

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
san gabriel valley

A PUBLICATION FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

September 1, 2008 Volume 1, Issue 1

The YWCA San Gabriel Valley is committed to Empowering Women, Girls and their families, Eliminating Racism, Building Healthy Communities, and affecting Positive Change through Advocacy, Education, and Leadership Development.

### YWCA San Gabriel Valley

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*This newsletter is published quarterly for members and friends of the YWCA San Gabriel Valley.*

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### 24<sup>TH</sup> Annual Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon Pacific Palms Resort, June 6, 2008

More than 500 guests including friends and family of Honorees, elected officials, community, corporate, business and education leaders and guests honored and celebrated the achievements of seven distinguished women.

The YWCA San Gabriel Valley appreciates and thanks the dedicated and extraordinary work of the Women of Achievement Event Planning Committee chaired by Sarah Ludwick. Proceeds in the amount of \$80,000 will go to support the mission and services of the YWCA San Gabriel Valley.

We thank and are so very grateful to everyone who supported the Event. Sponsors are listed on the YWCA website: [www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org) and will also be listed in the YWCA Annual Report to be available September 2008.



*2008 Women of Achievement*

*Clockwise, (starting from back row left): Doris Blum, Teresa Figueras, Reyna Del Haro, Judith North, Alice Watkins, Michaela Pereira (honoree & Emcee), Annette Whistler*

### 35<sup>TH</sup> Annual WINGS Tennis Classic June 5, 2008, Claremont Club

Ann Baker chaired the very successful event with extraordinary support from her All Volunteer Planning Committee; and, contributions from area businesses, corporations, local tennis players and friends. Because of their significant work and support, \$55,000 was raised to support the YWCA's Domestic Violence Program-WINGS.

The Event included a Silent Auction, many vendors, a fashion show with clothes from Upland's Martha Fernandez, the Claremont Club Tennis Shop and the mellow music and songs of "Women On The Move".

On behalf of the YWCA San Gabriel Valley, and all of the women and children we serve in the WINGS Program, we say "THANK YOU" to Ann Baker, the Event Planning Committee, sponsors, donors, participants and guests for your generosity and significant support.

### CEDAW-If NOT NOW, WHEN?

We urge ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. ( **CEDAW** ). The United States has not ratified this: 185 other countries ( 90% of United Nations members) have. The action has been stalled in the United States Senate for years. For more information, go to: [www.CEDAW](http://www.CEDAW). Please contact your Senators; ask why the US has not taken action to ratify CEDAW.

**YWCA  
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
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**Eddie Norris**

Domestic Violence Director

**Lavonne Hillhouse**

Operations Director

**Mike Bull**

Fiscal Manager

**To YWCA Members and Friends**

Thank you for supporting the YWCA San Gabriel Valley; and for your shared commitment to our mission of empowering women and eliminating racism. With our move in February from West Covina to Covina, we consolidated all programs and administrative operations and achieved greater efficiencies throughout the agency which enabled us to better meet the needs of women, girls, their families and seniors.

The needs throughout the YWCA's service area- the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys- are great. Like many community investment organizations, the YWCA faces significant funding challenges. In a year of economic downturn, finding sufficient resources to maintain our high standards of service to the women, children and seniors we serve is daunting. We see needs of our vulnerable families to be very severe and those needs increase with the slowing economy. The YWCA's mission is to protect and serve our most vulnerable citizens, whether they are children and adults experiencing violence and homelessness, or the elderly who are experiencing loneliness, hunger and neglect or teens struggling to "find their voice" and become strong and healthy.

The YWCA continues to offer life-changing social services, advocates for positive social change and promotes women's friendship, mutual support and leadership development. Our enduring belief is that better lives for women- all women- will lead to stronger families and communities.

We cannot meet the needs of our community or our mission without the kindness and open hearts of our generous donors. Be a champion for women, children, teens and seniors. Please mail your donation today or visit our website: [www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org) and make your donation on-line at Donate Now. Your gift will change lives.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Karen Levin

Mary Douglas

YWCA President

YWCA Interim Executive Director

**SPECIAL THANKS:** We pay tribute to those organizations and individuals who contribute so freely of their time, talents, and treasure on behalf of the YWCA San Gabriel Valley. (Donors will be listed in the YWCA Annual Report for 2007-2008)

**Teen Girls Program ( In development)**

Through educational presentations at schools, service organizations and interaction with teen girls as well as parents, educators, community volunteers and leaders, the issue of female violence continues to be brought to the attention of the YWCA.

We invite those who have an interest relating to women and girls, awareness of the increasing causes, witnessing and being victimized by violence to join with us. We invite you to become involved in developing a Program for teen girls focused on addressing and finding solutions to problems relating to violence.

From a Teacher: "This is an area of interest to us

because we see it regularly with the teens we work with on a daily basis.

The world of women and girls has become more violent and the problem is multi faceted". Female victims of violence can and do become parents themselves and become abusive parents. It's clearly the pathway of violence from one generation to the next.

The YWCA believes It is important to develop a supportive relationship with young women, so they see a future for themselves, so they can build on their strengths and build their self-confidence. We want them to focus on their future and support a change. Please call the YWCA Executive Director, (626) -960-2995 Ext.103.

**KENYA REVISITED**

YWCA women who attended the extraordinary World YWCA Council meeting in Kenya last summer convened the meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>, Porter Hall, Pilgrim Place, Claremont with 50+ in attendance. Mary Douglas, Interim YWCA Executive Director and Kay Phillips, retired YWCA Executive Director facilitated the meeting with Elizabeth Palmer, World YWCA General Secretary-Retired, Betty Jo Anderson, member, World YWCA Service Council; Sharon Betti-

nelly, Chair, YWCA Pacific Region, Hilary Olpin, YWCA San Francisco; Jenny De Runtz, YWCA Berkeley. Elizabeth Palmer expressed appreciation for the renewed emphasis on young leadership (remembering the first Youth Forum in 1971), the increased diverse representation on the World YWCA Board, and noted that membership is a relationship and a responsibility to each other and for each other not just among countries but among people.

Information relating to the World Council meeting attended by 2000 YWCA women in July 2008, including what is occurring in Nairobi, Kenya, were presented by Olpin, DeRuntz and Bettinelli. A question and answer period followed lunch as well as discussion and development of an Action Agenda for YWCAs. YWCA's are encouraged to designate a World YW and Advocacy Representative for their YWCA..

## ***YWCA WINGS - A Year of growth and change***

As we close the fiscal year for the YWCA San Gabriel Valley, we reflect on the growth and change in the YWCA WINGS Domestic Violence Program.

This past February, the YWCA moved to new corporate offices at 943 North Grand. Avenue, Covina YWCA Professional and support staff were brought together from Administration; YWCA Intervale Senior Services and YWCA WINGS Domestic Violence Programs. This change provides greater service to all of our clients and members.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, new WINGS Program Director, Edie Norris, assumed her responsibilities and began evaluating current programs; restructuring staff to positions that empower all staff members that enabled them to provide greater service to the WINGS Shelter and Outreach clients; and reconnect with all of the Program funding sources and valuable volunteers. We begin our new year with a posi-

tive new direction for the YWCA WINGS Domestic Violence Program.

We have experienced renewed and enhanced growth in services to clients through the Shelter and Outreach Services Programs. New donors, volunteers, program partners and collaborators have engaged in our services.

We are very proud of the YWCA WINGS Program and our YWCA for taking bold steps into the future and for continuing to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power.

### **PLANNED GIVING**

Please consider including the YWCA San Gabriel Valley in your estate planning.

One single method is to make a bequest in your last will and testament. Your financial advisor or attorney can help you create the bequest.

Gifts can be undesignated or designated to specific programs or projects. Please call the YWCA Executive Director if you have questions. (626) 960-2995.

### ***Acts of Kindness- "That's What I Do!"***

Peggy McCarter was honored as the YWCA San Gabriel Valley's Older American for 2008 for her contribution of time and talent to the community by Supervisor Mike Antonovich on May 23, 2008, at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Older Americans Recognition Day, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging. Older Americans from throughout Los Angeles County were honored for their contributions.

Peggy McCarter is a dedicated, hard-working volunteer and has served our community for over twenty years. From 1964, she worked for the City of Covina, instructing "Arts & Crafts", reading books to school children and continues her service at the Covina Joslyn Senior Center. Peggy calls Bingo for the City of Covina during the summertime and recruits donations from local businesses for prizes. For the past 5 years, Peggy has taught weekly Senior Arthritis classes, collects bread from Vons and delivers it to her church for distribution to those in need. She is one of the origi-

nal founders of the Mall-Walkers program at the West Covina Mall. Fifteen years later, she continues walking her laps at the mall and socializing with other seniors. Since 1999, Peggy has delivered Meals-On-Wheels to homebound seniors and disabled adults. When needed, she's quick to volunteer as a substitute driver. Peggy can always be counted upon to be there when you need her - with a cheerful smile and kind words to brighten your day. In her "spare" time, Peggy visits residents at local convalescent homes and assisted living facilities. Peggy says "That's what I do best, visiting and talking to people and cheering them up." She is truly a blessing to the YWCA Meals-On-Wheels program and those to whom she contributes her time, talent and many kindnesses. Her heart is with helping seniors. The YWCA believes she is a very deserving recipient of the 2008 Older Americans Recognition Day Award and is proud and fortunate to call her a dedicated volunteer and a loyal friend. She is a blessing to our community, our Program and the seniors we serve.

## **Calendar of Events**

### **September 2008**

**1<sup>st</sup> YWCA Closed Labor Day**

**24<sup>th</sup> YWCA Annual Meeting**

### **October 2008**

**Week Without Violence TBA**

**21<sup>st</sup> YWCA Pacific Region Meeting,**

**Queen Mary, Long Beach**

**22<sup>nd</sup>- YWCA Board of Directors Meeting**

### **November 2008**

**27<sup>rd</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> YWCA Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday**

**26<sup>th</sup> YWCA Board of Directors Meeting**

### **December 2008**

**No Board Meeting**

**24<sup>th</sup> YWCA Closed, Holiday**

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Join a sisterhood of women and 25 million women worldwide who are creating peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people.

Your membership means:

- You want to better the lives of all women
- You believe better lives for women lead to stronger families and communities

Please call the YWCA for Member information (626) 960-2995 or visit [www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org)

**Your YWCA Membership Will Make A Difference! Join Today...**

Because our goal isn't to reach the promised land,  
but to become the land of promise.

As a YWCA Member you: Stand alongside local women, children, families and seniors on their courageous journeys toward health, safety and new beginnings. Join 25 million women who believe in a fully inclusive world where peace, justice, freedom and human dignity are promoted and sustained through women's leadership!

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**Please mail your Membership/Donation with your check or credit card information to:**

**YWCA San Gabriel Valley, 943 N. Grand Avenue \* Covina, CA 91724**