



YWCA
NIAGARA REGION

A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

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YOU



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WOMEN

newsletter

Issue 1, October 2009

Letter from the Executive Director

As we emerge from a time of transition, we are excited about the growth that has taken place in the organization and for future plans. We are excited about entering the age of the web with the launching of our website, www.ywcaniagararegion.ca, we encourage everyone to visit and wander through the pages. We also encourage you to sign up for our e-newsletter as we look for opportunities to connect with the community in a way that allows us to move in a greener direction and keep you informed of what is happening within the YWCA.

As it has been a while since we have connected with you, I would like to tell you what we have been doing. We have been assessing our current programs and in so doing are recognizing the strengths that we have and how our programs link together to provide a continuum of services. In assisting women who are experiencing crisis in their lives we are able to provide not only emergency housing through our shelters but are able to provide a bridge from crisis to independence and stability through our transitional housing programs and employment programs. It is in the areas of the latter programs that we are seeing the most growth. In the past two years we have grown our Off-Site Transitional Housing Program from four apartments to twenty-five apartments and have expanded into the Niagara Falls community from St. Catharines. We are now moving into the Welland community with another ten apartments. What excites us about this program is the partnership with landlords and the ability for the women in this program to assume the lease after a year and so achieving permanent housing. Our employment program has expanded over the last two years so that we are now providing services in the Niagara Falls, Welland and Grimsby communities at various locations. In this past year we also began a new Transitional Housing program that supports teen girls. We had identified that teen girls were a particularly vulnerable population and that providing transitional

housing supports would increase their ability to transition successfully into adulthood. We have also identified the need for girls centered programming and we now offer several programs that support girls from 8 years old and into their teens. These programs create opportunities to learn everything from what healthy relationships look like to dealing with media pressure and lots in between.

As an organization we are committed to ensuring that our programs and services are relevant and serve the community in the best possible way and to that end we continue to work with our partners and funders to look for ways to link closer together and to ensure that some of the most vulnerable women and children in our community are given what they need to have stable and independent lives.

We look forward to continuing our connection with you and keeping you informed of our progress and new innovations in serving our community. We encourage you to stay connected with us and hope that you will consider us when you are looking at where to invest your time, talent and financial support.

With the utmost respect,



Elisabeth Zimmermann
YWCA Niagara Region

**YWCA
BOARD** **NIAGARA
OF** **REGION
DIRECTORS**

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**YWCA Niagara Region
Website Launch**

The YWCA Niagara Region is thrilled to announce the launch of our brand new website, which can be found at www.ywcaniagararegion.ca. We hope you take the time to visit our site and learn more about our events and current volunteer opportunities within our organization.

This user friendly site is filled with current YW news and you can also donate online.

We hope with this communication tool we can reach a larger volume of committed donors dedicated to empowering women and women led families.



Women of Distinction nominee's photo taken at Market Square during the Nominee's Reception.

Photo Taken By: Bob Tymczyszyn of the St. Catharines Standard

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

The 2009 Women of Distinction Awards was a huge success! With a sold out venue of 400 people, the YWCA Niagara Region honoured the unique contributions of women across the region who distinguished themselves by their personal achievements, community involvement and their contribution to the advancement of women. These recipients inspired vision, initiative and leadership. This signature event raised over \$40,000 to support women and their children. Helping the YW continue our mission of empowering women and their families by providing safe supportive housing and programs; creating opportunity for all women to reach their full potential.

WHAT'S NEW WITH JOB ROUTE?

Job Route for Women Employment Services - "The only employment service assisting women exclusively in the entire Niagara Region"

Job Route for Women has always been in high demand; however, as of late the demand has never been higher. Regardless of our current economic restraints and the fact that the Niagara Region has the second highest unemployment rate in all of Canada, Job Route for Women continues to find women jobs! Job Route for Women Employment Services is designed to help women develop the skills needed to enter or re-enter the workforce, secure and retain employment, all from a women's perspective. The Job Route team provides women

with one-on-one employment counseling, professional career assessments, workshops on specific topics "tailor made" and based on client demand, individual job search assistance, and ongoing support. Job Route makes connections with employers across the Niagara Region in order to match our women to the "perfect job". Over the years Job Route has grown substantially. By popular demand, Job Route now offers services in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland and Grimsby. Job Route will go anywhere in the Region to help women find employment!

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TIMES ARE TOUGH? HOW ELSE CAN YOU HELP?



**HOST A THIRD
PARTY EVENT FOR
YOUR YWCA**



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GOLF TOURNAMENT



BBQ



CAR WASH



MAKE A DIFFERENCE, HOST AN EVENT TODAY!

MISSION STATEMENT

The YWCA Niagara Region is part of a national and worldwide movement that is passionate about empowering women and their families by providing safe supportive housing and programs creating opportunity for all women to reach their full potential.

VISION STATEMENT

The YWCA is a leader in the Niagara Region providing awareness through education and advocacy to raise the equality of women and the visibility of issues in our community.

CONTACT

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HELP US GO GREEN

To receive our e-newsletter online please visit us at www.ywcaniagararegion.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS

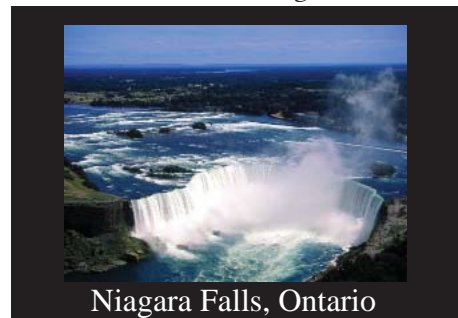
YWCA's Week Without Violence™ starts **October 12th and ends on the 16th**. Each year during the third week of October, Canadians band with people in the over 90 countries around the world to mark YWCA's Week Without Violence™, a week-long series of community events promoting diverse approaches to creating a violence-free world. More than 17,000 people in schools, workplaces and neighbourhood organizations throughout Canada recognize this annual violence prevention initiative aimed at making violence a thing of the past.

4th Annual Power of Being A Girl™ conference on **October 15th** from 8:30a.m to 2p.m. at the C.A.W Hall. Girls from grades 10 and 11 will be our focus group. The theme is 'Empowered by Choice.' Key note speaker, Sergeant Robyn MacEachern; from the Ontario Provincial Police will be doing a presentation on Cyber Risks that will include topics, Identifying trends in terms of risks, strategies to reducing risks and identifying tools of exploitation.

Our Annual Christmas Appeal will be starting **December 1st, 2009**. Every year the YWCA Niagara Region expresses a need to the community to help make each Christmas special for the women and their children who land on our doorstep during the Holiday season. The ongoing support from donors in the past years have put so many smiles on the faces that fill our shelter.

YWCA's Annual Women of Distinction Awards will take place on **May 6th, 2010**. This signature fundraising event celebrates women and young women, who have distinguished themselves in the community by their personal achievements, commitment and contribution to the advancement of women.

YWCA Niagara Region will be hosting the Annual Members Meeting **June 3rd to 6th 2010**. YWCA's from across Canada will be arriving into the Niagara Region where they will be staying at the Hilton Fallsview in Niagara Falls; taking in its breathless scenery, lavish venues and exciting attractions surrounding the area.



Niagara Falls, Ontario

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Volunteer at the shelter, make a cash donation of your choice, fill our shelves with food donations or host a third party event. **To get involved or learn more about our events, please call 905-988-3528**

ALREADY A DONOR?

Thank you for supporting the YWCA Niagara Region and empowering women and their families.



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