



**Highlights of 2011**

**YWCA of Greater Lawrence**

**Energy Saving Windows to be Installed in Historic Building**

*New high density, energy efficient windows  
Excellence and Achievement*

The YWCA will be enjoying a new 'view of the world' - through 62 new windows!

Thanks to grant funding from the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation and the Abbot and Dorothy H. Stevens Foundation, we are installing new, energy efficient windows at our main building on Lawrence Street.



Luis Martinez, Director of Maintenance prepares for the new windows

"It's exciting to see this project come to fruition and we are so grateful to the Smith and Stevens Foundations," said Rebecca A. Hall, Executive Director. "This will provide our historic building with a much needed facelift while increasing energy efficiency and reducing utility costs." The windows will also result in more comfortable conditions for the children and women in our programs, as well as staff.

We are appreciative to both the foundations and recognize trustees of the Chestnut Hill, MA Smith Family Foundation, Richard and Susan Smith; John, Amy S., James and Elizabeth Berylson; Jonathan Block and Jennifer Berylson Block; Robert and Dana Smith; and Debra S., Jessica and Andrew Knez. The Stevens Foundation, located in North Andover, has been extremely generous to the YW over the years.

The YW building, constructed primarily in 1932, is part of the registry of historical buildings kept by the Lawrence Historic District Commission. All changes being made comply with the Commission's standards.

Come see the facelift for yourself at our **Annual Meeting, Wednesday, November 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** You'll hear directly from staff how your support enables them to positively impact the women and children in our community. This is a great opportunity to better understand how the YW works within our community. Light refreshments will be served. Afterwards, we'll gather for a short tour to view the new windows! For more information, email: [info@ywcawlawrence.org](mailto:info@ywcawlawrence.org).

**Tribute to Women Honors 29  
Community Women Honored for Achievement  
and Excellence**

Celebrating 28 years, the Tribute to Women event honored 29 women for their remarkable achievements in business and community at an awards luncheon held at the Andover Country Club. With more than 400 guests, former Senator Sue Tucker served as Emcee and spoke of her on-going commitment to and the importance of recognizing women of achievement. Keynote speaker A.G. Breitenstein, VP and General Manager of Humedica, drew accolades for her remarks on how we all serve as change agents in our business and personal lives.

Executive Director Rebecca A. Hall was delighted with the event commenting, "While it's wonderful to recognize the accomplishments, advancements and work of our Honorees, this year our speakers, Senator Tucker and Ms. Breitenstein, offered significant messages to keep us all inspired and continuing the work we do."

Board President Margaret Crockett recognized our Event Sponsor - Philips Healthcare, as well as our Premier Sponsor, Pfizer, Inc. For a full list of sponsors, please see page 6.

*Continued on page 6*



Tribute to Women Honorees with Honorary Chair former Senator Sue Tucker [standing, L] and Keynote Speaker A.G. Breitenstein, VP & General Manager, Humedica [standing R]. For a full list of Honoree names, please see page 2.

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*Tribute to Women Awards, continued*

## Tribute to Women Honorees Include:

**Penelope Bardsley**

Lawrence General Hospital

**Kate Callahan**

Callahan Heating & Air Conditioning

**Gladys Catterton**

Edgewood Retirement Community

**Linda Comeau**

Northern Essex Community College

**Laurie Couture**

Philips Healthcare

**Susan Covey**

Enterprise Bank

**Susan Cripps**

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley

**Martha Cruz**

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

**Carol Duncan**

Girls, Inc.

**Lourdes Figueroa**

Lawrence Adult Learning Center

**Gina Gallagher**

GG Communications/Author

**Gertrude Gimby**

MV Chamber of Commerce

**Rose Gonzalez**

Groundwork Lawrence

**Minerva Grullon**

Essex County Corrections: AdCare CJS

**Monique Johnson**

Monx Design House



Rebecca A. Hall [L] with Honoree Christine Kuzmitski [C] and Cynthia Alekel Mohr.



Keynote Speaker A.G. Breitenstein [L] with Honorary Chair former Senator Sue Tucker.



A lively shot of the luncheon with a few of our Honoree tables in view.

**Maureen Judge**

Internal Revenue Service

**Susan Kanoff**

N.A. Housing Authority & Kanoff Fashion Coach

**Patricia Konjoian**

Communications Consultant/Author

**Christine Kuzmitski**

Greater Lawrence Community Action Council

**Norma Macario**

Sovereign Bank

**Jacqueline Marte**

Community Advocate

**Andrea Migliassi**

Alcatel-Lucent

**Dahianara Moran-Liranzo**

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**Awilda Pimentel**

The Paul & Phyllis Fireman Foundation

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**Patricia Urbano**

TD Bank

**Soraya Victoria**

Community Day Charter Public School

**Joanne Voigt**

Holy Family Hospital

**Stacey Weston**

Pfizer, Inc.

*Donations easily made on-line at [www.ywcalawrence.org](http://www.ywcalawrence.org)!*

**YWCA Executive Staff**

**Rebecca A. Hall**, Executive Director

**Mary B. O'Brien**, Deputy Director

**Lee Woodbury**, Deputy Director

**YWCA Information**

YWCA of Greater Lawrence

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Lawrence, MA 01840

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TTY: 978-686-8840

Fax: 978-689-4080

[www.ywcalawrence.org](http://www.ywcalawrence.org)

Facebook: search YWCA of GL

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**Pam Sintros**

**Cindy Traverso**

**Patty Wilson**

**Our Mission Statement**

*The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.*

**Our Collective Vision**

*To sustain visibility and vibrancy to have a lasting impact among women and girls, and, therefore, our communities, that results in significant progress toward our ultimate goal of achieving peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.*

# News & Notes

## SLK Scholarship Awarded by Alcatel-Lucent & YWCA

In a partnership between the YWCA and the Women's Leadership Network at Alcatel-Lucent, Courtney Figucia was awarded the 2011 SLK Scholarship. Courtney is a resident of Wilmington, MA, and a graduate of Lexington Christian Academy. She was selected from an outstanding group of applicants and received \$3000 towards college studies at Virginia Tech University as a Bio-Medical Engineering major. In addition to being a National Honor Society member in high school, she played varsity sports, managed the boys basketball team, made a service trip to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, tutored at the YMCA and interned at a Robotics workshop sponsored by MITRE. We wish her the best in her studies in Virginia. This scholarship was created in memory of a long-time Lucent Technologies engineer, Susan L. King, who lost a 5-year battle against cancer in 2000. Ms. King, a graduate of Northeastern University, had served in the Army Corps of Engineers, and held many technical and leadership positions at Lucent Technologies. This scholarship is awarded in memory of her many achievements.



2011 SLK Scholarship winner Courtney Figucia [second on R] receives her certificate and poses with Executive Director Rebecca A. Hall [R], SLK committee representative Cathy McSweeney [second on L] and her mother Sharon Figucia.

## In Honor & In Memory Donations

James Catterton and Lois Wasoff  
donated in Honor of Gladys Catterton

Anonymous Friend donated in  
Memory of Charles Lombardo

Mary O'Brien donated in  
Honor of Antoinette Bevilacqua

## Private, Community, State & Federal Grants

We gratefully wish to thank the generous community, state, federal and business groups for their most welcome support. These funds are critical to the survival of many of our programs and service offerings.

\$187,950 US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

\$65,000 City of Lawrence Mayor's Health Task Force

\$57,750 MA Office of Victim Assistance

\$50,000 Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation

\$40,000 Susan G. Komen for the Cure MA Affiliate

\$30,000 Amelia Peabody Foundation

\$28,500 City of Lawrence, Shannon Grant

\$25,000 Abbott & Dorothy H. Stevens Foundation

\$24,500 MA Dept. of Public Health Youth-at-Risk Grant

\$20,895 City of Lawrence, HUD

\$15,000 Liberty Mutual Foundation

\$14,000 Gable Family Foundation

\$10,000 Home Family Foundation

\$10,000 Edward S. & Winifred G. Moseley Foundation

\$10,000 Dept. of Early Education and Care

\$9,000 Women's Fund of Essex County/ECCF

\$8,000 Greater Lawrence Summer Fund of ECCF

\$5,000 Citizens Bank

\$5,000 C. Pringle Foundation

\$5,000 Quota International

\$4060 Dept. of Early Education and Care

\$4,000 General Mills Foundation

\$3,000 Merrimack Valley General Fund of ECCF

\$2,500 Catherine McCarthy Memorial Trust

\$2,000 Charlotte Home Foundation

\$2,000 Build A Bear Workshop

\$1,427 Good Sports

# Spotlight on Women's Services

## Komen MA 'Race for the Cure'



YW team members include Clare Gunther [L] Loreen Lopez [C], Claudia Brienza and board member Christina Minicucci, [missing]

As part of the YW's Breast Cancer outreach program, we are participating in this race, Sunday, October 30th to raise awareness and funds to support bringing breast cancer screenings to medically underserved community women. The MAAffiliate of Komen for the Cure is dedicated to raising funds for research, providing survivorship-services, as well as education and screenings for *all* women. Our focus is to continue to ensure women with low or no-insurance have access to these same services.

Did you know that this year 1 in 8 US women will be diagnosed with Breast Cancer and that from it almost 40,000 will die, or that only 51% of women over 40 report having had a mammography screening? At the YW, we remain committed to reaching community women to help improve the odds. Early detection remains the most significant predictor for surviving breast cancer.

## Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

In a breakthrough treatment approach that helps to enable people to feel empowered to manage chronic disease, we are offering a six-week *Stanford University* workshop conducted entirely in



Spanish entitled: *Mi Vida, Mi Salud*. This is an evidence-based, Latina culturally-oriented program that has been receiving national acclaim for its innovation in chronic disease management. Program instructors YW Women's Service staff members Claudia Brienza

and Evelyn Cora teach participants how to deal with and improve pain, fatigue, frustration and isolation through gentle yet effective exercise, medication management, nourishing nutrition and effective communication strategies with both health care professionals and family. "This program is a great opportunity to work with people in the community where they're at in their struggle to manage chronic illness," commented Ms. Brienza. In this highly interactive workshop, Ms. Brienza and Ms. Cora encourage the 12 participants to focus on how to evaluate new treatments for their specific conditions, as well as how to support each other while learning to manage their own unique situations. For periodic outcomes and impacts of this program, check our Facebook page [search: YWCA of Greater Lawrence].

## Domestic Violence: A Community Issue

*In response to violence within Lawrence and around the state, Executive Director Rebecca A. Hall offers insight into the larger issue of how communities can stem the tide of domestic violence.*



Rebecca A. Hall, Executive Director

The violent murders that have taken place in Lawrence and around Massachusetts this year are heart breaking, and represent a tragedy beyond words.

As someone who has been involved in the struggle to end domestic violence for many years, I must ask, "How can we as a community, work to prevent this violence?" Experience tells us that domestic abusers don't just "snap," and lash out in a single, violent act. Rather, there is a continuum of abuse that escalates gradually, inexorably.

Combating domestic violence is a community issue: everyone has a role to play. Everyone must speak up. Research has shown that bystanders can be a *powerful* force for DV prevention if we take the opportunity to step in before harrowing events occur. Instead of intervening, concerned family, friends, and colleagues should reach out to the YWCA or other DV service provider for guidance about how to encourage a victim to seek the services which can save their lives.

Last year alone, the YW's DV services, available 24/7/365, provided support to more than 1,200 people - both victims of abuse and also those seeking to help a loved one in an abusive relationship. We helped 784 women obtain restraining orders at the Lawrence District Court, secured emergency shelter for 37 victims and their children and instructed more than 1,300 students about how to recognize and avoid dating violence.

There is help and support available for both victims and those wanting to help them be safe. Contact YWCA DV at 978.688.2645 or SafeLink [statewide hotline] at 877.785.2020.

## Women's Services Court Services

YWCA Women's Services staff Marta Roman-Dumeng [L] and Nancy Cruz are stationed full-time at the Lawrence District Court, assisting women and men with situations of domestic violence. They also provide community residents other court services year round.



# Spotlight on Youth Services

## Girls Lead

### Leadership Training for Girls 6 - 17

The YW is bringing a new program to life - Leadership Initiatives - led by new-hire Yicaury Melo.

A Lawrence native, and graduate of Gordon College, Ms. Melo brings a wealth of skills to this program, and will develop, implement and evaluate all YW Leadership Initiatives, focusing on positive, systemic changes that encourage and trains women and girls to become leaders. Ms. Melo will also provide a voice for the YW in advancing leadership opportunities for young women here in Lawrence and around the state, as well as nationally and globally through YWCA USA and World YWCA. Additionally, our STEM Program and Girls Leadership Awards will be overseen by Ms. Melo.



Yicaury Melo, new Coordinator of Leadership Initiatives

Our STEM Program, a special initiative for girls age 10 to 14, educates and encourages them in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math. Since the program's inception more than three years ago, we've seen academic math & science scores improve by an average of 89%. Our goal through these programs is that girls will continue these studies in high school, college and eventually in the work force. Our Girls Leadership Awards are presented annually to six outstanding candidates within our Girls' Center who have demonstrated advancement in Academics, Leadership, Community Service, Family Unity, Creative Expression and Health & Fitness.

"I've always seen the potential of young women in Lawrence," said Ms. Melo, "And I am committed to helping empower women and girls in seeking their goals." Lee Woodbury, Deputy Director, adds, "We are very excited to bring Yicaury on board. She brings a true understanding of and love for the community, as well as the breadth of skills to move our leadership initiatives forward."

## Swimming for Pre-Schoolers!

Teaching young children to swim, in our Early Learning is a priority. Teacher Lisa Davidson with Devon and Kiara work with Health Director Carla McCormack as they enjoy the water and learn the basics. We offer a full line of swim classes for children through adults. For more information, visit our website at [www.ywcalawrence.org](http://www.ywcalawrence.org) or call Ms. McCormack at 978.687.0331 x1060.



## Urban Explorers Club

### Wilderness Training for School Children



YW Staff Cesar Fernandez with the Mt. Cardigan Camping Group; missing: Kathy Ruiz

Introducing our inner-city to the Great Outdoors, the YW has partnered with and is funded by Youth Opportunities Program [YOP] to get kids outside in a fun way while building their self-confidence and outdoors skills. Four staff, including Cesar Fernandez, Kathy Ruiz, Perla Guerrero and Alex Montanez, completed YOP's training course, earning their Outdoor Leadership, Outdoor Wilderness and CPR certifications. Culminating four months of preparation, Mr. Fernandez and Ms. Ruiz, along with two YOP staff, took eight children [four girls and four boys] on a 5-day, 4-night camping trip to Mt. Cardigan. "This was an excellent opportunity for our kids to get out of the city, and explore and learn about the outdoors," commented Mr. Fernandez. The trip unfolded in a progressive manner designed to help campers acclimate to their surroundings and build confidence, while allowing staff to train them on map navigation, hiking principals, outdoor safety and 'leave no trace' [from the Smokey the Bear campaign]. Trip campers - Priscilla, Tasia, Alicia, Nicole, Jose, Leandro, Antael and Angel - all between the ages of 10 and 12, had never been camping. After conquering the mountain's summit at over 3,600 feet, Angel, 12, said, "Wow; we really did this! I know that hiking up the mountain was really hard, but it was all worth it; it's beautiful up here." Several more hikes are planned, with new adventures set for next year.

## Pre-School Literacy Coaches



Deputy Director Lee Woodbury [3rd from L] with Literacy Coaches and Interventionalists Kay LeFebre, Denise Charlebois, Ellen Keiley, Lynn Nicora and Helen Berry.

A 3-year grant through Early Reading First to promote literacy for pre-school children recently concluded with remarkable results. Virtually 100% of pre-schoolers in the last two years have entered kindergarten being able to read! The YW's Early Learning Center, led by Gina Moody, Director, was selected by Root Cause [a non-profit consulting firm dedicated to advancing social solutions] as one of the **Top 10** learning centers in Massachusetts. "This grant enabled our staff, literacy coaches and interventionists to have had a significant impact on our pre-schoolers, and we're wonderfully proud of their ability to learn and read," said Lee Woodbury, Deputy Director.

# Tribute to Women Event Supporters!

Our grateful thanks to the following event sponsors, donors, supporters and advertisers...

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Beabe Gallery  
Susana McNeff  
Zora Warren

# Camp Y-Wood: New Cabin Underway!

It's been over a year since an arsonist destroyed the Main Cabin at Camp Y-Wood, and we are pleased to share that construction is now underway! The new cabin will truly enhance opportunities for our youth. We had originally intended that the building be available for camp sessions this year. However, in planning for the new building, we opted to almost triple its size, insulate the building and provide indoor bathrooms [a first at the camp!]. These enhancements will provide an inviting, central meeting place, especially during inclement weather, and will make the cabin available in fall and spring for OST [out of school time] and weekend youth activities. The increased cabin size and plumbing necessitated a septic system, which added costs and required obtaining state permits. After another successful camp summer session, construction is now underway, with the main work scheduled for completion this fall, with finish work to be completed in the spring.



Schematic drawing of new Cabin

We are deeply grateful and to those who helped us raise funds and in-kind items last year to operate Camp. This year, we are very grateful to those who helped us raise the extra funds needed for the enhancements. They include:



Cynthia Barakatt  
Amanda Cochrane  
Ellen Keiley  
Morris, Rossi & Hayes  
Maria Bartlett  
Margaret Crockett  
Eileen Forgue  
Rebecca A. Hall  
Candace Martin  
Morris, Rossi & Hayes  
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Carol Bateson  
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Cynthia Caruso  
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Eileen Prefontaine  
Citizen's Bank Foundation  
Enterprise Bank  
Marilyn Gigliotti  
Lawrence General Hospital  
Susana McNeff  
Pam Sintros  
Patty Wilson

## V-Day Support for the YW

Mary O'Brien [L] and Vilma Lora [R] accept over \$3,500 for our Domestic Violence programs from Corinne Geary [C] and Elizabeth Delgado [missing] both from V-Day Lawrence. V-Day Lawrence is dedicated to raising awareness and to helping eradicate domestic violence in Lawrence. We are grateful for their support which has raised more than \$10,000 for our program in four years.



## SoLatina Supports Fina House!



David Tempkin, President/CEO of SoLatina [not shown] donated two laptop computers to YWCA Fina House residents, as well as sponsored a trip for several residents to Canobie Lake Park over the summer. In appreciation of his generosity, our residents made a 'thank you' poster for David and his colleagues..

## 12 Races/12 Months Supports the YW



On a personal mission which began in May of 2010, Wendy Jepson ran a road race monthly to raise awareness and funds for women's health issues. Ms. Jepson culminated her year-long journey by running in the Boston Marathon in April of 2011. Ms. Jepson's dedication to the cause raised \$1,000 for the YW's Women's Health Services programs.

## Raytheon Supports Fina House

Representing Raytheon's Patriot Missile Team, Scott Corcoran and his colleagues have continued their support of YWCA Fina House, and most recently donated more than \$2,000 to help residents who are survivors of domestic violence send their children back to school. Their continued generosity to the YW is most appreciated!



## YWCA In Brief

### Loreen Lopez: Sandbox Leadership Institute



Congratulations to Loreen Lopez, Assistant Early Learning Director who was awarded a scholarship to participate in the SLI program which aims to deepen participants' insights into social

justice, strengthen their ability to lead, and build a network with other socially responsible leaders. Sponsored by the MV Sandbox Initiative of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UMass Lowell.

### Jeannette Jimenez: New Fina House TLP Director

Jeannette Jimenez has been promoted to Director of TLP at our YWCA Fina House. A graduate of Franklin & Marshall undergrad and Smith College School of Social Work, MSW, Ms. Jimenez's focus is to create a trauma-sensitive program that serves the immediate and future needs of residents.



### Philips Healthcare Care Day!



Our grateful thanks to 'the gang' at Philips Healthcare Ultra Sound Division for coming to the YW and helping us prepare for a fall site-visit. They did everything from hauling boxes, cleaning, painting, gardening and more! A great effort by a great team!

### Nancy Hargreaves-Pierce Enterprise Bank, Teaches Canoeing at Camp!

Ms. Hargreaves-Pierce delighted eight co-ed campers with skills training followed by canoeing around Captain's Pond! The children were quick learners, and had a great time. She's returning next year for more boating fun!



### Vilma Lora: Teen Dating Violence Forum

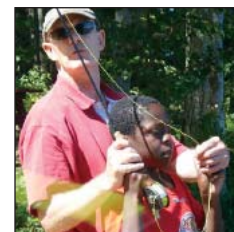


Co-Director of Women's Services Vilma Lora continues participating in the Lawrence DV Roundtable with other key service providers to share resources

and facilitate inter-agency referrals to help MA teens keep informed and safe when dating. Annually, we educate about 1300 teens in safe, healthy relationships.

### Jim Callahan, Pfizer, Inc., Teaches Fly-Fishing at Camp!

Armed with fly-fishing rods, enthusiasm and blessed with a beautiful day, Mr. Callahan taught more than 14 co-ed campers the fine art of



fly-fishing during a summer Camp Y-Wood visit. One lucky boy, Omar, even caught a fish! We can't wait until Jim comes back!

# Calendar

Save  
The  
Date!

# 2012 Tribute to Women

## HOLIDAY STAR FAMILY PROGRAM

**PLACE:** Drop off at YWCA in Lawrence

**DATE:** Gifts dropped off on Dec. 6th, 7th or 8th

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This holiday season, you and your family can sponsor a local family in need and make a difference in their lives. For more details contact [info@ywcalawrence.org](mailto:info@ywcalawrence.org).

## SWAP SOIREE

**PLACE:** Chester's, 60 Island Street  
Lawrence, MA

**DATE:** Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011

**TIME:** 6 p.m to 9 p.m.

Fun, unique clothing swap to benefit the YWCA. For more information and to purchase your tickets, visit: <http://swapsoiree.eventbrite.com>.



Monique Johnson [L] and Susan Kanoff Hosts of the Soiree!

## THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012!

Each May the YWCA of Greater Lawrence sponsors a premier awards luncheon to honor a select group of women living or working in the Merrimack Valley region who exemplify contributions made to both business and community. These women are honored at the luncheon, which also raises funds for all YW programs.

If you know a deserving women, nominate her for this award! For more information, visit our website at [www.ywcalawrence.org](http://www.ywcalawrence.org) or contact [info@ywcalawrence.org](mailto:info@ywcalawrence.org).

**PLACE:** Andover Country Club

**DATE:** Thursday, May 12

**TIME:** 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**TICKETS:** \$50



From our Tribute to Women Event!

**Donate on-line at [www.ywcalawrence.org](http://www.ywcalawrence.org)**

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