

# y's words

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

St. Paul

For friends, members and the Greater St. Paul community

Winter 2008-2009

## a great place to call home

### New YWCA Housing for Families

YWCA St. Paul has responded to the need for safe, affordable housing for more than 100 years! Whether providing housing for single women, opening Minnesota's first emergency shelter for women and children or the Twin Cities' first transitional housing program — we are proud to be the place that thousands of women and children have called home.

This winter, even more families will call the YWCA home. A new building, located in Highland Park, will provide permanent housing for families and begin a new chapter for the YWCA St. Paul.

Permanent housing is an exciting addition to the YWCA's continuum of services. Until now, YWCA housing sites have exclusively been home to families enrolled in our Transitional Housing Program — a program that, by design, serves families for a maximum period of two years.

The new building, located at the corners of Cleveland Avenue South and Saunders Avenue, includes 11 townhome-style units. Situated in a family-friendly neighborhood and accessible by public transportation, each 2 bedroom unit features a private entrance, patio, finished basement and in-unit laundry.

Staff are currently working to get the building ready for tenants who are expected to begin moving in by January. To accommodate the winter weather and the busy holiday season, the YWCA will celebrate the opening of Cleveland Saunders with



*Eleven townhome-style units located in Highland Park will be renting soon.*

a Virtual Open House in January. Watch your mail for a postcard containing a link to the online event!

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celebrating philanthropy

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advocating for families, advocating for change

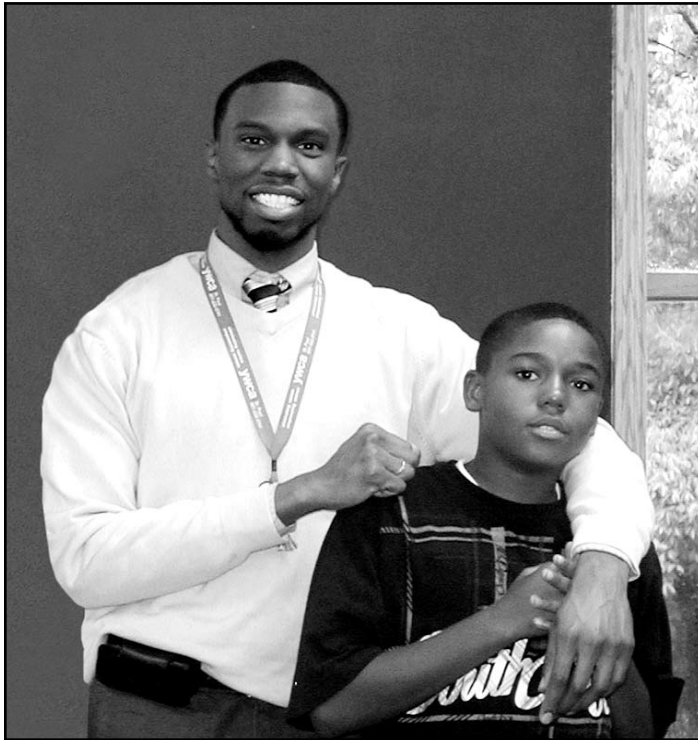
**04**  
giving learning a boost

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# snapshots from fall

## A Glimpse at Achievements and Happenings



Ron Evans, Youth Achievers Specialist, was awarded a Program Leadership Award by the Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA). Congratulations Ron!



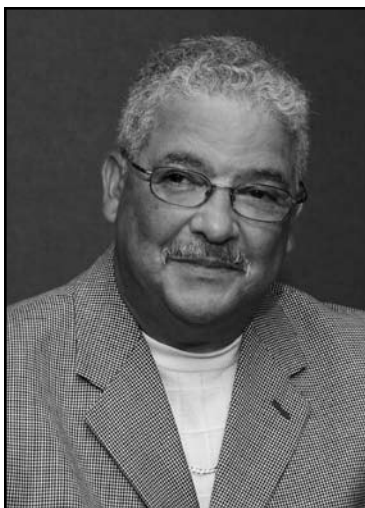
Thanks to a generous donation from Tix for Tots, youth from our Youth Achievers Program (YAP) had the opportunity to cheer on the Vikings from a private suite at the Metrodome!



Excel Energy's Suzanne Long (right), presented a check to the Transitional Housing Program. Billy Collins, Executive Director and Stephanie Battle, Director of Housing and Supportive Services are pictured left and center.

# celebrating philanthropy

## Notes from the Executive Director



Executive Director, William L. Collins, Jr.

Like many of you, at this time of year, my thoughts are on the holidays. Specifically a holiday that doesn't get much fanfare — National Philanthropy Day.

Each year, November 15 is set aside to recognize the changes and successes made possible by generous individuals and institutions. Although this publication will mail after the official celebration has passed, it's just too important not to celebrate within these pages.

In its broadest definition, "philanthropy" means a love of humankind. National Philanthropy Day celebrates those who see the

potential for both individuals and communities to create positive change. If this newsletter has made it into your hands, chances are, you are a philanthropist!

Whether member, volunteer, friend or neighbor, you are part of a very important group of individuals, businesses, foundations, community organizations and government agencies who choose to invest in their neighbors and community through generous contributions to the YWCA St. Paul.

Through your support, homeless families find a place to call home, children develop their passions and talents, and people of all ages build skills that lead to self-sufficiency and a brighter future.

Thank you for making a positive difference in your community and the lives of your neighbors. Every day, your generosity makes amazing things happen at the YWCA St. Paul, and it's our pleasure to celebrate you during this holiday season.

*William L. Collins Jr.*

# advocating for families, advocating for change

## YWCA Staff Make a Difference

Supportive housing programs, like those offered by the YWCA, help families who have experienced homelessness to emerge from crisis and begin rebuilding their lives. Although enrolling in a supportive housing program is an important first step, until recently, it often seemed to carry a penalty — a \$50 reduction in a family’s monthly benefit.

In Minnesota, a homeless family of two qualifies for a monthly benefit of \$432. With that benefit families must pay rent as well as other household expenses like clothing, phone, utilities, bus/cab fare, diapers, laundry and more.

“When a mother and child are starting over and living on \$432, \$50 makes a big difference,” said YWCA Housing and Supportive Services Manager, Jana Curiel.

“Buying cleaning supplies for your new apartment, paying for donated furniture to be delivered, a cab ride home with groceries when you don’t have enough hands to manage a stroller and bags on the bus...it all adds up very quickly.”

Collaborating with several organizations and working closely with the Minnesota Department of Human Resources, Curiel and her peers worked to obtain clarification regarding the \$50 reduction. As a result, families enrolled in YWCA Housing and Supportive Housing Programs will now receive the full monthly benefit!

In addition, the State has also conducted an external audit and issued reimbursement to the families who had been impacted by the monthly reduction. “This is a wonderful outcome for homeless women,



A monthly budget is just one tool used by case managers as they work with families to put homelessness in the past.

children and families,” explained Stephanie Battle, Director of Housing and Supportive Services. “It’s exciting to see our staff helping both individuals and systems to embrace change.”

# wrapping up holiday cheer for families in need

## Celebrate the Season at the Holiday Wrapping Party

*The mistletoe's been hung.  
The presents are here.  
Please join us in wrapping  
the bounty this year!*



Help wrap up some holiday cheer on December 13.

Join us Saturday, December 13 as we gather to celebrate the season and wrap holiday gifts for homeless women, children and families.

For weeks, the “elves” have been busily working to make holiday wishes come true. Generous members, donors and friends have provided holiday gifts and financial support to ensure there is something for everyone enrolled in YWCA Housing and Supportive Services programs.

As the holidays grow near, we need both your nimble fingers and holiday cheer to help us celebrate our community and wrap gifts for more than 100 individuals. “Every year, the community really reaches out

to the families in need,” explained Elisa Pluhar, Community and Donor Relations Associate. “The wrapping party is going to be a fun way to celebrate. We’ll have refreshments, holiday music and all the wrapping supplies — the only thing you need to bring is yourself. Please mark your calendars and RSVP today!”

The Holiday Wrapping Party will be held at 375 Selby Avenue from 10 am – noon on Saturday, December 13. To RSVP, please call Elisa Pluhar at (651) 265-0766.

**Special thanks to Ecolab for supporting holiday activities at the YWCA St. Paul and making the Holiday Wrapping Party possible.**

# giving learning a boost

## college students help children to succeed



Tutor Kristi Moua works with a SES Student.

Supplemental Education Services (SES) is off to a great start thanks in part to students from the College of Visual Arts and the College of St. Catherine. Students from both schools are working as tutors and helping K-12 students to build their math and language arts skills.

Under the direction of instructors, tutors provide individual attention, encouragement and support. "It's fun working with the kids," says Amanda Swart, a freshman at the College of St. Catherine. "Especially when they have those moments when they say, 'oh I get it, I am smart!'"

Both colleges offer tutoring as a paid work-study placement for eligible students. "The partnerships with CVA and St. Kates are exciting opportunities for the YWCA," explained Amy Lobitz, Volunteer and HR Specialist. "The colleges are really investing in the community and make it possible for us to offer SES participants more individualized attention and support at no cost."

For more information on Supplemental Education Services, please contact Sharla Scullen at (651) 222-3741.

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This newsletter is a publication of the YWCA St. Paul. For more information on YWCA programs and services, please call 651-222-3741 or check out our web site at [ywcaofstpaul.org](http://ywcaofstpaul.org).

This document is available in alternative formats.



The Young Women's Christian Association of the United States of America is a women's membership movement nourished by its roots in the Christian faith and sustained by the richness of many beliefs and values. Strengthened by diversity, the Association draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people.

The Young Women's Christian Association will thrust its collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists.

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**



St. Paul

Community Partner

**A club WITH no name**

**60th REUNION**

**Monday, December 15, 2008**  
Prom Center Event Facility • Oakdale, MN

For more information, please contact  
Jodelle Ista at (651) 455-4244  
or Carol Schuldt at (651) 306-0542

**y's kids club**

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For more information, please contact  
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