

ywca

quarterpast

What's happening at the YWCA of Greater Lawrence

Quarter Past December 2013

Follow Us On 

Holiday Food Drive

Would you be able to provide a needed food item to support our YWCA Fina House pantry?

If so, please email

info@ywcawlawrence.org, and we'll email you the food wish list and drop off dates!

Save the Date

Our annual Tribute to Women awards luncheon is set for:

Thursday, May 15, 2014
Andover Country Club
12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Mark your calendars!

For more info about the YWCA, visit us at:
www.ywcawlawrence.org



NEW! YWCA Women's Shelter to Open in January

Helping Women in Crisis

This past September, we were awarded a contract by the MA Dept. of Children and Families (DCF) to re-open and run a women's shelter in the Merrimack Valley for domestic violence victims. There are fewer than 140 beds statewide to house women and their children when fleeing abuse. Did you know that the main reason why women stay in or return to abusive relationships is due to lack of housing options? By re-invigorating this shelter, we're adding a much needed resource to address this problem.

The shelter, closed for 18 months, had fallen into disrepair. We only recently learned that DCF will pay for the renovations, but that it is up to us to *furnish everything* to outfit 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a living room, children's room, kitchen and office - all by January 2014. And, the catch is...

everything must be new -- we are unable to accept used items.

Would you consider becoming a ***Shelter Angel?***

There are 3 ways you can help. To learn more, [click here](#).



NEW! YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center

Expanding Rape Crisis Services

Last July, we broadened our rape crisis services by welcoming the North Shore Rape Crisis Center in Lynn to the YWCA family of programs. We now provide services to sexual assault survivors aged 12 and older and their non-offending family members to all of Essex and parts of

Middlesex Counties. Services include 24-hour hotline support; accompanying clients to hospitals, police stations and courts; talking to teens about healthy relationships; counseling; and referrals to other community services. Also this fall, YWCA NSRCC served as a founding member of *Safe Sites Salem* and *Safe Sites Gloucester*, which provides downtown businesses with the resources to serve as a safe haven for anyone feeling threatened or in danger. For more information about YWCA rape crisis services, please [click here](#).



UPDATE! YWCA Haverhill Location

Ensuring Services Locally

Last year, we shared with you that we absorbed the YWCA in Haverhill. Throughout this process, clients in Haverhill have had continued access to much needed child care, enabling both moms and dads the ability to work and support their families. We've also broadened our Domestic Violence Programs in Haverhill, and now have staff at the Haverhill District Court to assist victims with restraining orders, immigration issues and other services as needed. This means that along with our two staff members at the Lawrence District Court - Nancy Cruz and Marta Roman - we remain the go-to organization for local residents faced with domestic violence or abuse.



NEW! Successful Partnership with Lawrence General Hospital

Increasing Local Mammography Screenings

For the second year, Lawrence General Hospital [LGH] engaged our Women's Health Advocacy [WHA] staff to encourage Latinas in Lawrence to get their annual mammograms. This is important because Breast Cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among Latinas, often due to delayed diagnosis. Thanks to the persistence and

persuasiveness of **Evelyn Cora**, our bi-lingual Health Advocate, we've made 277 mammography referrals, more than six times the number anticipated!

So far, 235 women have received their mammograms, with more scheduled. LGH, meanwhile, no longer requires a primary care referral when scheduling a mammogram appointment, making the process far more user friendly. Evelyn spends one day per week at LGH and the rest of her week on outreach, including phone calls, community visits and presentations to community organizations.

Our WHA program addresses inequities that create barriers to health care for vulnerable populations. Additionally, we work with 4 bi-lingual volunteer Health Ambassadors, women from the community who seem to be everywhere, providing workshops on breast health and preventive care, attending health fairs and expanding community awareness.

"Together with LGH, we are truly creating a network of women who feel comfortable taking charge of their own health," said Vilma Lora, co-director of Women's Services. "This is a wonderful partnership and we are grateful to LGH."

Added Patrice Peddle, who oversees the initiative for LGH, "This has been a very valuable program for our patients. Evelyn educates women on breast health and emphasizes the importance of getting mammograms by identifying and eliminating obstacles which prevent them from getting the care they need."



UPDATE! Our Annual Appeal

Thank You for Supporting Us!

Your support of our Annual Appeal makes all this good work and more possible! Many thanks to those who have supported this year's Appeal. There is still *plenty* of time to make a gift safely and securely online, [click here!](#)

Wishing you the best this holiday season and in the coming New Year!

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

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