

# ywca

# quarterpast

What's happening at the YWCA of Greater Lawrence

Quarter Past July 2014

Follow Us On 

## Backpack Drive!

We have a great way for you to help children go back to school ready to learn! We are seeking donations of backpacks filled with school supplies, and our Drive is in full swing! This is a great project for corporate and civic groups! You can see all the details and due dates by [clicking here](#).

## Save the Date!

Our **Annual Meeting** is set for Tuesday, Nov 10th from 8am to 9:30am. Details to follow.

**Mark your calendar!**

*Learn More...*

*...about the YW's work and the impact of your support by viewing our [Building Healthy Lives video](#).*

For more info about the YWCA, visit us at: [www.ywcalawrence.org](http://www.ywcalawrence.org)



## Budget Buddies Breaks New Ground at YWCA Fina House

*Financial literacy program a success for residents!*

As part of our Economic Empowerment series at Fina House, we concluded our first financial literacy workshop series in partnership with Budget Buddies - a nonprofit providing financial management curriculum designed for low-income women. The results were astounding, with 100% of residents sharing they found the experience very to extremely worthwhile in helping them gain the skills needed to manage their financial situations. *Financial stability is a key component of our residential program to help women recover and move forward after the trauma of domestic and sexual violence.*

The unique aspect to the Budget Buddies program is the pairing of a personal, volunteer Coach with the resident, or Buddy, and together they go through the money management series. Thirteen residents graduated from the program this spring [in front of their 13 happy Coaches!], and each received \$100 to put into a savings account - made possible through the Donald E. Garrant Foundation, endowed by The Savings Bank. "An incredible experience with my Buddy, and I hope to do this again," said Coach Gina Kucker, "Such a rewarding process, and both my Buddy and I got so much out of the program." We are now seeking Coach volunteers for our next workshop series - - if you, or someone you know, want to know more about the program and being a Coach, [click here](#).



## Big Impact Continues from YWCA Health Ambassadors

*Linking low-income women to  
health services*

Thanks to the enthusiasm of our bi-lingual Health Ambassadors, Martha Medina, Mery Moto-Rivas and Luz Rosado, this Women's Health Advocacy program has grown by leaps and bounds for the second year in a row! And thanks to the generosity of our supporters and foundations, our Ambassadors continue to be paid for their time and services [versus being volunteer positions]. Health Ambassadors outreach to residents about the importance of preventive health care and early detection of chronic diseases including diabetes, cancer, heart disease and hypertension, while linking them to vital health services. They've been working with Latino faith communities to reach those most in need of support. "For so many people, the church is like a spiritual hospital," notes Ms. Rosado.

Adds Vilma Lora, Director of Social Justice Initiatives, "Our Ambassadors are trusted community members who work wonders when it comes to increasing health access among the Latino community. Their impact has been tremendous." In the last 12 month period, the Health Ambassadors have reached more than 250 residents - exceeding the original goal by over 150%!



## YWCA Lobbies Capital Hill

*Advancing causes for women  
and all people on the  
national level*

Our Executive Director, Mary B. O'Brien and Susan Staples, Director of Program Operations, and Maricelis Ortiz, Administrator of Children and Family Services joined National YWCA CEO, Dara Richardson-Heron, M.D., on a recent visit to Washington, D.C. They met with key legislators

to discuss a variety of social justice initiatives including ending racial profiling, sick days for all workers and the devastation of domestic violence & related gun homicides.

"Domestic violence remains a key initiative locally and nationally as it presents such challenges for us all," explained Ms. O'Brien. As the nation's largest provider of domestic violence prevention, intervention and follow up services, our local YWCA sees and aides more than 4,000 people in our Domestic Violence programs. Additionally, we recognize that approximately 15% of women in MA homeless shelters cite a DV incident as the cause of their homelessness. "For us," Ms. O'Brien continued, "the fact that we run our own women's shelter specifically for domestic violence victims and offer residential housing programs for survivors, gives us the ability to provide unique, wrap-around services to aid those wanting to move beyond the trauma of their experiences." It should be noted that since we opened our emergency shelter in January of 2014, we have operated at full capacity, and have helped more than 16 families move to safe, affordable housing. For more information on our DV services, [click here](#).

## News of Note:

### Impacting Our Community in Many Ways

#### \* Thank You Pfizer Volunteers!!

Camp Y-Wood, our summer day camp for kids 5 through 13, is set to open July 6th, and we're so thankful to our friends at Pfizer who volunteered to help us get the site ready for our campers! They raked, washed, cleaned, painted and beautified the site for the kids to enjoy this summer. [You can view photos from their visits here.](#)



#### \* Early

We're thrilled to report that for the 7th year in a row, 100% of the children graduating from the children's Learning Center is a major success. Thank you to Director Mandy Chaput, staff and our many supporters who make this possible.



#### Learning Center

that for the 7th year in a row, 100% of the children graduating from the children's Learning Center tested at or above readiness standards! This predictor of future school success. Thank you to Director Mandy Chaput and our many supporters who make this possible.

**\* Annual Appeal - *Still Time to Donate!!***

June 30th is the last day of our fiscal year, and there's still time to make a donation if you've been meaning to support our work in the community! [Click here to donate securely online!](#)



**\* You're Invited to the Second Annual Lawrence Ciclovías**

This year, there are two!! At these free, fun, family events at Campagnone Common, parts of Common and Essex Streets will be closed to traffic so that revilers can walk, bike, skate and skateboard safely and easily. The event is sponsored by The City of Lawrence and the Mayor's Health Task Force - *whose activities are coordinated by the YWCA to help make Lawrence a healthier community.* Come join the festivities and enjoy Zumba, soccer clinics, water games and more!

When: Ciclovía 1: Sunday, August 2nd

Ciclovía 2: Sunday, August 23rd

Where: Campagnone Common, Lawrence

Time: 1pm to 5pm

Cost: Free!

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empowering women  
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