

ywca words

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

St. Paul

For Friends, Members and the Greater St. Paul Community

Summer 2010

remembering dorothy height

YWCA's Nationwide Honor her Life & Legacy

On April 20, 2010 civil rights leader, visionary and change maker, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height passed away at the age of 98. Dr. Height fought against race and gender prejudice her whole life – starting from the age of 12, when she demanded to speak to the manager after being denied entrance to a swimming pool because of the color of her skin. Height went on to participate in virtually all of the major civil rights events from the 1950s through the 1980s, to be a leader within the YWCA and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), and to create and run programs that help millions of people around the world.

After earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from New York University, Height immediately started working on civil rights issues. She served as an organizer and eventually Vice President of the United Christian Youth Movement of North America. This work led her to the YWCA where she spent the next 40 years working her way up: from Assistant Executive Director, YWCA Harlem to the Executive Director of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA in Washington D.C. and finally to the staff of the YWCA National Board



Dorothy Irene Height (March 24, 1912 – April 20, 2010) - AP Photo/David Kohl

where she worked from 1944 to 1977.

Height played a major role in developing the YWCA's focus on racial and social justice issues. During the YWCA's 1946 convention, she fought to ensure integration of YWCA facilities nationwide. In 1965, she became Director of the newly created YWCA Center for

Racial Justice, and at the organization's 1970 convention, worked to establish a core imperative of the YWCA mission – the elimination of racism.

She worked with Mary McLeod Bethune at the NCNW and fought for equal employ-

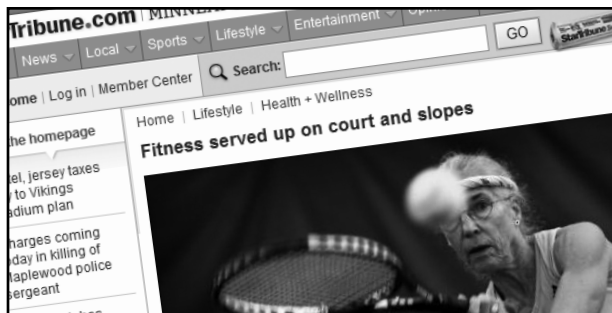
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within our walls

A Glimpse at Programming and Happenings



On April 19, HFC Member, Karen Hollaus, was featured in the Star Tribune's "How I Got This Body." To read the complete article online, visit www.startribune.com.



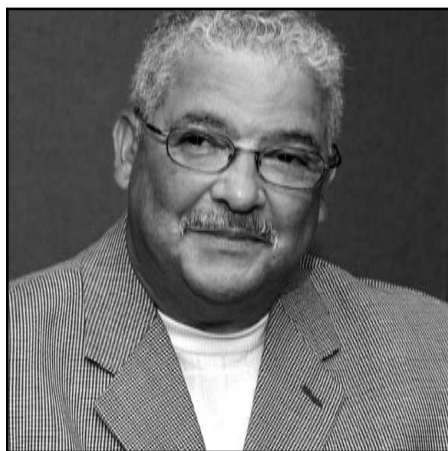
Just in time for summer, the YAP Learning Lab is getting a facelift! Federal dollars administered by the University of Minnesota will provide new computers, work stations, software, high speed internet and more.



Thanks to neighbor, Garrison Keillor (Common Good Books) for donating 9 boxes of new books! The books are being distributed to youth and families at the YWCA and will help support literacy, lifelong learning and skill building.

planning during uncertain times

New Strategic Plan Sets Our Course for the Next Five Years



William L. Collins, Jr., Executive Director

Although reports indicate the economy may be improving, 2010 will be a challenging year for nonprofits. There has been both

encouraging and discouraging news. On one hand, the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported the assets of most of the nation's large foundations grew modestly last year. On the other, a new Chronicle survey indicates that the financial collapse eroded the wealth of most philanthropies by as much as one-third. Industry experts predict that most foundations will decrease giving or keep it flat during 2010.

Despite the challenges that the current economy presents, the YWCA St. Paul remains focused, strong and well positioned to meet community needs. I'm excited to report, we have recently completed a new strategic plan. During the process, the Board of Directors, senior staff and more than 51 stakeholders joined together to refine our vision and

set strategic directions that will help guide us over the next five years.

The new plan builds on our past work. We will continue: investing in facilities and infrastructure; broadly articulating our mission; promoting and delivering high-quality programs; securing the financial stability of the organization; and maintaining a strong and effective board.

A copy of the plan is available online in the "About Us" section of the website (www.ywcaofstpaul.org). I invite you to join us as we implement the new plan and continue the YWCA's long-held tradition of community service and excellence. Together, we can change minds, bodies and lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William L. Collins, Jr.".

earning high marks

Employment Programs Shows Impressive Results



Checking in at a summer employment site during the summer of 2009.

Last summer, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided funding that made it possible to pro-

vide employment and training services for economically-challenged youth between the ages of 14 and 24. As a contract agency for the summer program, the YWCA St. Paul engaged partners including the City of St. Paul, Northwest Youth & Family Services and Tree Trust to ensure that more than 300 jobs throughout Ramsey County were available to youth.

Year-round, YWCA's IMPACT Program is also a WIA (Workplace Investment Act) YouthLEAD site. Last year, IMPACT achieved impressive results! Of the youth ages 14-18 who were served in our program, WIA Performance Outcomes show:

- 82% attained basic skills, work readiness and/or occupational skills.
- 100% of those eligible, received a high school diploma or equivalent.

- 90% who had already graduated or earned a GED, were engaged in post-secondary education, advanced training, military, employment or apprenticeship opportunities.

Of the older youth ages 19-24 who exited the program:

- 100% of those working had secured unsubsidized employment.
- 100% had attained educational or occupational credentials and were engaged in unsubsidized employment, post secondary education or advanced training.

Currently, a bill to fund a summer employment program is still pending in Congress. If passed, the YWCA St. Paul will likely contract with Ramsey County to ensure more than 300 summer jobs are available to economically-challenged youth.

swimming hard; finishing strong

Piranhas Celebrate a Successful Season

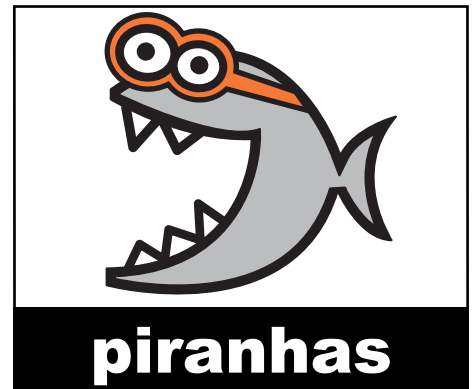
Most afternoons, you will find the pool at the YWCA full of Piranhas. The coed youth swim team welcomes swimmers ages six and up, and puts in about 9 hours of practice each week. During any given session, there are 50-75 swimmers registered for the team whose competitive season runs October – March.

Coached by Andrea Gleason, the team has grown in both size and skill level. “Four years ago, we were the smallest team in the league and were considered the underdogs,” says Gleason. “Today the team has tripled in size and we are one of the main competitors in the league!”

On Valentine’s Day, more than 50 Piranhas participated in the Sectionals Swim Meet at the U of M Aquatic Center. Twenty-five moved on to qualify for State where the team made a strong showing and placed 8th overall. At State, Piranhas earned 48 top ten

finishes (20 of which were top three). In the 12 and Under group: a relay team comprised of Lia Chin-Purcell, Maria Neuzil, Erin Kennedy and Emily Conners brought home two first place finishes – one in the Medley and another in the Freestyle Relay. Swimmer Erin Kennedy took first place in both the 100 IM and 50 Fly, and teammate Colin Finnegan finished first in the 100 Back and 100 Free. In the 14 and Up group: Arthur Dobbs, Haroun Khalid, Charles Spencer and Colin Finnegan brought home a first place finish in the Freestyle Relay.

In April, fifteen Piranhas finished the season by earning the right to swim in the Midwest Regional Meet. Competing among 1,200 swimmers from throughout the Midwest, the Piranhas did an excellent job. Many swimmers swam the best races of their season and collectively the team secured 12 top ten finishes. Although the competitive season



has come to a close, the Piranhas continue to practice during the summer months in preparation for the competitive season that resumes in the fall.

The YWCA St. Paul would like to recognize the Piranhas for their hard work and dedication. We are proud to have you represent the YWCA and congratulate you on your many accomplishments and a winning season!

celebrating success

YW Reads: Building Confidence & Skills



YWR helps students in grades K-3 to improve their reading skills and ensure they are reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Like many eight-year-olds Mai loved kitties and princesses. She would happily draw you one, but didn't like to talk or read about them. As a third grader attending a St. Paul Public School, Mai was referred to YW Reads because she was reading below a first grade level. Her parents are Hmong and English was not spoken at home.

Although Mai cheerfully attended YW Reads, she did her best to avoid speaking or reading in English. Attempts by staff to engage her in conversation about her day were cheerfully ignored. When

asked to read aloud, a smiling Mai would break her silence only to say, "I can't read." Staff knew this simply wasn't true. Having observed that she knew letter sounds and could write both words and phrases, they continued to encourage Mai to speak and read.

Mai clung to her silence for weeks, but soon began to answer questions with short responses. Over the nine months she attended YW Reads, she underwent a transformation gaining both confidence and skills. Whether furiously writing in her journal or standing on tiptoes raising her hand for a chance to read aloud, her new enthusiasm for reading, speaking and writing was impossible to ignore.

Thanks to her hard work and the extra practice, support and encouragement she received at YW Reads, Mai will begin her fourth grade year a better reader, writer and learner!

Continued from Page 1

ment, pay and education for women. Serving as NCNW's president from 1957 to 1998, Height helped organize "Wednesdays in Mississippi," which worked to open communication between women of different races; created programs to address housing, teen parenting and hunger issues; and in 1986, established the Black Family Reunion Celebration. She served as Chair Emeritus of NCNW, where she went to work every day until shortly before her 98th birthday.

Height was at the forefront of every major civil rights event of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. She worked with Martin Luther King, Jr. to plan the 1963 March on Washington and was in fact, the only woman to help plan the march. Much of her civil rights work was done from the platform of the YWCA during her tenure

directing the Center for Racial Justice. She was an advisor to administrations from Roosevelt to Obama, and received 36 honorary degrees from universities and colleges. Height was awarded the two highest civilian honors—the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004.

The YWCA's highest honor is named for Height and is presented to individuals whose efforts and contributions to racial justice have made a national impact. In 2009, in commemoration of YWCA USA's 150th anniversary, Height received the YWCA Fearless Leader Award. Her life's work personifies the YWCA's purpose—a quest for peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Her legacy to the YWCA and the nation will be enduring

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This document is available in alternative formats.



YWCA St. Paul is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

eliminating racism
empowering women

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St. Paul



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