

Dear YWCA Tri-County Area Family and Friends:

In 1969, Astronaut Rusty Schweickart orbited the earth in Apollo 9. Outside to repair the capsule, he had a life changing experience referred to as the “overview effect” a cognitive shift in awareness reported by some astronauts during spaceflight, often while viewing the Earth from orbit. It refers to the experience of seeing firsthand the reality of Earth in space which is immediately understood to be a tiny, fragile ball of life, hanging in the void, shielded and nourished by a paper-thin atmosphere. From space, astronauts tell us national boundaries vanish, conflicts dividing people become less important and the need to create a society with the united will to protect this "pale blue dot" becomes both obvious and imperative.

In July 2011, I experienced a similar “overview effect” without leaving the gravity of earth as I, and Executive Director Andrea Primas, joined nearly 1,000 women and men from 97 countries at the International Women’s Summit and World YWCA Council held in Zurich, Switzerland. This was the first time the YWCA Tri-County Area was physically represented at this Summit. Under the theme “Women Creating a Safe World”, representatives of the YWCA movement, non-profit organizations, government agencies and private companies came together to discuss issues on sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV and AIDS, violence against women and peace with justice. International and community-based women’s rights activists, ecumenical and youth organizations, HIV+ women’s networks, media, researchers, advocates, government and inter-governmental representatives, YWCA delegates and other stakeholders and observers deliberated, made decisions and bonded. To say this experience was at once exciting and humbling would be an understatement and I definitely underwent a “cognitive shift!”



President, Board of Directors

(Pictured above with her friends from India and Lesotho. India contains the largest concentration (42%) of people living below the World Bank's international poverty line of US \$1.25 per day. In Lesotho, 40% of the population live below the international

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The Women’s Summit affirmed the importance of women’s leadership, empowerment and rights in creating a world where peace, justice, freedom and dignity are upheld. All around us, women were creating friendships, sharing life experiences,

questioning the challenges women and girls face on a daily basis around the globe and at home. They seek peace while surviving the most violent conflicts. Despite being brutalized, they hold hope in their hearts. They are the women of the world, the women of the YWCA.

YWCA Tri-County Area held it’s own discussion groups declaring 2012 “The Year of the Young Woman.” A committee of board and staff members created a series of programs to address issues affecting our younger populations. We began in January with an Int-



The women of Australia and I

ergenerational Dialogue. Panel members representing five living generations and a cross section of the community’s population led a discussion involving a different understanding of the world into which they were born, creating unique viewpoints of programs, activities, events, people, policies, etc. These viewpoints and issues provided attendees with a diverse outlook and a greater understanding of the women they encounter on a daily basis.

In February, we held a journaling workshop, where participants learned the importance of recording their thoughts and feelings in order to know their own selves better and, in the long run, how they can improve their lives through self-reflection. March’s workshop offered girls a safe environment to make connections, embrace who they are and talk about issues important to them. Discussions included media literacy, self-esteem, healthy living, exercise and proper eating. The goal was for girls to come away with information and resources to give them a strong foundation and the tools to develop into empowered, confident young women. In May, nontraditional careers was the topic, examining the history, philosophies, barriers, successes and future trends of females in non-traditional careers. Future programs in the series will include cyber bullying, advocacy, and going “green.”

Sharon H. Basile, RN
President, Board of Directors

Adult Literacy Program

- The Adult Literacy program offers classes and small learning groups in reading, writing, math, workplace essential skills, GED Test preparation, English Language and Civics, U.S. Citizenship Test Preparation, transition to postsecondary education or training, Distance Learning, Basic Computer, and customized programs.
- The program operated with a staff of 7 along with 45 volunteer instructors.
- 448 Adult learners were served.
- Funding was provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education and Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board.
- Community partners include National Penn Bank, Pottstown and SpringFord Rotary Clubs, Pottstown Regional Public Library, Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown School District, RSVP, and Montgomery County Literacy Network.
- Students come to the Adult Literacy Center with a variety of learning goals:

67% obtained GED
80% gained / retained employment.
57% transitioned to post-secondary education / training.
100% obtain US citizenship.



Adult Literacy
Preparation for the GED test

Wellness Classes (Adult Yoga and Zumba Dance, and Stress Management)

- Classes were held at the YWCA and Rolling Hills.
- 70 adults participated.
- Mothers and daughters attended together.
- Stress Management Workshops were provided for the Montgomery County Workforce Job Skills program, residents of Rolling Hills Housing Development, clients involved with Family Services and the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Training group.

Child Care

- YWCA Ready Set Grow at the King Street location was awarded Keystone STARS 3 quality standard level for a fourth year. We served 54 children.
- Pre K Counts class through its partnership with PEAK served 29 children with 7 transitioning to kindergarten.
- Children were screened for vision, dental (Mobile Dentist), and lead (VNA of Pottstown).
- 17 children of the faculty and staff at the Hill School were served in our Playhouse at the Hill child care.
- YWCA Creative Play opened in Spring City at First United Church of Christ, in March of 2012.



Child Care

Outdoor fall fun!

Healthy Choices – Girls in Charge!

- The Program's goal is to empower girls to make healthy decisions, participate in group exercise, learn about nutrition, build self-confidence and have discussions about sensitive issues affecting young girls today.
- 400 middle school age girls have been served since 2006.
- The program expanded to serve High School girls.



Healthy Choices
Parent Daughter Dinner

Girl's Today Leaders Tomorrow

- A United Way of Southeastern PA leadership program.
- Since 2007, nine Middle School girls were selected from the Healthy Choices Program.
- Seven graduated and received scholarships toward college education.

Camp Wannabe Fit

- Inaugural year of operation.
- A School-age Outdoor Summer Camp in North Coventry Township, which served 16 children.
- Partners included Penn State, Pottstown Library, Mascorro Respect Program, Jr. Explorers and Pottstown Parks & Recreation.

Little Miss Manners

- A young girls' etiquette program funded by The Hill School's Student Philanthropy Council.
- 30 girls attended.

Women EXCEL

- The purpose of Women EXCEL (Executives' Coalition for Excellence and Leadership) is to bring together women to forge alliances that lead to personal and professional development. By forming a supportive network of friends, co-workers and mentors who provide emotional assistance, empathetic counsel and personal guidance, Women EXCEL seeks to energize, empower and inspire women to reach their full potential.
- Membership for this fiscal year was 83.
- Members met once a month between September and June for breakfast, networking and to listen to a presentation from a guest speaker.
- The year started with author Deb Takes discussing her book, Time Will Tell, with all in attendance receiving a copy of her book. The last meeting in June was a luncheon held at the Hill School, with Cathy Calhoun of Calhoun Jewelers as the speaker. The title of her presentation was "Diamond Tea Party".
- Women EXCEL sponsored the YW's Black Heritage Celebration and Tribute to Exceptional Women Event.

Women EXCEL Advisory Panel

President	Jennifer Schell
Vice President	Beth Hiriak
Secretary	Deborah Rogers
Treasurer	Pat Eltz
Member	Tumeka Flanigan
Member	Carol Graves
Member	Lisa Harner
Member	Betty Moriarity
Member	Allison Smale
YWCA Liaison	Andrea Primas

Mission

YWCA Tri-County Area is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

Vision

Respect and Equality for All

Core Values

Empowerment
Self Growth
Diversity

Board of Directors 2011 - 2012

President

Sharon Basile

1st Vice President

Sue Ann Yocom

2nd Vice President

Shana Brown

Treasurer

Jennifer Schell

Secretary

Justine Pascal

Board Members 2011-2012

Dana Cardona
Paula Corson
Leslie Duall
Tumeka Flanigan
Jo Anne Forman
Judith Green
Valerie Jackson
Debra Khateeb
Pamela McGinley
Beth Silverman
Marie Ann Thompson
Laura Washington
Judith Watts, Esquire
Silvia Williams
Janice A. Willis

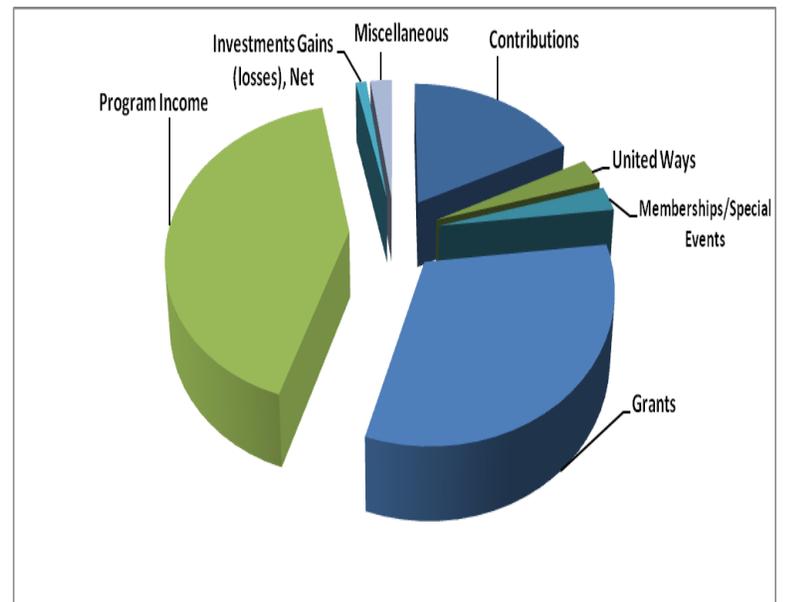
Liaison

Andrea Primas

The Board of Directors meets each month (except December) on the 3rd Tuesday at the YWCA Tri-County Area building located at 315 King Street, Pottstown, PA 19464.

Financial Information

Sources of Revenue	<u>June 30, 2012</u>	% of Revenue
Contributions	\$ 202,144	18%
United Ways	32,482	3%
Membership/Special Events	29,970	3%
Grants (Federal/State/Local)	360,461	32%
Program Service Fees (Program Income)	477,882	42%
Investment Gains (Losses), Net	12,704	1%
Miscellaneous	25,890	2%
TOTAL	\$ 1,141,533	100%



HOW WE USE OUR FUNDS

	<u>June 30, 2012</u>	
Program Services	\$ 1,155,332	86%
Support Services (includes management, general and affiliation duties)	192,151	14%
TOTAL	\$ 1,347,483	

Call to Action

Of the 1.2 billion people living on less than \$1 per day, women and girls comprise almost 70% of the world's poor and hungry. Figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau found a spike in poverty numbers last year, going from 49 million in 2010 to 49.7 million in 2012. One of the most startling findings showed almost 20 percent of American children continue to live in poverty. The poverty level in Pottstown is 16.5% greater than the Pennsylvania average. *So, we ask ourselves, we ask you, "What can each of us do to change the status quo?"* Generally, most of us don't try to make change happen because we believe it is too difficult, if not impossible, to effect change. *But it really is up to each one of us. We have to stop waiting for the world to change and decide to change it ourselves. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "We have to be the change we want to see..." create the world we want and build relationships which will help to make our own lives richer and fuller and more meaningful.* Fortunately, there are a lot of us! In 2011 there were 158.3 million females in the United States. (There were 153.3 million males.) At 65 and older, there were 13.3 percent more women than men in 2011. We represent the vast majority of Americans who want better education, good jobs with benefits, decent health care for all, and an end to war. *We need to step forward for what we care about. Little by little, step by step, we can resolve the frightening issues of this time and restore hope to the future for every woman and girl.* As income sources dwindle we are more dependent on the generosity and philanthropy of our donors and funders. We are very grateful for your support and assure you we will continue to be good stewards of your trust and belief in our mission. With great hope for the future,

*Sharon H. Basile, RN
President, Board of Directors*

Funders 2011—2012

We thank you for your financial contributions that enable the YWCA Tri-County Area to continue its important work to eliminate racism and empower women and girls. We have raised funds through our annual appeal and special events, and continue to cultivate relationships with sponsors and partnerships. Again, we thank you for your continued support of the YWCA, which unites us in our commitment to promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. In addition to the generosity of our individual donors, we recognize the following organizations:

Exelon Nuclear Limerick Generating Station

James K. Boyer & Nancy Lang Boyer Family Fund of Berks Co. Community Foundation

Montgomery County Child Care Information Services (CCIS)

Montgomery County Economic and Workforce Investment Board

*Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth
National Penn Bank*

Non-Profit Finance Fund

PA Department of Education Child & Adult Care Food Program

PA Department of Education, Bureau of Adult Basic Literacy Education

Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation

Pottstown School District Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness (PEAK)

Rotary Club of Pottstown

The Hill School

A United Way of Greater Philadelphia

& Southern New Jersey Community Partner

& United Way Chester County Community Partner

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A Member of YWCA USA

Annual Report
July 01, 2011— June 30, 2012

YWCA Tri-County Area
Serving Montgomery, Berks and Northern Chester Counties

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca