

YWCA *of* Greater Lawrence

Winter 2004

38 Lawrence Street, Lawrence MA 01840

Peer Educators link women to breast and cervical health information

Department of Public Health effort coordinated by YWCA with help from The Gillette Company

Since September 2003, three teams of women, trained by the YWCA as educators about breast and cervical health, have conducted 19 peer education sessions reaching more than 120 other women across the Northeast region. Fifteen additional sessions and another peer training are scheduled for March.

These exceptional women are Peer Educators, a grassroots group of 36 concerned and motivated women from eight different countries who are helping other women -- especially uninsured women -- to learn about cancer screenings.

The Peer Educator Program is funded in large part by the **Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Women's Health Network** and follows their guidelines to link eligible uninsured women to free cancer screenings.

The YWCA is working with Karen Hanley of the **YWCA of Lowell** and Nancy Peña of the **YWCA of Newburyport** to recruit, train and support educators from throughout the Northeast region, with special attention on the target communities of Amesbury, Everett, Gloucester, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Medford, Peabody, Salem and Salisbury.

"The peer educators reflect a wide spectrum of ethnic and professional backgrounds," said YWCA Women's Health Advocacy Director, Vilma Lora. "But they all bring with them important connections. We have trained journalists, community activists, church leaders, political activists, social service providers and neighborhood leaders. They are dedicated to educating women about the importance of cancer screening."

The program is also supported by a substantial award from **The Gillette Company** and by the efforts of local leaders, including Lawrence **Mayor Michael J. Sullivan**, who convened the Mayor's Health Task Force to include a focus on breast health; **Blanca Figueroa** of the



Peer Educators trained in November 2003. Photo courtesy of *Rumbo*.

American Cancer Society, who links educators to presentation materials and other supports; salon owner **Cristina Lopez**, who has provided rewards for the educators, and **Dr. Giordano Encarnación**, retired, who is reaching out to women on the North Shore, and **Merrimack College** volunteer **Stephanie Schmitt**.

Other funders supporting the local work of the program include the **Susan G. Komen Foundation / Boston Affiliate**, **The Lenny Fund** and **Wyeth**.

Applications are now being accepted for the next training, scheduled for March 27, 2004.

Peer Educators receive a stipend for each educational session they host and money to cover refreshments, child care or

transportation needs to help participants overcome barriers to attendance. For information or to make a donation, contact Program Coordinator Minerva Grullon at 978-687-0331 x32.



Peer Educators trained in February 2004 are ready to host sessions.

Tribute to Women ★ May 13, 2004 ★ Andover Country Club

SAVE THE DATE

Nomination Form Inside or visit www.ywcalawrence.org

YWCA to Host “Agilent After School”

The YWCA was recently named an **Agilent After School** site, where children in the Girls Center and the YWCA co-ed after school program will enjoy a hands-on science program which uses experiments in life, physical and earth-science to inspire and teach children.

The experiments are designed as complete “programs-in-a-box” and will be conducted with the help of Agilent and Raytheon employees and with college volunteers from Merrimack College and Northern Essex Community College. YWCA children will break into small groups to conduct their experiments with the help of a college student volunteer.

The Agilent After School science kits contain all of the materials for children to build science experiments such as electronic-circuit games, balloon-powered cars, terrariums and many more exciting, action-oriented activities. College student partners and YWCA staff are provided all of the tools and materials to lead the younger students through various science experiments.

After completing their experiments, the Agilent After School participants are encouraged to take their finished project with them. This provides an opportunity for the children to continue learning the concept, share the project with family and friends, or show it to their teachers.

“We are very excited about Agilent After School because it supports the YWCA’s efforts to provide enriching activities that help kids succeed at school, at home and in life,” said Lee Woodbury, YWCA Associate Executive Director. “The experiments build knowledge and confidence in the sciences, and will provide the children with the opportunity to participate in a team with a college role model.”

New Ambition: More than a dance troupe

Darryl Braswell, 18, of Lawrence, is both a positive role model and a dance instructor to the YWCA’s dance troupe *New Ambition*.

“*New Ambition* is the perfect name because it says it all,” says Darryl. “It is about trying something new and knowing we haven’t reached our destination.”

“Darryl has taken a group of girls who had a lot of energy and an interest in dance and turned them into a team of disciplined, focused and enthusiastic dancers,” said YWCA Associate Executive Director, Lee Woodbury. “It’s important for children to have activities that build self-esteem and the skills of teamwork.”

“Adolescence is funny,” says Darryl. “They sometimes feels like Queens of the World and other times they feel very low. My goal is to share the happiness of dance and to teach them that if you believe in yourself, dreams can be real.”

New Ambition members follow a code of behavior that focuses on respect of self and others. For example, members



L to R *New Ambition* founding members Saisha Rivera, Jaime Olivio, Nahady Montero and Paviel Lora pose before an after-school rehearsal session. Not shown: Diorellis Garcia.

can be excused for the day if they are disrespectful, a tactic Darryl says “really works.”

“I don’t hold grudges, but it is my job to take part in maturing them,” says Darryl. “I teach them if they want a dream to come true, they need to do something positive about it.”

While the primary troupe will be based at the YWCA, *New Ambition* will hold occasional open auditions for special performances and competitions such as the Semana Hispana and Desfile Dominicano celebrations this summer and regional events this Spring.

A Letter of Thanks

The following letter was written to Linda Comeau, Assistant Director for Housing Services, by a woman who lived at the **YWCA Residence**, a transitional housing program for homeless, formerly battered women.

The YWCA Residence is one of three transitional housing programs operated by the YWCA.

The OASIS Project houses and supports homeless, formerly battered women and children and **The Teen Living Program** houses and helps homeless teen mothers and their pre-school children.

Each of these programs operates with support from the federal or state government, private donations and sliding-scale contributions from residents themselves.

“Dear Mrs. Linda,
I will never forget the day that you came to the front desk to talk to me. I was so disappointed with life, so discouraged. I have been so sad. Because, I was alone, stranger in a country, no friends, no family, no references.
Everyday in the street, I didn’t even have a place to go. Nobody did understand my miseries.
I was praying a lot but that day I think that God spoke to you directly. He told you that his child was suffering, go liberate her.
Linda, you could not imagine how much hope, joy, you brought to me that day when you came saying: do not worry. For me it was an answer from God.
Thank you so much for receiving me. You received me and put me with some friends. I was so happy with them. I really needed that. Thank you for keeping me in the program until I found my family’s references and I am going to go live with my family.
Once again, thank you!
You have a good heart. I hope you keep your heart always open to serve your sisters and your brothers. You did it well. God bless you in abundance. Good luck!

”

YWCA “cover girls” featured in United Way Annual Report



L to R Amber Garcia and Leah Sparks, as featured on the United Way of Merrimack Valley 2003 Annual Report.

Special thanks to the United Way of Merrimack Valley for featuring YWCA Girls Center members on the cover page and the interior of its 2003 Annual Report, which was presented at the United Way Annual Meeting on February 2, 2004.

The Mother Connection helps YWCA kids

The Mother Connection, a non-profit organization that provides resources, support, education and recreation to over 800 Merrimack Valley mothers and families, has chosen to help women and children at the YWCA during their “Spring Into Action” event scheduled for April 28, 2004.

The Spring into Action activity will provide children enrolled in YWCA child care, after school and residential programs for teen mothers and victims of family violence with a new backpack and school supplies purchased and collected by The Mother Connection and their member families.

The Mother Connection plans to provide at least 100 backpacks for at-risk children in the YWCA Girls Center, the Teen Living Program and the OASIS Project. The new backpacks and supplies will help motivate and excite children about being successful in school.

To learn more about the event, or to become a member of The Mother Connection, visit www.themotherconnection.org.

Banknorth Charitable Foundation Gift

Banknorth Charitable Foundation took a strong and generous stand in support of area rape crisis and assault services recently when it made a significant contribution to the YWCA's Rape Crisis Center.

The Center had remained open despite severe cuts in state funding during the months of June through December 2003.

The Banknorth Charitable Foundation funding helped the YWCA re-organized its response systems to continue its service to victims in their time of need. The YWCA collaborated with three other rape crisis centers in the state to jointly staff a 24-hour hotline and has recently re-instated its on-call response system to support victims at area hospitals.

“Banknorth Charitable Foundation made its gift at a critically important time,” said YWCA Executive Director Rebecca Hall. “Without their generosity, victims and their families would have surely gone unaided. The donation helped us sustain services at a very difficult time.”

“**Banknorth Massachusetts** has a strong commitment to supporting those programs that promote the health and well-being of individuals and families,” said Jo-Anne Guiffrida, Senior Vice President of Banknorth Massachusetts.

The YWCA Rape Crisis Center helps, on average, a new victim survivor every other day. In fiscal year 2003, the Center answered 119 hotline calls, provided 178 victims with counseling, and aided 24 victims at area hospitals. In addition, specially trained YWCA staff educated 2,470 students about healthy behaviors through area high school and college health and leadership programs.

Team effort to improve MCAS scores

The YWCA has partnered with principal Mary Toomey and teachers at Lawrence's South Lawrence East School to integrate MCAS preparation assistance into after school offerings at the school.

Children with particular challenges in math, science and reading were identified and enrolled into a structured 6-week MCAS help session where familiar teachers help children in a hands-on effort, highly personalized for each child. The program will be offered twice for a total of 12-weeks of after school MCAS help.

Cell phones wanted!

Can you host a collection site?

The YWCA of Greater Lawrence is collecting cell phones to benefit the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Programs. Phones are refurbished and proceeds directly support services.

On-going drop off locations include: **YWCA** in Lawrence, **Curves** in North Andover or **@ Wireless** in Andover.

Special thanks to recent drive sponsors: **Boston University's Rotaract Club**, which is affiliated with the **Andover Rotary Club**, and **Cisco Systems**.

To host a drive, a company provides a drop off box and promotes the drive to employees, customers or members.

The YWCA provides a ready-made flyer and will pick up cell phones at your location.

The YWCA pays no cost for shipping or refurbishment, so 100% of the proceeds go directly to services. To sponsor a cell phone drive or host a drop off site, please contact Christine Doherty at 978-687-0331 x21.

Special thanks

...to YWCA auction donors and photographers Bob Friedenson at <http://bobs-photos.com> and Carol Murphy at www.phototreasures.org.

Do You Know a Woman of Achievement?

Honor her at the 21st Annual Tribute to Women Awards!

Each May, the YWCA of Greater Lawrence sponsors a premier awards luncheon to honor a select group of women who live or work in the Merrimack Valley or Greater Lawrence area.

Tribute to Women honorees are women who have made extraordinary contributions to business, civic life, charity and family and are recognized at the luncheon, which raises important resources for YWCA programs.

Become a part of this wonderful celebration! See nomination criteria and event details at right. Deadline for nominations: March 22, 2004.

Visit the YWCA's website at www.ywcalawrence.org to see past honorees featured in our newsletters and to download additional nomination forms.

Nomination Form

Instructions: Involve your nominee in her nomination, 'surprise' nominations are not accepted. Complete **Part I** using the form below. Complete **Part II** on a separate sheet of paper. Part II may not exceed two pages. **Part III** is an autobiographical statement by the nominee and must also be typed.

Part I:

Name of Nominee: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Complete Work Address: _____

Complete Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Complete Work Address: _____

Complete Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Part II: Answer questions 1 - 9 on a separate sheet of paper. Do not refer to the honoree by name, as all nominations are read blind. Do not exceed 2 pages. A third or more pages, resumes or letters of support will not be considered.

1. Indicate the honoree's occupation or profession
2. Indicate the honoree's title
3. Indicate the honoree's type of company or industry
4. Describe the honoree's contribution to her current company
5. Describe the honoree's contribution to her profession
6. Describe the honoree's career path, including advancement, awards, achievements and any unique obstacles and how they were overcome by the honoree.
7. Describe how the honoree actively serves as a role model for women and girls
8. Describe how the honoree contributes to her community (volunteer, civic)
9. Describe any personal factors relevant to the honoree's story of achievement

Part III: *To be completed by the honoree:* Please submit an autobiographical statement of 125 words or less. Do not refer to your current employer or yourself by name. Include any information you feel is relevant to your nomination that you would like considered.

I attest to all statements of fact in this nomination and give permission for them to be used for publication by the YWCA. Nominator signature: _____

I understand that I am financially responsible (\$40) for hosting the honoree at the luncheon. My check is included. Nominator signature: _____



Tribute to Women

Save the Date!

Thursday, May 13, 2004

**Andover Country Club
Andover, Mass
11:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

Past Keynote Speakers

Natalie Jacobson, 2003

Mary Richardson, 2002

2004 *Speaker to be Announced!*

Nomination Criteria

Honoree must demonstrate:

superior contributions
in her profession

exceptional advancement
in her profession

outstanding commitment
to community

Review Process

A committee, representing a cross-section of business & community leaders will review all nominations and reserves the right to make final selections.

Deadline

Monday, March 22, 2004

Honorees Announced

by Friday, April 5, 2004

Mail to

YWCA of Greater Lawrence
Att: Christine Doherty
38 Lawrence Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

Additional Forms

Download at YWCA website
www.ywcalawrence.org

Questions

call 978-687-0331 x21

YWCA holds 2nd annual wine tasting

Nearly 300 guests joined YWCA leaders, staff and volunteers for an gala evening of fine wines, a silent auction and dinner to raise their glasses and much needed resources for YWCA programs. Special thanks to **Sam Messina** of Messina Liquors who coordinated the purveyors, to presenting sponsor **First Essex Bank** and to **Linda Brantley**, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, who served as keynote speaker. Other donors, and a collage of photos from the wine tasting, appear below. Many thanks to guests and contributors!

Thanks to recent contributors & volunteers

Annual Fund Donors: A.P. Vending, Carolyn and Stan Amsutz, Anonymous, Cecile Baranowski, The Savings Bank, Catherine Curtin, The extended Barker Family in honor of Marion Barker, Marion Barker, Jennifer Borislow, Michael Brower, Janine & Virginia Cahill in memory of Don Blacklaw, Kathleen Dalton, Ross Fenton and Kathleen Fenton, Carole Gras, Constance Grasso, Kathleen Grieco, Haffner's Service Stations, HRH Foundation, Carolyn Hamilton, Sheila Landers, Ann Lange, Metropolitan Credit Union, American Food Products, Inc., Martha and David O'Brien, Mary O'Brien in memory of Mario Ciarla, Maureen Pollard, Beth Poulou, Judith Richmond, Peg Roberts in memory of Mario Ciarla, Kathy SanAntonio, Margaret and Daniel Schneider, Nina Schwarzschild, Fred Shaheen, Susan Siegel, Kathleen and Timothy Skala in memory of Katherine Dunphy, Virginia Soule, Carole Stoney, Mark Sullivan, Suetta Tenney, UniCare, Marie Weatherby, Lee Woodbury in memory of Mario Ciarla, Wright Spaces, Jeanne Elise Zucker

Rape Crisis Donors: Anonymous, The Savings Bank, Elizabeth Black, Joyce W. David Bodenrader, Linda Brammer and Robert Brammer, Wilma and John Breiland, Virginia Cascino, Marsha Cohen and Stephen Cohen, Yoplaic-Colombo, Center for Family Wellness, Suzie Devine and



Andy Schirmer, Suanne Dillman, Shelia Doherty, Patricia and James Driscoll, Helen and Frank Eccles, Gail Ens Dorf, Paula and James Fines, Design Partnership of Cambridge, Barbara Grant, Richard and Kathleen Hughto, Linda Kaminski, Arlene Keating, Alice Kleinhans, Royal Jewelers, Paul and Jeanne Madden, James Mahoney, Lawrence Firefighters Federal Credit Union, Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union, Catherine Mc Sweeney, Linda Molchan, American Food Products, Inc., Brenda Myers, Nancy O'Connor Stolberg, Sally Pahigian in memory of Nina Scarito, A.P.Vending, Laura Pica, Mary Ragonese, Deborah Rauseo, Judith Richmond, A.C.T Abatement Corp., Bob and Carol Rougvie, Bill and Nancy Shaheen, Silvia Shannon, Lorraine



and Arthur Sharon, Margaret and William Smith, Mary Smith, Barbara Somers, Kevin and Mary Ellen Sullivan, Deborah Swallow, Gail Tanzer, Barbara Theberge, Roger and Anne Wiehe, Alice Wimer

Wine Tasting Event Donors: First Essex Bank, Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP, Messina's Liquors, Anonymous, Malden Mills, MJ Powell, Quota International of Andover, DEC-TAM Corp., Mary Immaculate Health / Care Services, Wilma & John Breiland, Carroll Construction, Mary Sullivan / Independent Tire, Kabloom's, Ruth & Kenneth Keen, Joan Lunt, McLay's Florist, Rizzo Design, Rumbo, Carol Schutz, Susan Garth Stott, Tallman Eye Associates, Tripoli's Bakery, Van Otis Candies, A Cut Above, All Things Sicilian, American Textile History Museum, Amesbury Playhouse, Andover Chamber Music Series, Andover Country Club, Andover Photo, Anonymous, Art of Rowing, Barkers Farm, Carol Bateson, Bayberry Gift & Baskets, Margaret Bernier, Beauty Solutions, Best of Thymes, Black Tie Limousine, Bollywood Grill, Books, Books, Books, Mary L. Broughton, The Boston Breakers, The Boston Bruins, Cambridge College, Cedar Crest Restaurant, Cedarland AMAZEment, The Color Studio, Creative Memories, Margaret Crockett, Comcast, Culinary Concepts, Curves of North Andover, Daher's Shoes, DEC-TAM, DiFruscia Law Offices, Dunkin' Donuts, eLearningtoys.com, Elizabeth Anne's of Tyngsboro, Essex Art Center, Evelina's, Fantasian, Flagship Motorcars, Flowers by Steve, Forgetta's Flowers, Bob Friedenson, Fuddruckers, The Hayscales Exchange, Heavenly Donuts, Holiday Inn/Tewksbury, Ironstone Farms, JMS Skincare, J&M Subs, Joe Fish, Johnson Highland View Farms, Susan Joyner, Ruth Keen, Mary Kelleher, The Kernwood, Colleen King, Julie Liese, Rep. Barbara L'Italian, The Lobster Tail, The Loft, Lowell.com, Luisa's Decorations & Gifts, Maternal Health & Fitness, Malden Mills, Mango Grille, Marriott Residence Inn, Mairi Maeks, Margot's Gallery, Jane McCrill, Merrimack Repertory Theater, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, Merrimack Valley Family YMCA, Messina's Liquors, Methuen Karate Association, Mia Bambini, Mt. Abram Family Resort, Nails by Michelle, National Amusements, Nature's Cleaners, Nazarian Jewelers, NBC, New England Civic Ballet, New England Quilt Museum, Northmark Bank, Northern Essex Community College, North Shore Music Theater, Orzo Ristorante, Party Connection, Perfecto's, North Andover, Pizza Hut, The Prime Butcher, Quota International of Andover, Royal Jewelers, Royal Web Design, Shawarma Shack, Smolak Farms, Starbucks / Andover, Studio 13, Hon. Michael J. Sullivan, Sunless Tan, Terri Talas / Talas Studios, Tallman Eye Associates, Carolyn Temmallo, Thai Sweet Basil, Training Unlimited, Treble Chorus of New England, Tripoli's Bakery, Triple D's Pizza, Turtle dove Gourmet, Van Otis Candies, Windham Farms, Maureen Weisner, Work Out World, Yang's Martial Arts, Anne Yates, Doreen M. Zankowski, 3-D / 4-D Ultrasound of Andover, 99 Restaurant, 1859 House



Program Funders: FEMA/ United Way, Kathleen Houlahan, Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence The Lenny Fund, MA DSS, Russell Trust, US Dept. of HUD, Verizon/ United Way

Holiday Helpers

Special thanks goes out to recent contributors who helped to make the winter holidays bright at the YWCA with gifts of warm clothing, toys and household items for families in need.

Louise Bevilacqua

Century 21 McLennan & Company

Blanca Cruz

Ellen Ferland

Kathy Fitzgibbons & Friends

InfoMedics

Jane Doe, Inc. and the
Jiggle Ball Toy Drive

Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence

Mary Immaculate
Residential Community

Mary Queen of Peace of Salem, NH

Native Sun

Northmark Bank

Philips Medical Systems

Puma

Quota International of Andover

Red Hat Club
Andover Senior Center

St. Michael's Parish, North Andover

Kiki Schneider & Friends

Order Sons of Italy
Lawrence Lodge 902

United Way of Merrimack Valley

Verizon

Aquatics Offerings

Recreation and Aquatics Director Michael Jordan invites parents, children, swimmers and non-swimmers to check out the fun and exciting offerings at the YWCA pool. For more information, contact Michael at 978-687-0331 x28.

Lifeguard Trainings

Parent & Toddler Swim classes

Aerobics

Birthday Parties

Private instruction

Pool rentals for:
team practice & competitions
group outings
birthday parties

... and more!



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Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Susan L. King Scholarship
Deadline: April 15, 2004**
**Tribute to Women 2004
May 13th! Save the Date**
**More info at
www.ywcalawrence.org**

Lanam Club “Casino Night” to help YWCA *March 12th Gala to benefit Domestic Violence Program*

The YWCA of Greater Lawrence was recently chosen as the beneficiary of the 3rd annual charitable gala of the Friends of the Lanam Club, to be held March 12, 2004.

The Casino Night is co-chaired by local business women and entrepreneurs, Lillian Montalto of Lillian Montalto Signature Properties and Kathy Droste of Droste Consultants. Other committee members include Eileen Novelline and Judy Reghitto, both of Andover and Jo Anne Grella and Bridget Grella, both of Methuen.

Proceeds of the festive evening will benefit the YWCA's Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Programs.

“Everyone will be a winner at this evening filled with lavish dining, games and prizes,” said co-chair Lillian Montalto. “But most importantly, the real winners of the evening will be the women and children cared for at the YWCA. The Casino Night will help support victims of family violence who are struggling to start over.”

The evening will include casino games where guests will gamble with ‘play money.’ Top winners will have the opportunity to choose from a stunning array of prizes, donated by generous supporters.

In addition, a live auction will be held as well as an ‘ice melt’ where chances can be taken to win precious stones and jewelry, also donated by generous contributors.

“The Lanam Club is honored to give back to such an important effort,” said co-chair Kathleen Droste. “The YWCA is helping many hundreds of women and children in distress each year.”



L to R: Friends of the Lanam Club co-chairs Kathleen Droste and Lillian Montalto with committee member Jo Anne Grella . *Not shown:* Eileen Novelline, Judy Reghitto and Bridget Grella.

For more information or to make a donation, contact co-chairs Kathleen Droste at Droste Consultants at 978-475-9815 or Lillian Montalto at Lillian Montalto Signature Properties at 978-475-1400.