

YWCA *of Greater Lawrence*

Summer 2002

A United Way Member Agency

Celtics, NBA and IBM start reading and learning center at YWCA

The NBA, Boston Celtics and IBM joined children in the after school program to unveil a newly finished Reading and Learning Center at the YWCA of Greater Lawrence in May.

Celtics players Walter McCarty and Roshown McLeod took time out of the busy playoff schedule to open the Center, read with the children and explore the new computers.

The players were joined by NBA Hall of Famer Bob Lanier; Celtic legends JoJo White and Tom "Satch" Sanders; IBM Community Relations Manager for New England, Maura Banta; IBM Community Relations Manager for Massachusetts, Cathleen Finn; Celtics General Manager, Chris Wallace; Lawrence Mayor, Michael J. Sullivan, Lawrence Chief of Police, John Romero and Merrimack Valley Chamber President, Joe Bevilacqua.

IBM donated eight personal computers, two Young Explorer Stations for use by pre-schoolers, educational software and technical assistance as a part of IBM's Teaming for Technology Initiative, which links non-profit agencies with technology and technical assistance.

"The collaboration is a powerful one," said YWCA Executive Director, Becky Hall. "The children are thrilled to see the players and they can immediately use the new books and computers. The financial and technical donations from the NBA, the Celtics and IBM are invaluable to families at the YWCA."

"Reading is something that has always been very important to me," said McCarty. "Providing the kids

with books and direct access to the kind of technology IBM has donated, will arm them with the tools necessary for future success."

The Reading and Learning Center at the YWCA is the latest created in the NBA's effort to open centers across North America and to donate 250,000 books for children.

"All children deserve the opportunity to explore their talents and expand their world," said Becky. "The IBM Teaming for



Boston Celtics players Roshown McLeod (L) and Walter McCarty (R) visited all the classrooms to meet YWCA fans and to encourage students to practice reading.

Technology effort and the Celtics' Read to Achieve program will help these children get a step up on their homework, their reading skills and their confidence in using technology that is essential for success in the 21st century."

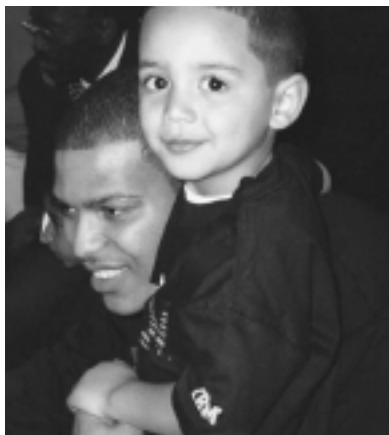
"IBM is delighted to partner with the Boston Celtics and the YWCA," said Sean Rush, IBM's Global Education Manager. "Together, we are working to improve the reading and computer skills of the young people in metropolitan Boston."

IBM's Teaming for Technology effort has provided assistance to more than 5,000 community-based nonprofit organizations in 17 cities across the US, and technology training to more than 2.5 million young people.

The new center expands the YWCA's technology programs to serve more children. Currently, the YWCA operates Verizon's Keeping Kids on Track program and the Fleet Tutoring Center, both funded in partnership with the United Way.



Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan at the podium with YWCA participant Kayla Alicea.



Pint-size Eugenio Beltre gets super-size help on an IBM Young Explorer Station from Celtics Player Roshown McLeod.

Tribute to Women luncheon honors 35 leaders

The YWCA's 19th annual Tribute to Women was celebrated with more than 500 guests this year at the Andover Country Club, honoring women from throughout



(L to R) YWCA Board Member France Lopez, honoree Argentina Cruz and honorary host Mary Richardson.

the Merrimack Valley for their outstanding professional achievements and for their volunteer and civic commitments to improve the community.

Mary Richardson, co-host of Channel 5's *Chronicle*, served as honorary chair and keynote speaker. She presented each woman with her award and an honorary membership in the YWCA.

All of the women are nominated by members of the community because they are role models for other women and

girls. Each woman honored is enrolled in the YWCA's Academy of Women.

This year the first annual YWCA Bright Future Award was presented to Kathleen Sullivan of Methuen. The award included a \$1000 college scholarship underwritten by Lawrence Savings Bank and a commemorative pendant donated by Gold Leaf Fine Jewelry.

The YWCA would like to thank the generous contributors who helped make the program possible, including benefactors ACMI, Banknorth Massachusetts, Citizens Bank, DEC-TAM Corporation, Holy Family Hospital, Lawrence Savings Bank, Lucent Technologies, Northmark Bank, Philips Medical Systems, MJ and Hank Powell, Unifirst Corporation and Wyeth Biopharma.



(L to R) Mary Richardson with honoree Carolyn Hubers and YWCA Executive Director Rebecca Hall.

Girl of the Year works hard & helps others



Adriana Cabrera with IBM Community Relations Manager Cathleen Finn. Adriana went to IBM for Take Our Daughters to Work Day in April.

Adriana Cabrera, 13, of Lawrence earned top honors in the Girls Center for her kindness to others, her good grades and her helpful efforts with staff and younger girls at the YWCA. Her hard work paid off when she was named Girl of the Year.

"The Girls Center is a good place to show your talents and who you really are," said Adriana in an interview with the *Eagle Tribune*. "You learn how to accept and get along with all people and to be a good sport."

Adriana hopes to be a lawyer and then, eventually, a judge because she believes that being fair is important and because she is "a good listener."

2002 Honorees

Ruth Budelmann
Essex County District Attorney's Office

Robin Cataldo, Police Officer
Town of Andover

Brenda Conlon, Aquatic Director
New England Pediatric Care

Argentina Cruz
Child Development Family Systems

Yoselyn Chalas
Lawrence Family Development Charter School

Sherry Comerchero
Haverhill Public Schools

Denise Coulson Barton
Tallman Eye Associates

Audrey Depelteau, D.C.
Back Bay Chiropractic

Kathleen Devaney, MD
Andover Pediatrics

Dalia Diaz
Rumbo

Wendy Drastal
HomeCare, Inc.

Diane Galebach
Magnificat Institute for Family Life

Jo-Anne Giuffrida
Banknorth Massachusetts

Altagracia Grateaux
Holy Family Hospital and Medical Center

Josefa Garcia
Niños Talentosos

Randall Hanson
Town of Andover

Carolyn Hubers
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley

Robyn LeBuff
Lawrence Savings Bank

Nancy Masys, RN
Lawrence General Hospital

Candace Martin
Wyeth Biopharma

Maggie Martin
Saints Memorial Hospital

Lura Smith
Middlesex Community College

Marinel McGrath, Ph.D.
Andover Public Schools

Barbara Menefee
Philips Medical Systems

Elaine Morgillo
Morgillo Financial Management

Maureen Mulcahy
GLCAC, Inc.

Josette Parisi, RSM
Searles Castle

Mary Lou Retelle
Merrimack College

Julia Scolnik
Andover Chamber Music Series

Usha Shastri
Lucent Technologies

Briseida Quiles
Family Service, Inc.

Leslie Warshaw
WGBH Radio

Laura Wolfe
The Cottage Restaurant

Diane Zold Insenberg
Northern Essex Community College

A Special Journey to Graduation

When asked how she came to be in the Teen Living Program for homeless young mothers at the YWCA, Dante Ferguson, 20, smiled and replied, "on a Greyhound Bus."

Dante and her two-and-a-half year old son De'rejon indeed came to the YWCA after many bumps in the road.

"It has been a long journey for Dante and she deserves to celebrate her graduation with pride," said Teen Living Program Director Karen Morgan. "Dante has a great outlook on life and a very positive attitude."

Dante was most recently a foster child herself, living in Lynn, when she was referred to the YWCA's Teen Living Program which helps teen mothers return to school, bolster their parenting skills and become self-sufficient. Dante's father, she says, is "unknown" and her mother will shortly begin a prison term after "never really being there" for Dante. After living in other temporary situations, Dante knew it was time to build a solid future for herself and her son.

"My grandmother raised me and she was always sick," said Dante, who plans to enter the medical field. "She always said I should be a nurse, and that's what I'm going to be."

Dante received her GED in the graduation ceremony at Lawrence High School in June and plans to study nursing at community college in the Fall. She spent several months volunteering at a local hospital and studying to pass the GED, which she earned in only seven months. Dante credits the YWCA Teen Living Program with helping her to stay focused.

"I don't think I'd have my GED if I didn't have a roof over my head," she said. "I'd be working on it, but I wouldn't have it. It's a nice place to live with your own room and parenting meetings. I also decided to get my GED for my son. I couldn't imagine telling him later in life to stay in school if I hadn't. It lets him know never to give up."

The YWCA Teen Living Program serves eight families at a time, funded primarily by the Department of Social Services in an effort to link teen mothers receiving state transitional assistance to resources and supervision. Each teen is required to pursue further education or volunteer at a job site 20 hours weekly. She also works with a vocational coordinator and attends parenting and support classes with trained YWCA staff, who are on-site and awake at the residence 24-hours-a-day.

"The program is strict, but supportive" said Karen. "Virtually all of the young moms overcame enormous obstacles as children themselves. Most were foster children, homeless children or young victims of violence. Most come to us with just the clothes on their backs. Typically, our first activity is to go grocery shopping and get mom and baby a few nutritious meals. From there, we start the journey towards independence."



(L to R) De'rejon, his mom Dante and Teen Living Program Director Karen Morgan celebrate Dante's GED and future career in nursing.

Were you a Y-Teen? A Turtle? A Y-Wood camper? In the MWC?

Your memories of the YWCA are an important community treasure that the YWCA wants to record and preserve for future generations.

If you traveled with the Clippers, or participated in the Hanging of the Greens, the Fiesta Dances, the Friendship Frolic, or the Annual Meeting skits, we want to hear your stories.

Were you or your mother in the Married Women's Club? Did you Paint on the Common or take Sketching? Did you represent the YWCA on friendship trips abroad? Did you go to YWCA National Conventions? Were you or the women in your family YWCA teens, volunteers, officers or board members?

Call the YWCA today make sure your memories are included and the contributions of you or your family are included as we plan the next reunion. Call Christine Doherty at 687-0331 x21.



Domestic Violence Program Thanked by Neighborhood Group

As one of three members of The Alliance of Battered Women Service Providers Greater Lawrence and Haverhill, the YWCA was recently honored by the Lawrence / Methuen Community Coalition for dedication and hard work on behalf of local victims of domestic violence.

The Alliance is a collaboration between the Women's Resource Center, Supportive Care, Inc. and the YWCA of Greater Lawrence to serve area women who are victims of domestic violence.

The Alliance maximizes community resources in the Greater Lawrence communities of Lawrence, North Andover, Andover and Methuen by creating a coordinated continuum of care for victims and their families. Together, the agencies provide comprehensive assistance to domestic violence victims.

The YWCA provides legal advocacy in the courts, housing advocacy, medical advocacy and transitional housing.

Women's Resource Center provides emergency services, shelter and shelter referrals. Supportive Care provides individual and group counseling, and safe home shelter.

The YWCA also has a separate unit which handles Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault for the region. For more information about domestic violence services, call 978-687-0331 x13.

State honors two for outstanding service

Marina Acosta and Nadia Suazo of the YWCA's Sexual Assault / Rape Crisis staff were honored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in June with Outstanding Outreach Educator awards. The two were recognized for their dedication, resourcefulness and abilities to connect people to critical and sensitive services.

Both Marina and Nadia provide education, advocacy, emergency response and group support to victims, survivors and families and friends who have been impacted by rape or sexual assault.

"Marina and Nadia are dedicated to helping others through very difficult circumstances," said YWCA Executive Director Becky Hall. "They are available night and day with compassion, knowledge and resources at their fingertips."



(L to R) Marina Acosta and Nadia Suazo, YWCA Sexual Assault Advocates were both awarded citations.

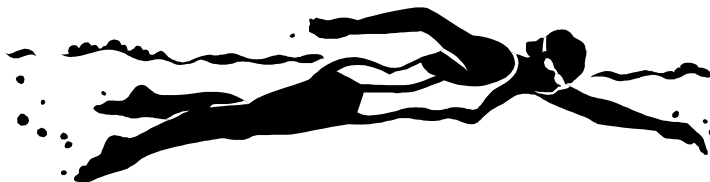
Mary Immaculate staff help at the YWCA



(L to R) Mary Immaculate volunteers Bob Salamanca, Carole Pierce, Michael Turpin and Margaret Levesque spent the day at the YWCA.

The folks at Mary Immaculate Health / Care Services have taken their mission of service on the road, helping other community groups with special projects. The YWCA was lucky to have two teams spend a day with us recently, painting an after-school room and updating administrative files.

Swimming



is back with a splash at the YWCA pool.

New YWCA Recreation Director Michael Jordan has started adult lap swimming hours at the YWCA pool Monday through Friday from 12 to 1:00 p.m. and, by schedule, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Swimmers must be 18 years or older and swim passes may be purchased at the front desk. Swimmers can pay-as-you-go or save by buying 5, 10 and 20 sessions at a time.

Michael Jordan is also available for private or group swim lessons and will work with service clubs, schools, companies or non-profit organizations organizations to set up special group programs for recreation, learning or fundraising. Call Michael at 978-687-0331 x28 and talk to him about your ideas.

Fashion Show Raises Resources and Awareness

Native Sun and Glory Restaurant Team Up for YWCA



Adrienne Pappadopolous of Glory Restaurant and Kristina Saltzman of Native Sun hosted the fashion show to support the OASIS Project.

It was an evening of fun and fashion for more than 50 customers and friends of Native Sun, Glory Restaurant and the YWCA, who came together in May to view summer fashions and to support the YWCA's OASIS Project.

The charitable fashion show was the second in support of the OASIS project co-hosted by Native Sun owner Kristina Saltzman and Glory Restaurant owner Adrienne Pappadopolous, whose businesses are neighbors on Essex Street in Andover.

Native Sun customers also volunteered as fashion models, making the event a real community effort.

The OASIS project serves nine families at a time in supportive housing, providing homeless and formerly battered women with apartments, vocational help, referral to counseling, family advocacy and support transitioning to independence. The program is funded by federal resources and with matches by United Way of Merrimack Valley, other local grants and private donations. *(Photos by Tim Jean.)*

Breast Cancer Help



Special thanks to Cristina Lopez, pictured here at her salon, Cristina's Professional Hair Center. The young entrepreneur and stylist has made women's health a top

priority in her charitable efforts in the Lawrence community.

Cristina has hosted the YWCA's Women's Health Advocacy program outreach staff at her salon to help educate Latina women about early detection and community resources.

She has also reached out to help uninsured women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. She recently donated a wig to a very young, uninsured woman enrolled in the YWCA's program. Her creativity and generosity have touched many lives.

The YWCA's Women's Health Advocacy Program links uninsured women to breast and cervical cancer screening, provides diabetes and cardiovascular disease education and trains community health workers providing services under the Mass. Dept. of Public Health Women's Health Network.



Native Sun customers (L to R), Patricia Furey, Patty Linnemann, Brooke Goodwin and Vivien Haddad volunteered as models to help raise funds for the YWCA's Domestic Violence Program.

Are you a YWCA supporter? Join Now!

A YWCA membership gift is one way of showing your support for women, girls and families who need your help. Your tax-deductible gift will be put to work in Domestic Violence, Rape Crisis, Child Care, Women's Health and After-school programs that serve local women, girls, boys and families in need. Thank you!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: State: Zip: _____

my employer matches gifts. **Employer name:** _____

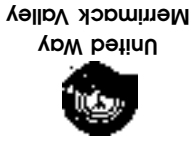
Enclosed is my gift of:

- Friend \$25 - \$49
- Supporter: \$50 - \$99
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Many thanks to recent YWCA contributors

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Community Friends Town of Andover, Andover Chamber Music Series, Charlotte Home, Dows Charitable Trust, Essex County District Attorney's Office, Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence, Susan G. Komen Foundation (local affiliate), Lawrence Family Development Charter School, Inc., Lawrence General Hospital, Mass. Department of Social Services, Merrimack Valley Partners in Service, Phillips Academy, Charles G. Pringle Foundation, Quota International of Andover, Quota International of Lawrence, Russell Trust, Stearns Trust, Stevens Foundation

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Domestic violence training & CEUs

The YWCA's Domestic Violence program offers a five-week comprehensive training starting August 20, 2002. Any one interested in the issue, and professionals in the field of social service, medical health, mental health, public safety and advocacy are encouraged to attend. The training sessions will be held Tuesday and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the YWCA in Lawrence.

The \$150 training is approved for 21 CEUs by the National Association of Social Workers and is required by many agencies before volunteers or staff are able to work with victims or their families.

The training covers resources, crisis intervention and counseling, stereotypes and bias, teen issues, legal definitions, legal advocacy and batterers. The YWCA Domestic Violence Program serves Andover, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, North Andover and North Reading.

For more information about Domestic Violence or to register, contact Ellen Ferland at 978-687-0331 x13.