

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

SUMMER 2024



Girls Night Out
All Dolled Up Every Night's A Girls Night

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Charleston, WV

Meet the Face of Girls Night Out 2024

Get All Dolled Up for Aug. 10!

The summer newsletter is where we usually highlight the Resolve Family Abuse Program's (Resolve) Survivor Story as our lead up to Girls Night Out – The Party with a Purpose. This year is a little different.

There are so many amazing women who step forward, pitch in, and show up to make Girls Night Out (GNO) THE event of the summer; not the least of these are our amazing models who become the faces of GNO. Our models this year were chosen because of their dedication to YWCA Charleston, GNO, and the work we do.

Marsha Albert was one of Resolve's first Directors, worked most recently as a case manager at Shanklin Center for Senior Enrichment & Empowerment Homes, and continues to be dedicated to YWCA Charleston and our mission.

Debra James was responsible for bringing all the glitz and glamour to GNO as a past Décor committee chair as well as being a style icon.

Katie Ferrell is a community partner through her work and a survivor thriving after starting her new violence-free life.

Belinda Fuller is the current Vice President of the YWCA Board of Directors, the current GNO décor chair, and powerhouse who brings positivity with her everywhere.

Shereilla Hearn is one of two YWCA Resolve Counselors who ensures that victims and survivors

can learn positive coping skills and find productive ways to work through trauma.

"When asked to be a model for GNO 2024 I felt incredibly honored," said Katie. "The opportunity felt like a gift

and a full-circle moment for the past year of my life. To represent the YWCA and GNO in such a way feels like a dream."

"Wow, what an honor!" said Debbie James. "The YWCA supports, recognizes and celebrates a diverse community of women, not only those in need but also those in a position to help. When you see the faces of GNO, you see emanating from behind the clothes and makeup, women who care about their sisters in need."

We asked our models what attracted them to the work Resolve does. Shereilla shared her perspective as a person of color, "Many of us are familiar with the phrase, 'What happens in this house, stays in this house.' It is a phrase I heard often as a child. It is a phrase that has been repetitively used in Black households for more

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, please call YWCA Resolve Family Abuse program at 1-800-681-8663 or 304-340-3549.

24/7 free chat hotline:
ywcacharleston.org

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By supporting YWCA Resolve through fully tax deductible monetary donations, donating items to the shelter, or participating in *Girls Night Out*, YOU are bringing HOPE to women who have nowhere else to turn. Visit ywcacharleston.org/gno for how to get involved.

Women of Achievement

2025
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**DO YOU KNOW A WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT?
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Scan for nomination forms or visit ywcacharleston.org/woa

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'GNO' CONTINUED FROM Page 1

years than I've been alive. It is my belief that [that] phrase has been damaging to the Black community as a whole and has fostered and promoted various forms of abusive behaviors in Black households across the country. The commonly used phrase has protected abusers and encouraged silence from victims of abuse for far too long. The phrase has not single handedly created abusive environments in Black households, but it has been a significant factor in the cycle of abuse in Black households. It is a phrase that should never be used in any household or community regardless of race or cultural background. In my position as counselor, I hope to educate the community on the power of words and their impact on families," said Shereilla

Marsha added that, to her, "Resolve stands for everything that I believe when it comes to helping women, children, and families who are experi-

encing the ravages incurred by sometimes several generations of abusive dynamics, alcoholism, drug use, and mental illness."

"I was attracted first and foremost by the mission," said Katie, "but also because I think my life could have looked differently had I known about the support and resources available through the Resolve program earlier in my life."

Everyone at YWCA Charleston looks forward to GNO and we asked our models what the one thing was they wish someone who had not been to a Girls Night Out knew. Debbie says, "I wish that every woman attending Girls Night Out knew or had heard at least one of the heart-wrenching testimonies shared by survivors."

Katie looks forward to a night of fun. "I wish everyone knew how stinkin' fun it is! How carefree it is! How it is a night to channel all the girl power in your heart and soul and let

it out on a dance floor entirely surrounded by other strong and amazing women!"

Shereilla hopes more women join her at the event this year. "GNO is a great night for women of all ages and backgrounds to come together and celebrate the beauty of being a woman," she said. "We all have a story to tell, even if no one has ever heard it. We stand in solidarity with our presence."

Join us on Saturday, August 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center as we get All Dolled Up! Every night's a girls night with GNO.

GNO raises vital funds to support the survivors of domestic abuse. We need sponsors, volunteers and Hostesses. Funds help survivors with essential services to rebuild their lives violence free and every dollar helps with this important work.

NEW YWCA DIRECTOR

MaKaylla Leonard

Mel Wolf Child Development Director



YWCA Charleston is pleased to introduce our new Mel Wolf Child Development Center Director, MaKaylla Leonard!

We interviewed several great candidates and MaKaylla was an outstanding choice. She joined our team February 12 bringing with her experience as a child development center teacher, elementary education teacher, and family resource center director.

MaKaylla has an Associate of Arts in General Education, a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, and is currently pursuing a Masters in Urban Education.

YWCA MEL WOLF CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Mel Wolf Reunion

We will be hosting a Mel Wolf Reunion on July 31st from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m at the YWCA Mel Wolf Child Development Center. We will be celebrating past Mel Wolf students who graduated during any year. Stop by and meet MaKaylla and see what's new at Mel Wolf!



VOLUNTEER *spotlight*

EAGLE SCOUTS

Cameron and Jacob, high school members of South Charleston Scout Troop 195, chose Eagle Scout projects that benefitted the YWCA. The young men, along with other scouts and parents from their troop, spent several weekends cleaning, sorting, and organizing the YWCA Warehouse.

They found homes for items that the YWCA could not use, including deliveries and pickups for Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Pollen8, Heart and Hand Outreach Ministries, Facing Hunger Food Bank, and Covenant House. Additionally, they disposed of some things that had been damaged in a former roof leak. The young men and women built and loaded shelves for articles that are used regularly by YWCA staff, and inventoried everything for future use.

Many YWCA staff members also helped guide the Scouts through the process.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this project!



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Corporate partners whose support sustains YWCA Charleston so that we can continue to serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Together, we work to promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

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Girls Night Out
All Dolled Up

August 10, 2024

CHARLESTON COLISEUM & CONVENTION CENTER

Purchase your tickets, become a hostess or sponsor,
and learn more at ywca.info/GNO today!



Questions?

Contact Andrea Arbogast at aarbogast@ywcacharleston.org or call 304-340-3584.

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An event held in support of:
YWCA RESOLVE
FAMILY ABUSE PROGRAM

