



YWCA Names New Chief Executive Officer

Richmond, VA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RICHMOND, VA -- The YWCA of Richmond announced today the appointment of its new Chief Executive Officer, Linda Tissiere. Tissiere succeeds Cassandra Emery who served in the role since 2009 and stepped down to spend more time with her family.

Tissiere was most recently the Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement and Integrated Communications for Luck Companies (formerly Luck Stone Corporation) where she directed the Luck Companies Foundation and related philanthropic strategies. She also led internal and external communications, government relations, public relations and community engagement for the organization.

"Linda is a dynamic and inspirational leader who joins us at an important time in the YWCA's history. She brings experience and skills that will drive the organization forward in a challenging economic environment that has increased demands for our services," said Patricia Merrill, the President for the YWCA of Richmond Board of Directors and the chair of the selection committee.

Prior to joining Luck Companies in 2002, Tissiere was a middle school Spanish teacher and head of the foreign language department in Little Falls, New York. Prior to her work as a teacher in Little Falls, Tissiere lived in Providence, Rhode Island for 12 years where she was the director of public relations for Citizens Financial Group and also served as a public relations specialist in the health care industry.

Through these experiences and others in her career, Tissiere has developed strong capabilities for strategic and organizational leadership, fund development, communication and engagement – all of which are essential skills for leading the YWCA forward to fulfill our mission of serving victims of sexual and domestic violence as well as providing superior early childhood education services for underserved families. In addition, she is passionate about the women and children who so desperately need our help.

"I am very excited to join the YWCA at this important juncture when we celebrate 125 years of community service and strive to expand our reach to those in need," says Tissiere. "I look forward to working with the YWCA staff, Board of Directors and all of our supporters to fulfill our vision of honoring personal courage, protecting the vulnerable and celebrating women's successes."

Tissiere currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Children's Museum of Richmond and is Vice Chair of the Henrico Education Foundation. She holds a B.A. in Spanish from Indiana University and a M.A. in Journalism from Ohio State University.

About the YWCA:

This year, the YWCA of Richmond celebrates 125 years in our community. We have been a leading force in securing an environment of change and empowerment for women and their families. Originally founded to house women coming to the city seeking factory work, the YWCA continues its mission of caring for those most in need and providing equal opportunities for women, children and families of all ages, races, and income levels.

Over the years the YWCA has modified its programs to support the emerging needs of the community, however; it has never strayed from its mission. In addition to providing accredited early childhood education programming, the YWCA remains committed to ensuring that victims of domestic and sexual violence experience rescue, recovery, and life-rebuilding programs that foster emotional, social, and economic stability.

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