

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

SPRING 2023



'Race to End Racism' to be held April 29

The YWCA Charleston will hold its seventh annual Race to End Racism on Saturday, April 23 through the West Side.

The race brings together members of the community to participate in a 5K run or 1 mile walk with proceeds benefitting the YWCA Charleston Racial Equity & Inclusion Program.

The program will be housed in the new Center for Racial Equity and Inclusion, which is located at 412 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, WV 25301. It is set to open this summer.

"The new Center for Racial Equity & Inclusion will enable us to offer a safe space to facilitate important

community conversations and moves us forward in our mission to eliminate racism," said Jennifer Goddard, CEO for YWCA Charleston.

"We are thankful for the community's generosity to help realize this mission."

Sign up at
<https://ywca.info/racing>

Program Director Shanté Ellis works closely with our Racial Equity & Inclusion Committee, which comprises members of diverse faiths, ethnicities, races, ages, socio-economic statuses, and professions.

"The program continues to experience strong growth and accomplishments year after year," Ellis said.

"Our role is to change one heart and one mind at a time to see true fulfillment of our mission work. Especially in today's world of diverse rhetoric, we must combat negative and unfair views of people with color, mitigate the downstream effects of racism, and attack the root causes of racial inequity."

Please join us on this mission and register to participate in our seventh annual Race to End Racism on April 29, 2023 across from Magic Island along Kanawha Boulevard West.

A LOOK INSIDE:

Page 2: Women of Achievement | Page 3: New Leader for Change



Women of Achievement

2023
eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca



Main photo (left to right): Dr. Tracy Wilkerson, Karen Williams, Debby Weinstein (Lifetime Achievement Award) and Chanel Hunt (Encova Empowerment Award) are the 2023 YWCA Charleston Women of Achievement honorees. **Top right:** DJ EJ, left, and YWCA Charleston CEO Jennifer Goddard, right, discuss the event live on the red carpet before the 2023 Women of Achievement Award Luncheon. **Middle right:** Hand-crafted Blenko vases were distributed to this year's honorees. **Bottom right:** Jeri Matheny, YWCA board president, welcomes attendees to this year's event.

Nearly 600 attend Women of Achievement

The 2023 Women of Achievement luncheon was held on Feb. 24 to honor four women for their personal and professional accomplishments.

The 26th annual event, sponsored by Huntington National Bank, was held at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center and highlighted:

Dr. Tracy Wilkerson, who supports many organizations that impact the lives of children, women and more;

Karen Williams, who is a retired educator, social justice and women's right to vote activist, board member and local community volunteer;

Debby Weinstein, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award after spending 40 years as the YWCA's CEO;

Chanel Hunt, who received the Encova Empowerment Award and is a former YWCA program participant who has now bought property, upgraded her car and will enroll in nursing school.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kenyatta Grant



Kenyatta Grant embodies the role of an advocate - in her career, in her family, and in her service to the community. She has worked for the last two decades to lend her voice in support of victims and

survivors of domestic violence and has led many efforts to eliminate racism.

"Every day I am reminded that I am a black woman living in a society that still discriminates, hates, and degrades people who are like me due to the color of my skin. It is my responsibility to do as much as I can while I can, so my children and the generations to come do not have to experience the racial injustice that is still occurring in our country," Grant said.

Through her work with the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the YWCA Charleston, and other community organizations, Grant has become a leader in educating and empowering community members to recognize their biases and make positive changes in their lives.

"Former YWCA CEO Deb Weinstein asked me to join the Racial Justice Committee at the YWCA. At that time, I was doing numerous diversity and cultural competency trainings. These trainings were requested by domestic violence programs, law enforcement and other non-profit organizations. As a result of this experience, I was asked to do a similar training focusing on implicit bias. This is when Attorney Kitty Dooley and I pulled together resources and added to previous materials I used for other trainings and that is how the Implicit Bias trainings began," she said.

Her focus now is working with marginalized communities to ensure they are represented and have access to the services of the Coalition.

Meet Bailey & Slotnick, PLLC

A new partner has joined the YWCA Charleston Leaders for Change lineup for 2023.

Leaders for Change are corporate sponsors whose support sustains the organization to help eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Bailey & Slotnick, PLLC, which is the real estate affiliate of Bailey & Wyant, PLLC, also located in Charleston, is a new Freedom level sponsor that is involved in YWCA Charleston's events, such as the Race to End Racism.

"Bailey & Slotnick, PLLC supports the Race to End Racism because it is an event in which we get to see the entire community come together unified

for the cause. There is nothing like lining up at the start surrounded by like-minded and diverse individuals and crossing that finish line together. It is a fantastic event celebrated not only by individuals, but also families



and co-workers. The YWCA creates an environment during this event that is extremely inviting and packed with energy," said Marc Slotnick.

The partnership goes beyond events, though, as the business's goals align

with YWCA Charleston's overall mission.

"The YWCA provides an integral community response for the most vulnerable in our community. We have been proud to not only provide sponsorship funds, but to also be able to work together on projects from the ground up," Slotnick said.

"The YWCA has provided not only the necessary programs for Charleston and the surrounding area, but they further provide leadership in the non-profit world. The YWCA helps to develop the leaders of tomorrow through the involvement in the community and recognition programs."

For more information about Leaders for Change, visit ywcacharleston.org.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

1426 Kanawha Blvd., E
Charleston, WV 25301
ywacharleston.org
f/ywacharleston
@ywacharlestonwv

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.47
Charleston, WV 25301

2023 LEADERS FOR CHANGE



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.

peace

TRUIST 

encova
INSURANCE

 **Huntington**

 **TC Energy**

empowerment

GREYLOCK
ENERGY

freedom

 **Charleston Area
Medical Center**

KOMAX
Business Systems

**Bailey
& Slotnick** PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

dignity

Appalachian Power
City National Bank
Element Federal Credit Union
J.P. Morgan Chase
Optimum
United Bank

2023 YWCA DATES TO SAVE

RACE TO END RACISM

04.29.23 | West Side

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

08.12.23 | Charleston Coliseum

GUYS NIGHT OUT

October 2023 | Oakes Field

FOODIE FEAST

November 2023 | TBD