

# ywca

# quarterpast

What's happening at the YWCA of Greater Lawrence

Quarter Past July 2014

Follow Us On 

## Backpack Drive!

Attention corporate and civic groups! We have a great way for you to help children go back to school ready to learn. We are seeking donations of backpacks filled with school supplies. The drive is in full swing, and you can see all the details and due dates by [clicking here](#).

## Save the Dates!

Our **Annual Meeting** is set for Tuesday, Nov 18th from 8am to 9:30am. Details to follow.

Our annual **Tribute to Women** awards luncheon will be held **Thursday, May 14, 2015** at the Andover Country Club 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**Mark your calendars!**

*Learn More...*

*...about the YW's work and the impact of your support by viewing our two videos:*

[Breaking the Cycle](#) and

[Leidy's Story](#)

For more info about the YWCA, visit us at: [www.ywcalawrence.org](http://www.ywcalawrence.org)



## Big Impact from YWCA Health Ambassadors

**Linking low-income women to health services**

Thanks to the enthusiasm of our bi-lingual *Health Ambassadors*, Martha Medina, Mery Moto-Rivas and Luz Rosado, this Women's Health Advocacy program is growing by leaps and bounds! Better yet, thanks to the generosity of our supporters and foundations, our Ambassadors are now paid, versus volunteer, positions. Health Ambassadors outreach to residents about the importance of preventive health care and early detection of chronic diseases including diabetes, cancer, heart disease and hypertension, while linking them to vital health services. They've been working with Latino faith communities to reach those most in need of support. "For so many people, the church is like a spiritual hospital," notes Ms. Rosado.

Adds Vilma Lora, Co-Director of Women's Services, "Our Ambassadors are trusted community members who work wonders when it comes to increasing health access among the Latino community. Their impact has been tremendous." In a 12 month period, the Health Ambassadors have reached more than 250 residents - exceeding the original goal by over 150%!



## YWCA Emergency Women's Shelter Remains at Capacity

**Bringing women and their children to safety**

Thank you to all of the Shelter Angels out there who helped to furnish our new Women's Emergency Shelter for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. Your caring and support helped to turn the shelter - *in an undisclosed location to keep residents safe* - into a welcoming haven. The shelter opened in January and has been at capacity since, housing 8 families over the past 6 months. We're happy to tell you that 3 families have since moved into permanent housing, and that 1 family moved to YWCA Fina House, our transitional living program for domestic violence survivors. YW staff is working hard to make sure that every woman and child in our shelter has a safety plan, support to heal from the trauma of abuse and then, to take the steps toward independence.

As most residents arrive at the Shelter with only the clothes on their backs, we have ongoing needs for *new* supplies including linens, towels and other necessities. You can still help as a *Shelter Angel*. [Read more here.](#)



### YWCA Haverhill is Officially our New Branch Location

**Continuing local services**

In March, we officially assumed operations at YWCA Haverhill on Winter Street, where we've been providing domestic violence services and after-school programming for more than a year. We're looking for your suggestions and support as we design future programming at the Haverhill location, and hope you'll stop by for a visit. For more information or to schedule your visit, email [Renee McGuire](#), Site Manager at Haverhill. And thank you to the many folks who have helped throughout this transition!

### News of Note:

#### Impacting Our Community in Many Ways

##### \* Early Learning Center

We're thrilled that for the 6th year in a row, **100% of the children graduating from the Center tested at or above kindergarten readiness standards!** This is a



major predictor of future school success. Thank you to Director Mandy Chaput, staff and our many supporters who make this possible.

**\* YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center**

During our first year operating the YW NSRCC, our staff in Lynn has served **almost 100 sexual assault survivors, and our hotline remains one of the busiest in MA.** Additionally our *Safe Sites Project* has been expanded to include businesses in Salem and Gloucester. These retailers serve as *safe* places where victims can go if they feel threatened or unsafe. A great project bringing awareness to retailers about local sexual and domestic violence issues.

**\* Welcome New ED, Mary B, O'Brien**

With the retirement of long-time Executive Director, Rebecca A. Hall, former Deputy Director Mary B. O'Brien was tapped to fill the post. **Mary brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job, and will assure a sense of continuity with our service offerings** in Lawrence, Lynn, Haverhill and Salem, NH.



**\* You're Invited to the first annual Lawrence Ciclovía**

At this free, fun, family event at Campagnone Common, parts of Common and Essex Streets will be closed to traffic so that revilers can walk, bike, skate and skate board safely and easily. The event is sponsored by The City of Lawrence and the Mayor's Health Task Force - *whose activities are coordinated by the YWCA to help make Lawrence a healthier community.* Come join the festivities and enjoy Zumba, soccer clinics, water games and more!

When: Saturday, August 3rd

Where: Campagnone Common, Lawrence

Time: 1pm to 5pm

Cost: Free!



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