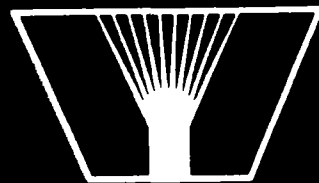


Ann -

This stuff may be
of interest to you.

Sorry!

-Ruby



YWCA

of the U.S.A.

PRESERVATION

THE MISSION OF THE YWCA

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 Association will thrust its collective power toward the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary.



Prema Mathai-Davis, Ed.D
Chief Executive Officer

e-mail: pmathai-davis@ywca.org

Empire State Building
350 Fifth Ave./Ste 301
New York, NY 10118
212-273-7801
Fax: 212-273-7806



May 17, 1999

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

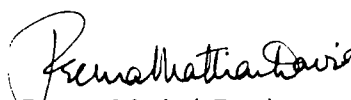
I enjoyed participating in the May 10, 1999, Strategy Session on Children, Violence and Responsibility. I applaud your vision to call the session and to plant the seeds for the creation of a national grassroots campaign to prevent youth violence.

The creation of a national grassroots campaign is a positive step towards reducing violence in this country. As you are aware, several non-profits participating in last week's session have developed grassroots campaigns. The YWCA Week Without Violence, to which you have so generously donated your time by filming a public service announcement, is one example.

I have enclosed information about the YWCA Week Without Violence, now in its fifth year. Each day of the Week is devoted to a specific issue, with two days focused exclusively on children: Monday is "Protecting our Children" and Tuesday is "Making our Schools Safer."

The YWCA of the U.S.A. looks forward to collaborating with you on this new initiative in whatever way is most helpful. Our 2 million women, girls and their families are prepared to mobilize on behalf of violence prevention.

Sincerely,


Prema Mathai-Davis
CEO

Empire State Building
350 Fifth Avenue
Suite 301
New York, NY 10118
212-273-7800
Fax: 212-465-2281

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Chief Executive Officer



Launched in 1995, the YWCA Week Without Violence is a public education campaign that highlights practical, sustainable alternatives to violence in our homes, schools, places of work and communities. A grassroots initiative when it began, today the YWCA Week Without Violence is a global movement of women, men and children throughout the United States and in 30 countries on six continents. It is annually observed the third week of October, which in 1999 falls on October 17-23.

The campaign brings together individuals, organizations and communities to develop solutions to violence. It promotes learning about conflict resolution, choosing television programs that don't promote violence or prejudice, remembering victims of violence, and organizing and attending gatherings that unite people of different ages, neighborhoods, races and economic backgrounds.

The goal of the YWCA Week Without Violence is talking instead of yelling, negotiating instead of hitting, opening minds instead of loading guns. Activities scheduled throughout the week are as diverse as the communities they serve. YWCAs organize events such as community marches, teen conferences, fingerprinting of school age children, Races Against Racism, teen hikes and self defense seminars.

Each day of the week is devoted to a specific issue:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • Sunday, October 17 | A Day of Remembrance |
| • Monday, October 18 | Protecting Our Children |
| • Tuesday, October 19 | Making Our Schools Safer |
| • Wednesday, October 20 | Confronting Violence Against Women |
| • Thursday, October 21 | Facing Violence Among Men |
| • Friday, October 22 | Eliminating Racism and Hate Crime |
| • Saturday, October 23 | Replacing Violence with Sports, Recreation and Fun |

More than 2,500 stories have appeared about the YWCA Week Without Violence in newspapers across the country. Tens of millions of people have heard about the initiative on the nightly news, drive-time radio talk shows, and television and radio public service announcements. President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton have supported the YWCA Week Without Violence by appearing in public service announcements.

Nationally, the YWCA Week Without Violence has been sponsored by USA Networks, Time Warner/Warner Music, Sony Music Entertainment, Inc., Angel Soft Cares for Kids, The Body Shop, The Coca-Cola Co., NYNEX, Mrs. Laurance Rockefeller and TARGET Stores.

The YWCA Week Without Violence has been officially recognized in resolutions passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. President Bill Clinton has publicly stated that the YWCA Week Without Violence is an example of the kind of program that more people should become involved in to reduce violence.

OCTOBER 25, 1998



Bacon's

WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE

Toy trade

Decatur children turn play weapons into sculpture material for YWCA event.

By ARVIN DONLEY
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — Boom, boom. Bang, bang. Lie down, you're dead.

Thousands of children have grown up using toy weapons while playing cowboys and Indians or cops and robbers.

This week, as part of the Decatur YWCA's Week Without Violence activities, Decatur youths were asked to turn in their toy weapons in exchange for several prizes and a free swimming session at the YWCA.

Many of the 100 children who participated arrived at the YWCA on Saturday to find their toys were part of a "peace sculpture" created by sculptor Tibor Baron.

Linked together on the four-foot structure were guns, grenades, swords and other toy weapons of various sizes and colors.

"The idea of this wasn't necessarily that the kids will never play with a toy gun again," Decatur YWCA Executive Director Marsha Crenshaw said. "It's true that a lot of kids play with guns and don't grow up to stab and shoot people. The idea with this sculpture was to take something that symbolizes violence and turn it into something beautiful."

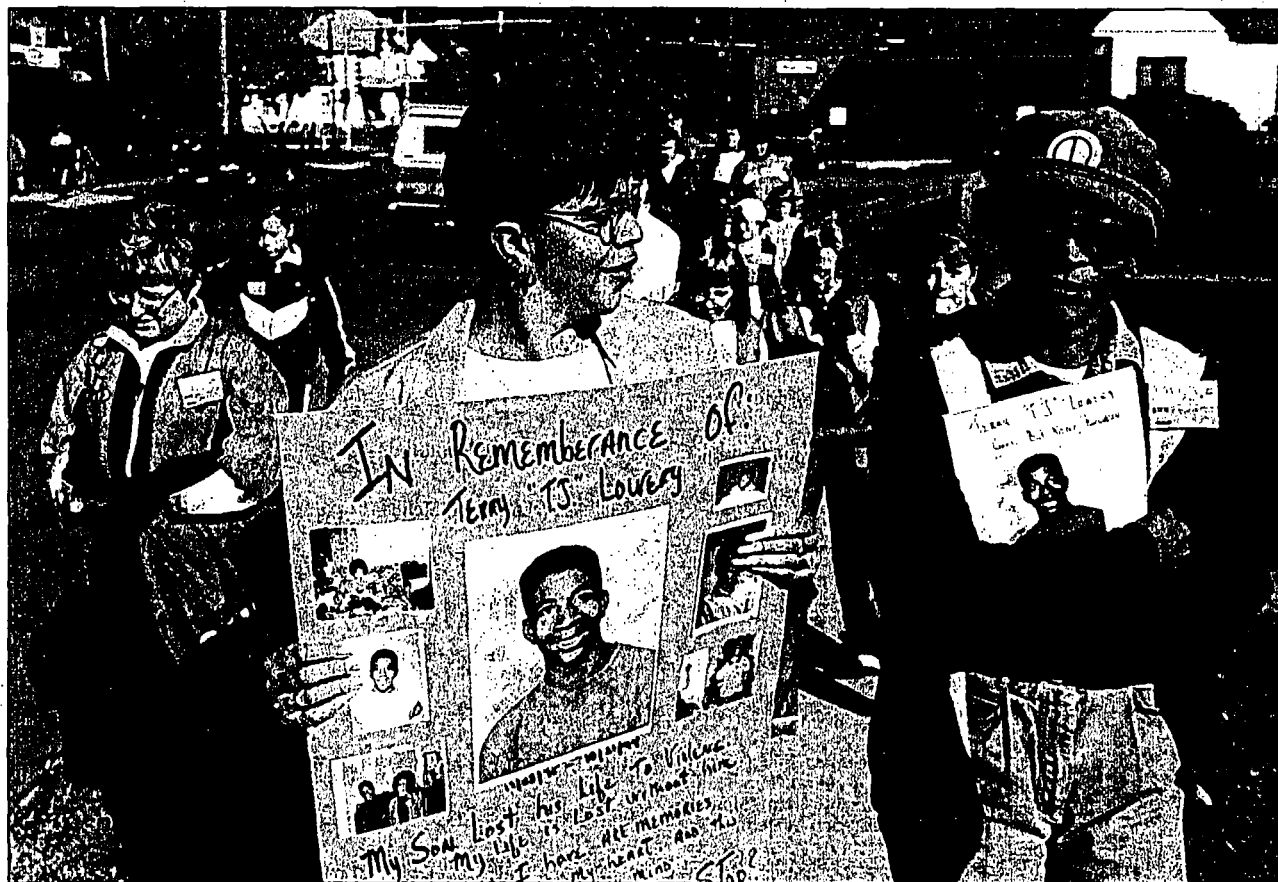
The theme of Saturday's event, which drew about 100 people, was "Replacing Violence with Sports, Recreation and Fun." It began with a Stop the Violence march that moved from the YWCA through the Old King's Orchard neighborhood.

Other highlights included a speech by Tony Wallace of the Illinois Department of Corrections and several musical numbers performed by Youth With A Positive Direction from Main Street Church of the Living God.

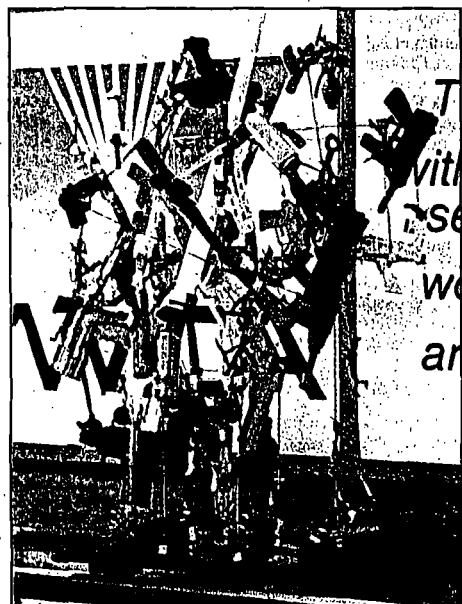
Several people in attendance had lost a friend or family

TOYS

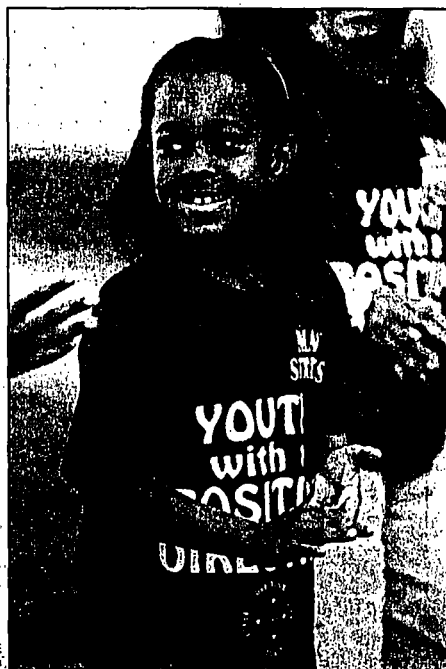
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EXPRESSIONS OF EXPERIENCE: Paula Clark, left, and Wanda Taylor know the pain violence can cause in life. Clark's 18-year-old son, T.J. Louery, was shot and killed in 1994. Taylor's mother, Cautious Barbee, was killed in 1975. Taylor said, a victim of domestic abuse. The two women took part in Saturday's march through downtown Decatur, organized by the YWCA.



TO PLOWSHARES: Sculptor Tibor Baron turns a variety of children's toys into a symbolic statement against violence.



JOYFUL NOISE: Six-year-old Tresna Taylor joins in song with other members of Youth With A Positive Direction group during activities Saturday afternoon at the Decatur YWCA.

Herald & Review
photos by
Dennis Magee

9/12-13 **TOYS:** Not to blame for violence

Continued from B1

member as the result of violence.

For Paula Clark, this time of year is always difficult. Four years ago on Halloween night, her son, T.J. Lowery, was shot to death outside of McDonald's at 962 W. Eldorado St.

Clark said the assailant didn't even know Lowery, who was 18.

"It involved an argument over the public telephone," Clark, 43, said. "A 30-cent call, and he took my son's life for no reason. He had every intention of killing somebody. It just happened to be my son."

Although some of the children participating in Saturday's event were probably too young to fully grasp the purpose of the march or the peace sculpture, Clark said they would benefit from the experience.

"It's like planting a seed," she said. "As you water it, it will grow. Over the years they'll become more knowledgeable that it's wrong."

Wanda Taylor, 44, still bears an emotional scar from 20 years ago when domestic violence claimed the life of her mother, Cautious Barbie. She said the only way to prevent violence is to teach young children that it's wrong.

"They are what they are around," Taylor said. "If the parents are loving people, are churchgoing people, then the kids have a good chance of going the right way."

Decatur psychologist Dr. Michael Campion said Saturday's event was positive in that it brought children together for socially acceptable behavior such as swimming and singing.

But he said it's important not to blame our nation's violence problem on "violent toys."

Campion said he and many others have played with GI Joes and toy guns without turning into violent people.

"You hear about violent toys and TV violence," Campion said, "but the responsibility for how a child behaves really falls on the family, the community and the child. Let's not blame inanimate objects. Let's put the blame where it belongs."

Ten-year-old Dante Allen of Decatur said he wishes some of the kids he knows who have violent tendencies would have shared in the festivities.

"I think a lot of kids should have come," Dante said. "If they keep doing bad things, someone's going to get hurt."

GREENWICH TIME
Greenwich, CT

Circ - (E) 12,815 (S) 14,071

OCTOBER 10, 1998

**Bacon's**

Donations of cell phones sought for abuse victims

By J.A. Johnson Jr.
Staff Writer

Help for victims of domestic violence in Greenwich can now be at their fingertips.

The Greenwich YWCA's Domestic Abuse Service and the Greenwich Police Department yesterday unveiled a new joint program to distribute cellular telephones to victims so they can call police no matter when or where domestic violence strikes.

For the "Cell Phone Project," organizers are asking for donations of old cellular telephones as well as their battery chargers, which can be used to make 911 emergency calls even after they have been deactivated.

"This is a project to help keep the people of Greenwich safe," Domestic Abuse Service Director Linda Knopf said yesterday at a morning press conference at Greenwich police headquarters. "We're asking people to donate their phones to this project, and they will be made available to peo-

"This is a project to help keep the people of Greenwich safe."

Linda Knopf

director, YWCA's Domestic Abuse Service

ple who need to be in contact with the police."

Two telephones already have been donated by Bell Atlantic Mobile, but Knopf estimated that 25 will be needed to make the program viable. She said last year, 288 women and 69 children sought help from the local Domestic Abuse Service.

Police Chief Peter Robbins said the Police Department endorsed the Cell Phone Project - modeled after a program in Alexandria, Va. - because it could enable it to make quicker responses to inci-

Please turn to **PHONES**, Page A4

912-YCT Phones

■ Continued from Page A1

dents, especially those involving stalking.

"Domestic violence doesn't always happen in the home, but takes place in driveways, on the street, in parking lots outside of workplaces, and it's not uncommon to have it happen on school grounds," he said. "If victims have these phones with them, it will certainly help us make a quicker response in some circumstances, and can help us prevent serious harm from taking place."

People in need of a free cellular telephone should contact either the Police Department or DAS.

Knopf said although documentation of past domestic violence is not necessary to obtain a phone, a consultation with a DAS worker is required to determine any other needs a victim might have, such as support services.

Donated cellular telephones can be dropped off at the Greenwich YWCA, 259 E. Putnam Ave. For more information, call the DAS at 869-6501, Ext. 239.

Yesterday's press conference was also attended by First Selectman Tom Ragland, YWCA Executive Director Elizabeth Barry and Wendy Woods, director of programs for the YWCA. The event was used to kick off local observances of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which will include YWCA's Week Without Violence that begins Oct. 18.

"The town of Greenwich has zero tolerance for domestic abuse," Ragland said. "We work to develop plans, ways and means that are going to address this issue."

According to state police statistics, there were 141 family violence incidents reported in Greenwich in 1997, including eight assaults, one



Bob Luckey Jr./Staff photo

Linda Knopf, director of the YWCA's Domestic Abuse Service, right, introduces the cell phone project yesterday at Greenwich Police headquarters.

kidnapping and 103 cases of disorderly conduct.

Robbins said the total number of incidents marked a 13.7 percent increase over those reported the previous year.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Greenwich YWCA is involved with statewide events that are co-sponsored by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The first was on Thursday, when 1,350 pairs of children's shoes were placed in Hartford's Bushnell Park. Each pair represented a child who had been protected by one of the CCADV's 18 shelters.

The second statewide event is a fund-raiser to run from Oct. 19 to 24, in which florists will sell "Bouquets of Hope," partial proceeds of which will be donated to

local domestic violence agencies. In Greenwich, the bouquets will be sold at the Old Greenwich Flower Shop and Patsy Crucitti & Sons Inc., both in Old Greenwich.

The Greenwich YWCA's Week Without Violence begins at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 18 with a candlelight vigil at Christ Church, and concludes with a lecture on "Violence in the Media" at 5 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Second Congregational Church.

In between will be art exhibits, performances and other events at different locations, and at noon Oct. 21, church bells will ring throughout Greenwich in a "townwide call to spiritually support those who have experienced violence in their lives through a moment of silence."

Victims of domestic violence can call the 24-hour Emergency Hot Line at 622-0003. //

OCTOBER 22, 1998



Bacon's

912-B



A-J Photo/James Granger

County Judge Don McBeath addresses the Confronting Violence Against Women luncheon Wednesday at NationsBank. The cutouts behind McBeath represent three women killed in Lubbock.

Judge: First step to stopping violence is to admit it exists

By TERESA COX YOUNG
Avalanche-Journal

"If I had five cents for every woman who has been sexually assaulted as a child, battered by a spouse, raped, or attacked for being a lesbian, I would, unfortunately, be very, very rich." — anonymous statement on a T-shirt in Texas Tech's Clothesline Project.

With a backdrop of life-size replicas of three local women killed by their own relatives, county officials at Wednesday's Confronting Violence Against Women gathering focused on strides being taken to end family violence.

But the first step, according to County Judge Don McBeath, is to admit the problem exists.

"I think we are very blessed to live in a great community," McBeath said. "Despite all these great aspects, though, we have a problem with family violence and violence against women. We all want to believe Lubbock is perfect, but the dark side is there."

Wednesday's gathering, held at NationsBank, was part of the YWCA's Week Without Violence and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

McBeath said the key is to convince all residents that violence is their problem, even if they have a happy, healthy family.

"If you pay taxes and insurance premiums, you're affected," he said.

Criminal District Attorney Bill Sowder spoke about specific county programs working to combat violence against women. He also mentioned the "Achieving the Goal" program, which aims to make Lubbock owner of the lowest crime rate among the state's 25 largest cities. Currently, Sowder said, the city ranks 10.

Sowder shared how the Violence Against Women Act helped in the local effort. The federal legislation opened up funds, he said, that provided grants to cities for anti-violence projects.

In Lubbock, Sowder said, three grants were awarded, including one that enabled his office to

hire a full-time prosecutor and legal assistant to handle nothing but domestic violence cases.

The Legal Aid Society received the second grant, which resulted in the hiring of an attorney for protective orders. The third recipient was the Lubbock County Sheriff's Department, which hired an additional investigator to handle domestic cases outside the Lubbock city limits.

Sowder also lauded a recent measure that mandates that domestic violence suspects remain in jail for at least 24 hours before bonding out. In those cases, the victim is notified prior to the suspect's release.

The combination of these efforts, Sowder added, is a start at ending the cycle of violence.

"A lot of this has to do with attitudes and education," he said. "The earlier you try to start affecting these problems will determine the outcome later."

Both Sowder and McBeath encouraged residents to help fight violence.

"I want to challenge every citizen to step up to the plate and say, 'I'll do my part,'" McBeath said. "That can mean giving of your time or money or just reporting acts of domestic violence when you hear about them."

The event featured tables of information from various local agencies that fight violence against women. Also on hand was a portion of the Clothesline Project, a visual display of T-shirts decorated by survivors of violence and their families and friends.

With messages ranging from simple advice such as "Don't wait. Get out" and "Trust no one," the shirts provide a vocal message about the pain of violence.

"It definitely gets a reaction," said Angie Dunlap of Texas Tech's University Center activities department, coordinators of the local project. "A lot of these shirts really speak to people and say things they wouldn't think about. It makes people realize (violence) happens here, not just in New York."

OCTOBER 17, 1998



Bacon's

RACISM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1998 C3

Salinans urged to say no to violence and hatred

YWCA Week Without Violence campaign begins with speech by U.S. civil rights attorney

By AMY CHODACKI
The Salina Journal

This week, John Trasvina stood on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to mourn the death of someone he didn't know.

He was one of about 5,000 people there who quietly said no to the violence and hatred that killed gay Wyoming college student Michael Shepherd.

"There's nothing more powerful than to see so many people come together to promote change," Trasvina said.

The U.S. civil rights attorney urged Salinans Friday to have the same attitude at the kick-off luncheon for the YWCA's Week Without Violence campaign. A diverse crowd of 80 turned out to hear

Trasvina speak about fair employment practices for minorities.

"I've spoken to much smaller groups in much larger towns," he said. "At each town I go to now, I'll compare it to Salina."

The appearance Friday was part of Trasvina's effort to show citizens that Washington officials aren't concerned only with the latest scandal. His office of Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices is the federal agency that works with the Salina Human Relations Commission to educate the public and employers about fair employment practices.

In the Salina area, the number of Hispanics moving in is increasing, and employers need to know how to be fair in hiring and firing. That's where the Salina Human Relations Commission comes in, Trasvina said.

Employers who want to learn the laws and anyone with complaints about employment practices can contact the com-

mission at 826-7330.

Complaints are given to the appropriate federal offices. Those relating to unfair practices toward immigrants will be handled by Trasvina's office, he said. They will be investigated, and if the cases have merit, action will be taken against the employer.

Trasvina's office number is 800-255-7688.

Using a foreign language

After visiting Salina, Trasvina headed to Lincoln, Neb., to celebrate the landmark Supreme Court ruling of Meyer vs. Nebraska. It's the 75th anniversary of that case, which gave more rights to bilingual people. The Nebraska teacher who sued the state had been given a citation for teaching German to his fifth-grade class. At the time, it was post World War I, and there was bias against Germans, Trasvina said.

"It would be great if everyone spoke English in this country," he said. "But you don't do it by restricting people's rights."

Activities at the YWCA

The Week Without Violence continues Sunday with the "Erase the Hate" rally against racism starting at 6 p.m. at the YWCA, 651 E. Prescott.

If the weather suitable, participants will walk to the City-County Building, 300 W. Ash. If not, they'll remain at the YWCA.

The YWCA is sponsoring public forums and speakers at 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday next week in the YWCA gymnasium. YWCA director Sherry Martin said there will be free child care available each night.

"It's incumbent upon us to make changes so our children will have a better future," Martin said.

On Monday, the activities focus on eliminating violence. A panel of experts

from Child Abuse Prevention Services, Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas, the Salina School District and the Salina Police Department will talk about the dangers of children being hurt by strangers and in the home, Martin said.

On Tuesday, a survivor of the Oklahoma City bombing, Steve Pruitt, will talk about the bombing and how he eventually forgave Tim McVeigh, one of two men convicted in the bombing that killed 168.

The Violence Against Women public forum Wednesday features the video "Dreamworld II." It shows how music videos and other forms of media portray women as objects. An open-microphone discussion will follow.

On Thursday, Bea Horne of Topeka will talk about being the only survivor in a triple murder in 1989.

The YWCA also is offering Week Without Violence T-shirts for \$6 each.

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STOP

day
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Organizers Kit



*Committed to empowering women and girls and
eliminating racism.*

The YWCA of the U.S.A.

- is the nation's oldest and largest women's membership movement.
- through its 323 affiliates, operating out of thousands of locations in all 50 states, represents approximately 2 million women, girls and their families.
- provides a wide range of services and programs addressing the eight most critical issues affecting women:
 - Child Care and Youth Development
 - Economic Empowerment
 - Housing and Shelter
 - Violence Prevention
 - Health, Fitness and Sports
 - Leadership Development
 - Racial Justice and Human Rights
 - Global Awareness
- is the largest provider of shelter services for women and their families in the country.
- is a leader in violence prevention, providing programs and services to more than 700,000 women and children annually.
- some YWCAs offer 24-hour hotlines, emergency transportation, family and children's counseling, and programs for men who batter. Many YWCAs offer bilingual services to reach the culturally, racially and economically diverse members of the communities they serve.
- is the country's largest nonprofit provider of child care services, with 750,000 children participating in child care and after-school programs annually.
- through its affiliates, offers the most comprehensive employment training and placement services, enrolling some 100,000 women annually.

National Programs

YWCA Week Without Violence

Launched in 1995, this public education campaign challenges people to live for one week without participating in, promoting or observing violence. Held annually the third week of October, YWCAs across the U.S. and in more than 30 countries organize coalitions of community groups to hold activities that highlight alternatives to violence.

YWCA National Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism

In 1992, in response to the brutal assault of Rodney King by police officers and the subsequent unrest in Los Angeles, the YWCA established its National Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism. It is observed annually on April 30 in communities throughout the U.S.

YWCA Race Against Racism

The first annual Race Against Racism was held in May 1997 in Washington, D.C., as part of the YWCA National Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism commemoration and in support of the YWCA's ongoing racial justice programs around the country.

Statewide Days of Dialogue on Race Relations

In 1998, the YWCA of the U.S.A. forged a partnership with President Clinton's Initiative on Race Relations and the National Association of Governors to launch dialogues on race relations in every state. In April and May 1998, more than 10,000 people participated in these dialogues, which were implemented by YWCA affiliates in collaboration with their governors and mayors. The YWCA of the U.S.A. also collaborated with President Clinton's Initiative on Race Relations to develop the "One America" dialogue guide.

YWCA/NIKE Sports Program

Formed in 1996, this partnership develops grassroots basketball and volleyball programs for 9- to 14-year-old girls, and in a three-year period has reached more than 3,000 girls through 40 different programs.

YWCA TechGYRLS Program

Launched in 1997, this program encourages 9- to 13-year-old girls to explore computers and technology under the guidance of college-age and professional women mentors. YWCA TechGYRLS Clubs across the country raise girls' interest, confidence and competence in technology. Each year the YWCA presents a national YWCA TechGYRLS Day, which focuses national attention on the issue of girls and technology.

Institute for Public Leadership

The institute increases women's political voice, vision and impact by providing instruction in the basics of running for office, managing campaigns and advocating for issues.

Education for Global Responsibility

A program that links grassroots community work in the U.S. with the development needs of girls and women worldwide.

ENCOREplus®

A program that offers breast and cervical cancer screening services to women around the country. Seventy-five YWCAs in 30 states participate in **ENCOREplus®**.

YWCA History

The pulse of the YWCA movement was first felt in the United States in 1858. The first YWCAs served as boarding houses for young women and girls adjusting to the new urbanized lifestyle of the Industrial Revolution. As women's economic and social roles changed, other YWCAs sprang up around the country, providing job training, advocacy, health and physical education, community involvement and social activities aimed at developing leadership, self-confidence and self-worth. The YWCA of the U.S.A. was one of the first U.S. institutions to divest in South Africa. It is the only women's organization in the U.S. Olympic Committee's community-based Multi-Sport Organization.

For more information about the YWCA of the U.S.A., call
1 (800) 992-2871.
4/9/99



Prema Mathai-Davis
Chief Executive Officer
YWCA of the U.S.A.

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Prema Mathai-Davis is the CEO of the nation's oldest and largest women's movement, the YWCA of the U.S.A., with affiliates operating programs and services in thousands of communities in all 50 states. The YWCA seeks to empower women and girls and eliminate racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination, and represents two million women and girls in America. Dr. Mathai-Davis assumed the position of leadership of the YWCA in February 1994 and brings to the position a wide range of experiences which meet the YWCA's diverse needs at a crucial point in its more than 140 year history.

Under the leadership of Dr. Mathai-Davis, the YWCA of the U.S.A. has embarked on a national strategic planning process to restructure and redefine itself for the 21st century as the premier national women's leadership movement. In addition to her national leadership role, she continues to lead and support global initiatives. This year, Dr. Mathai-Davis has served as an advisor to NIKE in their evaluation of their global business practices.

During her first year at the YWCA, Dr. Mathai-Davis successfully initiated the inclusion of legislation to safeguard the confidentiality rights of rape victims in the *Violence Against Women Act of the 1994 Crime Bill*. In 1995, she launched a national public education campaign, the YWCA Week Without Violence, that seeks to encourage a broader dialogue in the country on promoting practical and sustainable alternatives to violence in everyday life. More than 20 million people participated in the campaign's first year. And by the second year, the campaign had expanded to more than 20 countries on six continents. Dr. Mathai-Davis was named as a **Woman of the Year** in 1995 by *Ms. Magazine* for "reminding a nation that violence need not be a way of life".

Dr. Mathai-Davis has initiated a national advertising campaign to showcase the many programs and services of the YWCA and participated in Lifetime Television's public education campaign *"Picture What Women Do."* She was one of three conveners of the first *"Girls Speak-Out"* event at the United Nations during the March 1995 UN preparatory meetings for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. In 1996, Dr. Mathai-Davis organized and led the first *National Girls Conference*, which focused on developing a national girls agenda based on the UN Platform for Action that was developed at the UN World Conference on Women. Since 1995, under her leadership, the YWCA has initiated and led a national child care campaign to educate Congress on the need and importance of safeguarding child care programs in the country.

Dr. Mathai-Davis has taken her activism on behalf of women and their families globally. She was invited to participate as a speaker at three international UN meetings in 1995: the *UN World Summit on Social Development* in Denmark; the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in China; and the *TransAmerica Congress* in Chile, organized by the UN Center of Human Settlements and the International Council for Caring Communities. She is also the Chairperson of the World Conference on Family Violence held in Singapore in 1998 September.

more.....

Prior to joining the YWCA, Dr. Mathai-Davis was Commissioner of the New York City Department for the Aging, the largest agency on aging in the country, with an annual budget of \$150 million. As Commissioner, Dr. Mathai-Davis organized and led the first annual national *United Senior Action Day*, held in Washington, D.C., involving more than 10,000 senior citizens from 20 major cities. She also established one of the nation's first public minority enhancement programs to address cultural diversity in the service needs of New York City's African American, Hispanic and Asian elderly population.

A strong advocate on behalf of intergenerational programs, Dr. Mathai-Davis convened the first national conference on *"Intergenerational Programming for At-Risk Children and Youth,"* as well as the first national conference on *"Unplanned Parenthood: Grandparents as Parents Once More,"* which addressed the growing phenomenon of young children being cared for by grandparents. She also played a leading role in the *United Nations International Conference on Population and Development* held in 1992.

In 1991, Dr. Mathai-Davis was appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo to the 17-member Board of Directors of the New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which serves the tri-state area and is the largest regional transportation network of railroads, buses, subways, bridges and tunnels in the country. She also provides leadership as a member of the Visiting Committee of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, the New School for Social Research and the Harvard School of Public Health Advisory Council. She is a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and serves on the board of several community organizations, including the New York Hall of Science, the YWCA Retirement Fund, and the Asian-American Federation of New York. She is also a founding member of the Indian branch of the Grail International, a women's movement involved in community development.

Dr. Mathai-Davis was named by the Aspen Institute as one of their two *"McLaughlin Leadership Scholars"* in 1998 in recognition of her professional accomplishments and public contributions. She is the recipient of a leadership award from the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) in 1998. She was selected as one of top "100 Minority Executives," by *Crain's New York Business Magazine* in March 1998. Dr. Mathai-Davis was also selected as one of the first twelve "Women Firsts" of the Legendary Women Project sponsored by UNIFEM and UNESCO on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Declaration of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in November 1997. Dr. Mathai-Davis has received numerous awards from organizations, including labor unions, women's political groups, elected officials and those working with housing, the elderly, youth and families.

Dr. Mathai-Davis was the first Asian to hold a cabinet position as Commissioner in New York City. She has a doctorate from Harvard University, and a bachelor and masters degree in Child Development from Delhi University in India where she received the University Gold Medal for "Outstanding Scholarship." She and her husband, Wallace, have three teenage children: a son, Stephen, and twin daughters, Tara and Lisa. She grew up in a three-generational household and continues to live in one -an experience that has contributed to a lifelong fascination with intergenerational relationships.

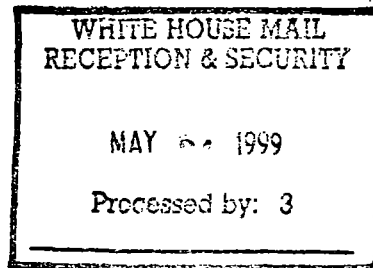
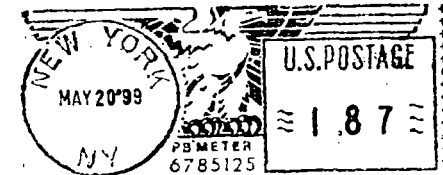
A native of India, now a U.S. citizen, Dr. Mathai-Davis is deeply rooted in the YWCA movement going back four generations. Her great-grandmother helped to start the YWCA in Southern India at the turn-of-the-century; her maternal grandmother, several aunts and her mother have been YWCA leaders in India and Pakistan for decades.

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