



## Welcome to “our voice” quarterly newsletter.

The YWCA newsletter is a trumpet in the ear of people and the communities we serve. Our mission, eliminating racism and empowering women is a message of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people. We know that “we are strong alone and fearless together”.

Social Action and Advocacy are the cornerstones of the YWCA. Since our inception “service” has been linked to “**action.**” In communities across the U.S., YWCA’s continue to work to improve social and economic conditions for all people. As the nation’s oldest and largest national multi-cultural women’s movement, the YWCA is comprised of over 300 local associations, regional leadership and a national office in Washington D.C. who all work together, across the nation work to strengthen our voices in the nation’s capital and in state and local governments.

The YWCA has first-hand knowledge of how federal policies and programs affect women, girls and their families in communities across the country. Historically, the YWCA has fought for issues such as the abolition of child labor, the 8-hour work day and desegregation. The YWCA supports anti-violence policies that protect victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and work to eradicate sexual assault and domestic violence, trafficking of women, and dating violence.

The YWCA partners with organizations with similar mission and goals. This is the second year the YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit has partnered with ATHENA International Award Program. The **2007 ATHENA** Award Luncheon was held November 7th at the Century Grille in Downtown Detroit. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Ama Daetz, WDIV Anchorwoman. It was very successful.

The YWCA’s Mission is the elimination of racism and the empowerment of women. Our main objective is to train, nurture and develop leaders for tomorrow as entrepreneurs, business corporate leaders, political leaders, doctors and lawyers. The ATHENA International Program recognizes individuals by supporting, developing and honoring women leaders, inspiring women to continue to achieve their full potential, creating balance in leadership worldwide. *What a Partnership!*

Today, the YWCA carries on its long tradition in social action and advocacy to meet the twin goals of women and girls empowerment and racial justice.

## The YWCA Mission Statement:

The Young Women’s Christian Association is a women’s membership movement nourished by its roots in the Christian faith and sustained by the richness of many beliefs and values. Strengthened by diversity, the Association draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women’s growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. The Association will thrust its collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means

The Keynote Speaker was **Bunnatine Greenhouse, Former Chief contracting officer, US Army Corps of Engineers**. As you may know, Mrs. Greenhouse was sidelined from her position due to her ethnics of not continuing the practice of no-competition contracts during the Iraq-related work given to Halliburton and its subsidiary by the Corps. Further she felt it was preferential treatment to Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), calling it the “most blatant abuse that she had experienced in her career”. Additionally, she became known for her commitment to doing what she felt was right and believed that leadership is all about making a difference without regard for the consequences.



Five (5) individuals were nominated at-large for consideration as the 2007 ATHENA award recipient. They were Nancy Colina, Colina Foundation; Paula Callen, Program Services Director, Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Towana D. Parker, Executive Director, Destiny and Purpose Community Outreach; Terri Shaw, Clean & Safety Program Manager, U-SNAP-BAC and Alfredine Jordan Wiley, Founder/Executive Director & CEO, Jordan Educational Consulting, Inc. **The 2007 ATHENA recipient is Alfredine Jordan Wiley.**



**Alfredine Jordan Wiley**, Founder/ Executive Director & CEO, Jordan Educational Consulting, Inc., The Alfredine Jordan Wiley Scholarship, Inc. Ms. Wiley has been a teacher, guidance counselor and department head, and central office administrator. After 40 years in education, she retired and created her own consulting company. As CEO, she provides staff development training, organizational support, and practical tools in educating today’s students. As a professional in the human service industry, she works tirelessly to empower women, young and old, to reach beyond barriers and to fulfill personal dreams and expectations. An active Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc., under her leadership, the AKA Sorority Foundation Detroit was established; revitalized and sponsored the AKA Teen Leadership group and initiated the first Detroit “Black College Tour” program giving students the opportunity to visit most of the Historically Black Colleges & Universities across the east coast; Board member Hartford Head Start Agency; Established in 2003, the AJ Wiley Scholarship program which has distributed \$15,000 to 15 students enrolled in colleges/universities.



eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca  
metropolitan Detroit



## YWCA's Nurse Betty's Community Care Connection (NBCCC)

NBCCC is Senior focused outreach program dedicated to promoting health, wellness and safety, thereby preserving independence and self-sufficiency and improving the quality of life for all members of the community.

On December 14, 2007, lights, cameras, action we're back together again. YWCA Nurse Betty's Community Care Connection hosted a senior Christmas Party at the Cathedral of St. Paul. This event reunited the senior community since the closing of St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital in June 2007. This closure might have been devastating, but the YWCA answered the call. The event was attended by more than 150 seniors who dined on a fabulous meal, fellowshiped, entertained by a live jazz band and were the recipients of wonderful gifts.

The event was co-sponsored by Family Care Choice Home Care Agency, Care Management Services, Cohen Podiatry, American Home Care, Karmanos, Integrity Home Health Care, Hospice of Michigan, Bethharold Home Health Care and youth volunteers. YWCA Nurse Betty's Community Care Connection will be hosting a variety of programs and activities for the community. Stay tuned.

**We are all about serving the community.** For more information, call Betty Morris, RN and Loretta Bibbs at (313.259.9922 ext. 210).



**YWCA Oakland Branch.** In October, the Branch began a computer literacy program, which is being offered at no cost to individuals in the community. Suresh Bommanaboina, a volunteer, offered to teach the computer literacy class, as donated services to the YWCA. These classes are needed because of the unemployed, displaced and returning workers in the community. Leaders and businesses in the community (Beaumont Hospital, Birmingham Computer and Northern Television in Royal Oak) donated gently used computers to the program. Meijers, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and board members gave monetary donations. Ten (10) participants enrolled in the October - December session and twenty (20) in the January - March 2008 session. Great feed back has been received in our efforts to continually empower our community.

**A safe place, drug free and violent free. A Great Place for Teens!** A Jam Night at the YWCA Oakland Branch was held in November. Eighty teenagers were in attendance. Jam Night is when Teen Bands come to the YWCA and perform for their friends and followers.



**YWCA Camp Cavell.** The Fall Weekends were enjoyed by all! The Women's Weekend brought together a wonderful group who enjoyed one of our nicest and warmest fall weekends on record! Plans for the 2008 spring weekend include adding a Women's Health Fair and special sessions on working out with light weights, and jewelry making! Mark your calendar **NOW** - May 2nd-4th, plan to join us. This years Halloween weekends brought families together and many of them talked about turning it into a small family reunion next year. In response to our evaluations, we will also be offering a Harvest Weekend, as well as our traditional Halloween Weekend in 2008.

**YWCA Annual Meeting.** The 2006 Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at the Downtown Branch. The purpose of this meeting was to invite the community (the supporters), to share in the accomplishments for the year ending December 31, 2006. The 2006 Annual Report indicates that the YWCA is still faced with challenges; but the success of the strategic plan will provide a vehicle to make strides to reduce the issues. The Leadership Team and staff are working diligently to continue to accomplish the agreed upon goals and objectives. Information shared was encouraging and supported the YWCA for its strong community roots and its desire to remain in the community.

**Looking Ahead at YWCA Social Action & Advocacy  
First Quarter 2008**

**January 2008**

Stalking Awareness Month

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

National Birth Defects Prevention Month

ML King, Jr. Day, **21st**

**February 2008**

African American History Month

National Girls & Women in Sports Day, **6th**

**March 2008**

National Women In History Month

United Nations Status of Women

International Women's Day, **8th**

International Day for the Elimination of Racism, **21st.**

**Mark your Calendars and Join Us!**

YWCA Oakland Branch Annual Hungarian Dinner,  
February **16th**

YWCA Oakland Branch Annual Spa Day  
February **23rd**

YWCA Oakland Annual Armenian Dinner  
March **15th**

For membership and ways to support  
YWCA programs and services,  
contact a YWCA nearest you.

Please visit our website  
[www.ywcadetroit.org](http://www.ywcadetroit.org)

eliminating racism  
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