

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Lancaster

ON A MISSION

YWCA Lancaster Update | Summer 2017

We Race for a Reason

Did you know that YWCA Lancaster's annual 5k run/walk through Historic Lancaster is the longest consecutive-running Race Against Racism in the United States? This staple of our community is a great way to take a stand against racism. Through months of preparation, and year-long efforts to educate the community and advocate for public policy that breaks down barriers, the Race Against Racism is a way that we join together as a community to take a stand against racism.



Our YWCA kids had a blast!

At this crucial point in time, we believe that fighting racism is more important than ever. It starts with recognizing our country's long history with racism



and its impact on our systems, structures, and institutions. If we want a just, peaceful society, it is our mutual responsibility to address racism. The Race Against Racism funds YWCA Lancaster's Social Justice and Advocacy programs, and supports those who seek peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.



A great turnout: More than 3,000 racers participated.

This year's Race, our 19th consecutive, was the most successful yet! Thanks to our generous sponsors, donors, volunteers, and racers, more than \$100,000 was raised to strengthen our mission.

We thank everyone who helped make this Race such a success, and we hope to see you all again for the 20th anniversary Race Against Racism on **April 28** next year!

Thank you, sponsors!

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For the complete list of sponsors and donors, as well as team and individual category winners, visit our Race web page at

ywcalan Lancaster.org/raceagainstracism



MICHELLE'S UPDATE

I wish everyone could be at the YWCA every day to experience all of the changes we are making and to see the increased energy level. Yes, we have our challenges, but we are making progress.

YWCA Lancaster's work in childcare, sexual assault prevention and counseling, winter shelter for homeless women and children, social justice training, TechGYRLS, summer camps, and housing empowers women and their families. Without all of these elements to create a sound support structure, we would not succeed in truly changing lives. To create systemic change, these programs must work in concert.

You cannot empower women without empowering all women. Today demographics across the nation show that 38 percent of all women are women of color. By 2050 that number is predicted to be 53 percent. To engage in programs that empower women without dedicating resources to social justice work would entirely miss the mark. An association of women working together across categories of social difference can transform and improve lives for all women. We must provide direct services to those who are most impacted, educate the general public, and advocate for local and national public policies.

And now, more than ever, with millennials the second-largest generation living today, the impact of young women matters. Just as they mattered in 1886—when students took the initiative in forming the national association YWCA of U.S.A. The strengths young women bring to our mission include leadership, passion, and new ways of engagement via social media and digital connection. Tapping into the social justice passion and energy of millennials presents a real opportunity we must embrace and foster.

More than ever, YWCA is a movement. Indeed, we are **on a mission**.

Michelle McAlale

Hey, Girls 9–14: Have Some STEM Fun & Excitement this Summer!

Girls, do you want to build a robot, film a commercial, learn carpentry and plumbing, and go on fun field trips? Join YWCA Lancaster for one of our TechGYRLS two-week day camps!



During TechGYRLS summer camp, girls learn new skills through hands-on activities, explore non-traditional trade careers, go on STEM-related field trips, and more! The camps take place at Thaddeus Stevens School of Technology and at the YWCA Lancaster site. Transportation between the two locations is provided.



One of the TechGYRLS projects is learning about mechanics and designing and building machines.

[TechGYRLS](#) is a hallmark program of YWCA Lancaster, focused on empowering girls ages 9 to 14 to pursue STEM activities and careers. Women, and particularly women of color, are under-represented in high-paying jobs in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. TechGYRLS boosts girls' interest in these fields through afterschool programs and summer camps.

TechGYRLS is funded primarily through Education Improvement Tax Credits (EITC). This fall, organizations can transfer these EITC credits to YWCA Lancaster to support the program. Other funding sources include individual donations and camp fees. Additionally, anyone can fund scholarships for the TechGYRLS summer camp to cover costs for girls who may not be able to afford the fee.

The fee for each two-week session is \$300. A sliding fee scale, based on income, is available. For more information, please contact Kaity Nordhoff at knordhoff@ywcamlancaster.org or 717.393.1735, ext. 262.

There are two more sessions left this summer, July 24–August 4, and August 7–August 18. We still have a few spots open, so register today!

We encourage schools interested in holding a TechGYRLS program for the 2017–2018 school year to contact YWCA Lancaster.



A Fresh Look for Childcare Rooms

Thanks to grants provided by the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Program, the Pre-K Counts 3 room underwent major renovations to ensure that children of all socioeconomic levels have access to clean, stimulating learning environments. Renovations were made to flooring, walls, ceiling, and bathrooms in the Pre-K 3 room. Further renovations will include flooring in the hallway; updates to the Toddler 1 room, funded by Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP); and new window coverings for the center.



YWCA Lancaster finds amazing ways to provide quality, safe, healthful, and accessible early education for all children!



Dismantling Racism

YWCA Lancaster holds its annual Racial Justice Institute from Wednesday, August 16, through Friday, August 18. This intensive three-day workshop, held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day at First United Methodist Church (26 East Walnut Street, Lancaster), gives participants a common understanding of racism, plus a foundation for beginning to dismantle the institutional and systemic racism that pervades the institutions and organizations in our lives.

Participants will gain a better understanding of the separate experiences, work, and responsibilities of People of Color and White People. They will be introduced to a fundamental anti-racist, multi-cultural, organizational/institutional analysis model and leave the Institute with a tangible plan of action for themselves and/or their “change team.”

Journals, workbooks, and other tools will be used to study, question, and better understand the history, context, and impact of racism on individuals and society.

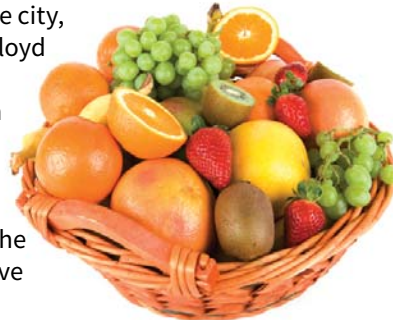
The Racial Justice Institute is led by cultural bridges to justice, a national consortium of highly effective trainers. Jona Olsson and Achebe Betty Powell have delivered the Institute to the Lancaster community for more than 10 years and to YWCAs across the country for nearly 30 years. For more information, visit culturalbridgestojustice.org/programs/racism/racial-justice-institute

The cost per participant is \$300. Continental breakfast, refreshments, snacks, and lunch are included. Scholarships are available. To reserve your spot, go to: racial-justice-institute.eventbrite.com.



ADVOCACY CORNER: No Food Desert in Lancaster

In May, Giant Foods announced the closing of its Reservoir Street store, leaving area residents without access to a full-service grocer. YWCA Lancaster took action! Giant's decision was financially based, but the company stipulated that its building not be leased to another grocery store. Concerned this would create a “food desert” (an area lacking in fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful foods) in the city, we contacted Giant, Rep. Lloyd Smucker, City Council, and the Mayor. Rep. Mike Sturla supported our efforts. We urged Giant to allow another grocery store to lease the space, stressing the need for all residents to have access to healthful foods.



Because YWCA Lancaster works to help families and strengthen communities, our advocacy involves all areas of family wellbeing. Studies show that children who eat healthful meals do better in school. And neighborhoods with higher concentrations of people of color and people in poverty are more likely to be affected by the lack of full-service grocery stores. YWCA Lancaster will continue to advocate to ensure there is #NoFoodDesertInLanc.

In light of the outpouring of public concern, Giant is providing a free shuttle bus from the North Reservoir Street neighborhood to its store at 1360 Columbia Ave. The shuttle will operate until Aug. 28.

Help Support Our MISSION

YWCA Lancaster is dedicated to eliminating racism;

empowering women; and promoting peace, justice, dignity, and freedom for all. Our programs educate children; provide housing; support social justice and public policy change; and empower women through sexual assault prevention and sexual assault counseling, education, and more.

There is always more need, and more to be done. Join us. We stand together. Your generosity and participation allow us to strengthen and expand our services to those in need in our communities. Please consider a donation that will help us continue our mission. Your gift can be made through our website at ywcalancaster.org/give or by check; mail to YWCA Lancaster, 110 N. Lime St., Lancaster, PA 17602. To make a donation of stock or of material goods, please call us at 717.393.1735.

You can help by volunteering as well. Call for more information, or visit ywcalancaster.org/get-involved.

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Why We Recognize Women

It is time that we celebrate the accomplishments and positive impact the women of Lancaster are making in our community. Too often, those who shine among us go unrecognized. With your help, YWCA Lancaster will pay tribute to six deserving women of Lancaster County at the Women of Achievement Luncheon. These extraordinary women give selflessly of their time and energy to make our community a better place. This event honors women who have demonstrated leadership and excellence in their personal and professional endeavors while supporting and embodying YWCA Lancaster's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. At the same time, the luncheon will help raise money and awareness for that mission.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Bertice Berry, truly a Woman of Achievement.

The Women of Achievement Luncheon is Friday, November 3, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Inn at Leola Village. Nominations and sponsorships are being accepted. For more information, visit ywcalancaster.org/womenofachievement

To purchase tickets, go to:
ywcawomenofachievement.eventbrite.com

About Dr. Bertice Berry

No one defies stereotypes and clichés better than Dr. Bertice Berry. Growing up disadvantaged in Wilmington, Delaware, she was told by a high school teacher that she was “not college material.” Fortunately, another teacher believed in her, and Berry applied to several schools—with no idea how she would pay the tuition if accepted. The day her application arrived at Jacksonville University in Florida, a wealthy benefactor called the Admissions Department looking for a potential student “who could swim if they had the right backing,” and might sink without it. Bertice was that student. She graduated magna cum laude from Jacksonville and subsequently earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from Kent State University.

Dr. Berry became a teacher and, later, an award-winning entertainer, lecturer, and comedienne.



**WOMEN OF
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