

yw words

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

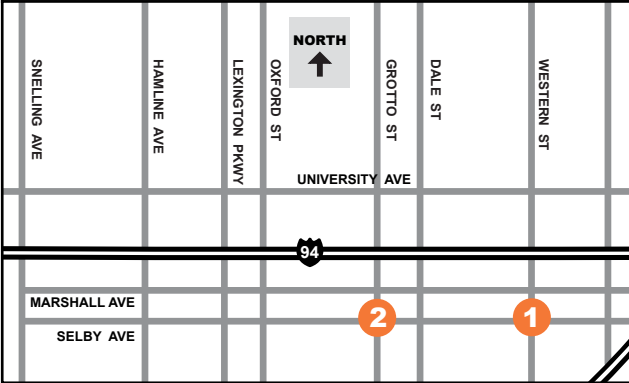
St. Paul

For Friends, Members and the Greater St. Paul Community

Spring 2011

ywca acquires new site

Location to be Used for Employment & Training Services



Top: New site is located at 736 Selby Avenue. Bottom: Map showing location of YWCA Administrative Offices (1) in relation to new site (2).

In coming years, a vacant office/industrial property at the corner of Selby Avenue and Grotto Street will be transformed into a space focused on helping people gain employment skills and experience. Located at 736 Selby Avenue in Saint Paul, the site is just blocks from the YWCA's Administrative Offices. It is easily accessible by public transportation and an ideal location to serve the community!

Research and planning for the new site is still underway, but in coming years, the site will be home to YWCA employment and training services. The preliminary vision also includes designated space for both entrepreneurial and social enterprise opportunities that will include three other non-profits and one or two business partners. This combination will allow participants to build skills and gain hands-on experience.

“There is a real need in our community for services that help people of all ages to build skills and become better able to support themselves and their families,” explains Billy Collins, YWCA Executive Director. “With existing YWCA programs and facilities operating at capacity and demand for services growing, adding space makes good sense.”

Over the years, the site has hosted businesses including a carpenter, auto repair shop, filling station and offices. By the summer of 2009, all business activity had ceased. Demolition of the existing structures is scheduled for this spring/summer. The timeline for new construction is still being developed.

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within our walls

A Glimpse at Programming and Happenings



Many thanks to the 50 people who braved the blizzard to attend our Holiday Wrapping Party on December 11! Working together, guests wrapped and bundled over 300 gifts for families enrolled in YWCA Housing & Supportive Services programs.



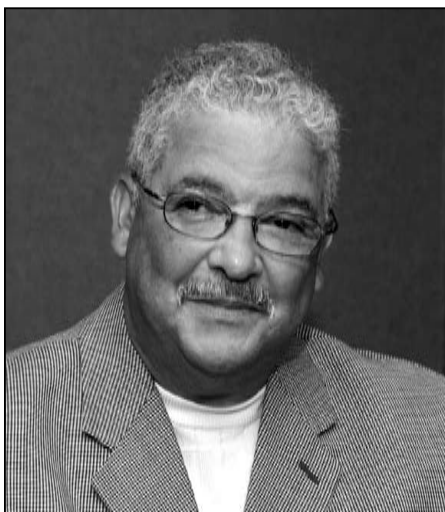
YAP's new Technology Learning Center hosted a public series of free Microsoft Office training classes provided by the University of Minnesota's Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC) and the Broadband Access Project.



Thanks to volunteers from Securian Financial, IMPACT participants had the chance to practice job interview skills and receive feedback on their performance.

new opportunities

New Year Brings New Opportunities to Serve the Community



Executive Director, William L. Collins, Jr.

A new year is underway and with it comes exciting and important new opportunities. As you learned on the front page of this publication, we have acquired a new property.

At a time when a difficult economy and job market continue to challenge us all, good skills and strong credentials are more important than ever. The new site will play a critical role in helping people to meet the challenges of today's job market.

As you recall, this fall we launched YW Works—a new program focused on helping people move from welfare to work. The program is off to a strong start and is already serving more than 300 people.

This spring we celebrate the launch of a new project called "Driven to Succeed." With support from the City of St. Paul and Greater Twin Cities United Way, 50 people will earn a Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) as well as opportunities to access living wage jobs.

I'm proud that years of good work and careful management make new growth possible. Thank you for all you do to help women children and families. These exciting new changes would not be possible without your continued support.

driven to succeed

New Project Helps People Qualify for Living Wage Jobs



LaRohn Latimer (second from left) and Driven to Succeed participants

An exciting new project is underway at the YWCA St. Paul. Its aim: to put people behind the wheel and into living wage jobs. Designed to help people train for and obtain a Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL), Driven to Succeed will provide free training and testing for 50 people.

A CDL is a powerful credential that allows people to access good paying jobs in industries including public works, waste management, delivery, food services and transportation. "This license is a foot in the door for people," explains Christina McCoy, Director of Youth Development. "With it people are qualified for a wide range of positions including public works jobs."

To qualify for the project, participants must be over the age of 21, have continuously had a valid driver's license for the past two years and have a clean driving record. In addition, all participants must be chemically free and submit to a drug test and DOT physical.

Once admitted to the project, training takes place in two phases. The first focuses on helping participants prepare to take the Class B CDL permit test. During this phase, they also learn about opportunities within the City of St. Paul and are registered on the Section 3 list. After obtaining their Class B CDL permit, participants begin phase two with training partner Interstate Truck Driving School. There they receive both classroom and behind the wheel instruction before taking their Class B CDL test.

From start to finish, the process takes only about two weeks. The first class began training on March 7 and groups are scheduled to begin every two weeks until the project has reached capacity.

Driven to Succeed is made possible by a partnership between the City of St. Paul; Mayor Chris Coleman; Council Member Melvin Carter III; Luz Frías, Director Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Department; Greater Twin Cities United Way and Interstate Truck Driving School. For more information, please contact LaRohn Latimer at llatimer@ywcaofstpaul.org.

the diaper drive

Making Sure No Child is Wet Behind

Kristen Grode was doing spring cleaning when she stumbled across some boxes of diapers her children had outgrown. Knowing they were worth about \$20 per package and that many families are struggling financially, she decided to donate them.

When she did some research, she discovered that although food shelves and social service groups distribute donated diapers, there was no one dedicated to collecting them. She learned the need was great—nationwide, one in three mothers reported cutting back on essentials like food, childcare or utilities in order to afford diapers for their children.

Grode began calling friends, family and retailers to collect donations. Soon after, she launched Minnesota's first diaper bank. Founded in May 2010, The Diaper Drive, collects and distributes diapers to families in need. In the fall of 2010, YWCA St. Paul was named a partner agency and began receiving donations for families enrolled in our Housing & Supportive Services programs.

The new partnership has already made a huge impact. The diapers not only help minimize potential health risks, but also make it possible for families to stretch their budgets and ensure they are meeting basic needs. "I have so many families who are in need of diapers and pull-ups for their children," explains case manager, Myly McBride. "Thanks to The Diaper Drive, we can help them all!"



celebrating success

Working Hard to Create a Fresh Start



THP creates a path out of homelessness for women and their children. Families spend up to 24 months building skills and stabilizing their lives while living in one of three YWCA Transitional Housing sites.

Tonya came to our Transitional Housing Program (THP) looking for a place where she and her daughter could make a new start. She was excited to find a good place to call home and one of the first questions she asked was, "Can we stay here the whole two years?"

As she worked to build a new life for herself and her daughter Tonya was also working to leave an abusive relationship and pursue her education in the Culinary Arts program at St. Paul College. At times, all the changes were overwhelming and she experienced episodes of depression.

To work through it, Tonya received extra support from both THP staff and partnering agencies. With a referral for Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS), Tonya received

services from Pathways Counseling Center and also attended an on-site ARMHS support group at one of our THP locations.

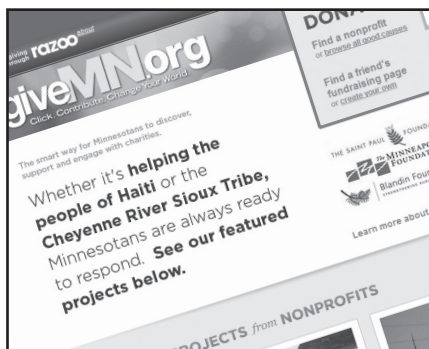
Tonya made it her mission to maximize her time in THP and eagerly participated in all programming. In the end, she accomplished tremendous changes for herself and her daughter. This December, Tonya graduated from both the Culinary Arts program and THP. She is now living in a new apartment and working toward her goal of becoming a chef at a local restaurant.

online giving

New Features Make Donations Easy

In an age of instant messages, automatic transfers and online payments, we know that many of our donors prefer to make their gifts online. Online gifts made to the YWCA St. Paul are accepted and processed using GiveMN.org —a statewide online giving portal.

In addition to enabling donors to make secure one-time gifts, GiveMN.org also allows you to schedule recurring and annual gifts. With weekly, monthly and annual options donors can easily manage their giving. If you haven't visited lately, explore GiveMN.org today!



Online donations are accepted at givemn.org

You can reach our online giving page by visiting <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Ywca-Of-St-Paul-Minnesota> or by clicking donate now at www.ywcaofstpaul.org. 92 cents of every dollar goes directly to services for women, children and families!

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

eliminating racism
empowering women



St. Paul



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