation. Thanks to hundreds of event donors, the YWCA was able to raise the entire challenge amount! Our sincere thanks to the Foundation for its tremendous support.

The YWCA raised more than \$170,000 to support the women and children served by the agency's housing and young parents support services.

"Setting your sights on changing the world doesn't necessarily mean it has to be a grand goal. It could be simply helping one individual...One life is all it takes for us to change the world."

-Ursula M. Burns

Our Thanks to Event Sponsors



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Futures Begin Here

Summer internships kick-start young careers

Last summer, 33 young mothers participated in an 8 week program designed to help them explore different career options and gain valuable work experience through the YWCA's Successful Futures for Youth program.

Summer program participants completed internships at eleven different work sites, including Action for A Better Community, the District Attorney's Office, HSBC Bank, Monroe County Legal Assistance Corporation, the Red Cross and Volunteers of America.

In addition to on-the-job experience, 6 teens became certified home health aides and began work at Rural Metro. Others passed a nationally recognized Customer Service Certification exam.

A two-week leadership academy, life-skills workshops, diversity training, GED

preparation, and college tours were also offered during the course of the program.

Mariah (below) interned at Monroe County Legal Assistance Corporation. She also passed the Customer Service Certification exam. She plans to attend MCC in the fall and major in Human Services. Having gained valuable work experience during the summer, she now works at the Episcopal Home. Sue Segelman, who worked with Mariah, is not surprised by her success. She has great respect for Mariah and for the SFY program.

The YWCA is currently looking for work sites for this year's internship program. Lunch Buddies are also needed to provide job shadowing opportunities for a day. Those interested should call 546-5820 for more information.



Celebrated Women

Each year, the YWCA receives many heartfelt gifts in honor or memory of loved ones and to celebrate special occasions.

Gifts In Honor

- Susan Berg by her team at Paychex: Cheryl, Gucci, Jamie, Jerrienne, Lisa, Melissa, and Nancy
- Mary Ann Edic by Jane Hasselkus
- Kathy Farese by Kathy Dennis-Anderson
- Debbie Field and Kim Gayler by Ruth Myers
- Susan F. Harf by Michael L. Harf
- Betty Hasselkus by Jane Hasselkus
- Amy Herlehy by Barbara Kutner
- Dorothy Hertrick by Charles Hertrick
- Eleanor Jelline by Ruth Myers
- Orell M. Jensen by Pamela Lazio
- Arline MacKenzie by Peggy Fortune
- Peg Muthig by Susan Berg
- Joanne D. Smith by Courtney Smith
- Ann and Megan Spelman by Cynthia Woolbright & Bill Spelman
- Ellie Ten Eyck by Kathleen Momberger
- Kay Wallace by Christopher & Nancy Oddleifson
- Ruth Waller by Dr. Mary Ellen Zuckerman
- Mary Woolbright by Cynthia Woolbright & Bill Spelman

Gifts In Memory

- Betty Jane Altier by Joan Gerrity, Marilyn Loeb, and Jeanette Youngman and family
- Lavina Ball by Juanita Ball
- Ermine B. Byas by Nancy Kaplan & Mary Ellen Martin
- Lena Cardillo by Ruth E. Cardillo
- Esther Gerrity by Joan Gerrity
- Freda B. Judd by Pamela Lazio
- Frances Mattioli by Ursula Granite
- Martha Murray Neece by Emily Neece



Mariah shares a moment with Sue Segelman of MCLAC.

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Gifts Of Hope



Our heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of organizations and individual donors who provided wonderful holiday gifts and much-needed personal care items to over 600 women and children served by the YWCA.

In these economic times, it has become more difficult for families living on the edge of poverty to make ends meet, much less have money for holiday gifts. For some, even the basics have become luxury items.

One woman in our Housing Program shared her delight and gratitude upon receiving a new bathrobe, the first she had ever had.

This holiday season, our donors have truly shown the women and children we serve that they do have a caring community that supports their efforts to create brighter futures for themselves and their children. For a full list of donors, please visit our web site.

Our Thanks

To M&T Bank for its generous grant of \$12,500 to support the YWCA's in-school case management program. Each year, the YPSS program helps hundreds of young mothers graduate or obtain their GED, pursue higher education, explore career options and delay repeat pregnancies.

To Citizens Bank for its generous grant of \$3,500 to support case management, life skills, and job readiness training programs at Vermont Manor, one of the YWCA's affordable housing programs.

To the members of the First Unitarian Church for a gift of \$1,206 to support the YWCA's Racial Justice initiatives.

To Frontier Communications for its gift of \$2,500 as part of the Great Donate campaign.

You can donate by visiting our web site at www.ywcarochester.org.

Save the Date

Empowering Women Luncheon
ywca

Tuesday, October 5th
featuring keynote speaker Jeannette Walls, author of *The Glass Castle*