



**eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca**

**Elmira & the Twin Tiers**

**2008 Annual Report**

# YWCA

Elmira & the Twin Tiers

## Our Mission

*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.*

# WHO WE ARE

In 1886, the YWCA of Elmira & the Twin Tiers was established to provide housing for young women who were moving to the city from farms to work in industry. Since that time, the YWCA has provided programming to meet the ever changing needs of women and families in Chemung County and the surrounding areas.

Throughout our history the YWCA has stood for excellence in service and program delivery for its community members and was the first organization to stand and support women, children and families, through the promotion of peace, the elimination of racism, advocacy, education and self empowerment.

The YWCA provides a wide array of services to individuals and families including, but not limited to, minorities, impoverished, the working poor, all age groups, the physically infirmed and those needing critical health services, in response to community need through key areas that include Child Care and Youth and Leadership Development, Advocacy, Economic Self Sufficiency, Health & Fitness, Safety and Social Justice.



Dear Members and Friends,

During our 2008 fiscal year the YWCA of Elmira & the Twin Tiers continued its leadership role in the community by providing programs and services focused on women, children and families. Our focus remained on our strong existing programs and introduced new initiatives that are relevant to the community we serve. Our services focused on child-care, youth and teen development, health and wellness, women in transition, domestic and international violence and more. This past year saw the YWCA reach and touch the lives of more than thirty thousand people throughout the Twin Tiers. We are proud to present the results of our work in our annual report.

The YWCA Elmira & the Twin Tiers is part of the YWCA USA and the World YWCA. While each YWCA association works toward the common mission of empowering women and the elimination of racism, each association does so through a variety of programs and services addressing specific and evolving needs relevant to its own service area.

Since 1886 we have worked to continue to honor our past while being responsive and relevant to the needs that have emerged in our diverse and changing community. Dedicated and compassionate staff and volunteers support our many programs and services. We strive to help our clients and customers gain the skills and confidence necessary to become successful and reach their highest potentials. Whether we are working with seniors to rehabilitate in our swimming pool after joint surgery or caring for children to allow a single mother access to college classes which will lead to an economically viable career move, our clients are the center of our work.

As you read what has occurred at the agency this past year, keep tuned into the coming year as we move our strategic action plans from the drawing table and into the community to include new services for victims of violence, women trying to gain economic empowerment and services for families trying to cope with divorce, visitation and grandparents and guardians raising children.

The YWCA Elmira & the Twin Tiers is a strong and healthy organization due to the support of its members and its strong community partners who recognize the organization's value and quality service delivery for over one hundred and twenty two years.

We start off 2009 with some degree of trepidation in light of fairly major cutbacks brought on by a global financial decline. Due diligence, partnering with our peers and prudent house-keeping should see us through this year of uncertainty. Our services are more needed than ever.

Sincerely,



## PROGRAMS

### YOUTH

The YWCA is the *largest child care provider in Chemung County* offering care to families for infants from 6 weeks of age, pre-school, elementary and middle school after-care and enrichment and wrap-around programs at 13 sites throughout the county. The YWCA also hosts and supports the middle and high school youth leadership clubs guiding tomorrow's leaders. One of our most utilized programs "Kid's World" last year provided a safe, educational and caring program for 5,122 care days.

### RECREATION AND FITNESS

The YWCA serves a community need by providing a heated pool, gym and health resources that serve a diverse and oftentimes underserved population. From teaching our area children to swim to designed exercise and rehabilitation swims for those with physical ailments or recovering from surgery, requiring a therapeutic environment, the YWCA pool and water programs are one of the core services offered to the community for over 50 years. *In 2008, the pool was utilized by nearly 16,000 individuals.* We also offer a Multiple Sclerosis Support Group, Ballroom Dancing, Karate, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Swim Parties and more.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

The YWCA is the area provider for ENCOREplus, a program to provide critical breast cancer education, mammograms and health screenings to those who need access to these services. The YWCA is an active leader in breast health awareness and have initiated new programs to support women and families in our service area. This year the agency created the *Pink Paws Dog* event and opened the *new Pink Boutique* in association with Arnot Health to provide women who have undergone breast cancer treatment a local shop with certified "fitters" to purchase prosthetics, wigs, bras, and more.

### ADVOCACY/EDUCATION/EMPOWERMENT

The YWCA is a leader in preparing and educating women to be successful in today's technological world. Classes in computer training, advocacy and timely topics are held throughout the year supporting relevant issues and advocating change and reform.

Since its beginning, one of the YWCA's primary goals has been to help those who oftentimes cannot help themselves. The YWCA maintains collaborations with existing community supports, particularly on behalf of children including Chemung and Schuylar Counties, School Districts, Child Care Council, Chemung County Youth Bureau, the American Red Cross, the Department of Health the Medical Community and more.

**PROGRAM STATISTICS: (JAN. 1, —DEC. 31, 2008)**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>NUMBER(S)</b>	<b>CARE DAYS (IF APPLICABLE)</b>
<b>Youth Programs</b>		
Pre School, Infant & Toddler	438	
UPK (*new Sept. 2008)	14	
Kids World	512	5,122
Summer & Holiday Programs	240	1,148
Extended School Day (Middle)	473	
Just for Girls (Middle School)	34	
Rachel's Challenge (Middle School)	2,000	
Young Women's Leadership Council & Teen Health Group (combined)	450	
SafeZones	11	
Youth Summit Committee	15	

**Recreation & Fitness**

Swim programs:

Swim lessons, Aquacise, Aquajog, Aqua-weights, Rehabilitative Swim, Lappers, Family, Open, Preschool, & Splash Parties		15,440
Ballroom Dancing, Karate & Scrap booking	20	
Multiple Sclerosis Support Group	15	180
Silver Foxes	14	560
Community/Building Use: Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Meetings	3,800	

**Women's Health**

ENCOREplus & Breast Health Outreach	1,541	
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**Advocacy/Education/Empowerment**

Legislative Forums/Global Advocacy	138	
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*Family and group "SPLASH Parties" and team sports in the gym filled nearly every evening of the calendar this year.*

## 2008 Program Highlights

- All child & youth programs were centralized under new organizational structure. The agency welcomed many new educational staff and supports to its existing programs.
- The agency relocated the preschool children's programs to the Booth Learning Center to provide more streamlined access to education.
- A Universal Pre K program was introduced in collaboration with the Elmira City School District ensuring all children have access to pre kindergarten educational opportunities.
- YWCA Kids World (13 sites) continue to be the area's largest child care provider, serving 500+ each day with quality programming and care. The program focused on the development of social, emotional, and physical skills. Each site enjoys choosing special "projects" and field trips each year including gardening, cooking classes, fire prevention, kindness chains and more.
- YWCA Middle School leadership groups introduced Rachel's Challenge (a national initiative to promote kindness, character building and reduce violence) to over 2,000 youth in the area. It has now become a permanent program at the YWCA.
- YWCA High School leadership groups combined to design and implement the first Teen Health Fair/ Battle of the Bands which hosted some 450 teens and gave them access to vital health information in a safe and fun manner.



Babies and staff love their new home at the Booth Center. Shown is the new WONDERFUL eating table that serves six infants donated by Erway Ambulance, Inc.



*Kids World* youth & Larry the Lama get to know one another during one of the programs numerous outings & camps.



300 young people sign the *Kindness Counts Poster* at Strong Kid / Safe Kids to commit to being kinder to their peers in the 2008—09 school year.



Liza Hable, YWCA Executive Assistant represents our YWCA beautifully at the AVON Walk for Breast Cancer! Thank you Liza and donors who helped raise over \$1,800!



The YWCA *Pink Boutique* opens in association with Arnot Health to provide women who have undergone breast cancer treatments with quality prostheses, bras, wigs and more locally.



Nearly 100 people and their "best friends" support the 1st YWCA *Pink Paws Dog Event* during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Thank you Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield and others for your sponsorship!

## 2008 Program Highlights

- Opened the *YWCA Pink Boutique* in association with Arnot Health for women who have undergone breast cancer treatment or surgery. Women can shop in comfort for prostheses, bras, wigs, swimwear and more with certified on-site fitters locally.
- Introduced the *YWCA Pink Paws Dog Event* to raise awareness of Breast Cancer initiatives.
- Sent our first representative, Liza Hable to NYC to participate in the AVON Walk for Breast Cancer.
- Adopted the national YWCA initiative of ENCOREplus Breast Health Support.
- Created a Breast Cancer Outreach Support position to educate more women and families about breast health initiatives.
- Water and Recreation programs continue to teach hundreds of children to swim each year, provide exercise and fun for individuals with mental and physical disabilities, and gives clients requiring aqua physical therapy the warmest pool in the region.
- Our Silver Foxes, Basketball, Volleyball, Swim parties, Karate, Ballroom Dancing, Summer Camps, Birthday Parties and more have the agency bustling with a class or program to fit everyone's taste.
- The YWCA continued to advocate for women's rights and ending family violence, sponsoring Legislative forums and workshops.



District Attorney, Weeden Wetmore delivers a Keynote Address for a Community & Legislative Conference during the Week Without Violence.

# **YWCA**

## **Elmira & the Twin Tiers**

### **How to Help**

YWCA Elmira & the Twin Tiers is a not-for-profit 501C (3) corporation that relies in part upon the volunteer and philanthropic community to support its programs and services. Funds are raised through the aid of individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations that provide services, capital improvements, equipment and staff training to serve the ever-increasing number of women, children and families who rely on our sustainability.

The YWCA Elmira & the Twin Tiers could not sustain its programs, services and facilities to the standards we require without the generous support of the community. Support opportunities include:

**Membership**  
**Volunteerism**  
**Planned Giving**  
**Holiday & Spring Campaigns**  
**JulieAnn Delgrosso**  
**Scholarship**  
**Tribute To Women**  
**Grants & Foundations**  
**Special Events &**  
**United Way of the**  
**Southern Tier**

## **SUPPORT**

### **2008**

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Corning Inc. Foundation  
Elmira City School District  
Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield  
Gannett Foundation, Inc.  
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*The YWCA Elmira & the Twin Tiers would like to gratefully acknowledge the financial and in-kind donations who have supported the agency from January 1, 2008—Dec. 31, 2008. We regret any omissions or inaccuracies.*

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Rubin, Linda	Smith, Merilouise	Tarby, Faith	Watts, Winnie	Zepp, Rosemary
Rundell, Suzie	Smith, Rita	Taylor, Mary	Waugh, Allison M.	Zhang, Feixia
Rusinko, Mary & John	Snowburg, Sarah	Teed, Margaret A.	Wayman, Kimberly S.	Zhang, Susie
Russen, Joan	Sochacki, Frances	Telech, Dayna	Webb, David	Zine, Cheryl
Rustici, Lisa	Solomoto, Andrew	Tenbus, Alisha	Webb, Jessica	Zoerb, Charlotte
Rutan, Kristin	Sonsire, Joanne	Terpolilli, Nicole	Webb, Karen L.	
Ryan, Kristy	Spaulding, Claudia	The Christmas House	Weed, Craig	
Ryan, Susan	Spaziani, John	Tholfsen, Dorothy	Weeman, Alice H.	
Rynders, David	Spencer, Charity	Thompson, Stephanie	Weiskopf, Cathryn	
Sakamoto, Kristine	Spencer, Chrystelle	Thompson, Darby	Weldon, Melissa	
Salce, Lora	Spencer, Doris	Thompson, Eleanor	Welliver McGuire Inc.	
Saltsman, Heidi	Spencer, Laurie	Thorner, Ann	Werda, John	
Saltzer, Lisa	Spetseris, Joy	Tiedel, Keith & Billie	Werner, Murray	
Sanderson, Kelly	Spicer, Jennifer L.	Tierney, Gina	Westbrook, Jenifer	
Sando, Nancy	Sprague Ins. Co.	Tiftt, Arlene	Westervelt, Doug	
Sandoval-Stark, Reyna	Squires, Kelly A.	Tiftt, Meredith	Weston, Dan	
Saxon, Christine	St. Joseph's Hospital	Tillotson, Sarah	Whalen, Lindsay	
Sayles & Evans	Foundation	Tinker-Stamp, Mary	Wheeler, Michelle	
Schermerhorn, Kathryn	Staight, Christina	Tinker-Williams, Gina	Whipple, Deborah	
Schiavone, Erin	Stand Energy Corp	Tiwari, Chandra	White, Blair R.	
Schooler, Marjorie	Stanton Direct Market-	Tobey, Stephanie	White, Elizabeth J.	
Schott, Everett	ing, Inc.	Tokar, David	Whitney, Linda	
Schweizer, Kathleen	Stanton, Heather	Tonetti, Stephen	Wilcox, Connie	
Schweizer, Lucia	Stanton, anet M.	Travelers Ins.	Wilcox, Stanley	
9 Scott, Charlotte	Stanton, Kimberly	Tremblay, Beth	Wilcox, Tammy	
Scott, Jannaya	Star Gazette Founda-	Troccia, Amy	Wilkinson, Margaret	
Searles, Bridget	tion	Tuffillaro, Angela	Willard, Tami	
10 Sechrist, Annette	State Farm Insurance	Twomey, Megan	Williams, Janet	
Sechrist, Barbara	Sledge, Wendy	Tyler, Melanie	Williams, Lorriane	
Segur, Holly	Steed, Karen	Usack, Theresa	Williams, Lynn	



## Tribute To Women Success and Support

For the 14th year the YWCA Tribute To Women Recognition Luncheon continues to be the premier event to recognize women making a difference in our area. The gala luncheon honored women of outstanding achievement and hosted some 450 individuals, its largest venue to date! Dedicated community volunteers and supporters work throughout the year planning and recognizing the works of women making a difference in our communities.



Special appreciation is extended to **Elmira Savings Bank, FSB**, our 2008 Distinguished Benefactor and all of the businesses and organizations who make the YWCA Tribute To Women possible.

From L to R: Suzanne Valicenti, Vice Chair; Christine Morris, YWCA CEO; Pat Lambert, Board Chair; Tammy Pabis, Tribute Chairperson; Lindsey Petrillose, Keynote Speaker; Dr. Nancy King, Tribute Recipient; Mayor John Tonello, Ellen Wohl, Lifetime Achievement Award; Caley Manuel, Youth Leadership Award and Kathy Dubel, Racial Justice Award Recipient.

Save June 3, 2009 for the 15th Annual Tribute to Women.

### YWCA Elmira & the Twin Tiers Leadership 2008 Board of Directors

Nancy Barcomb • Kristina Cadwallader • Rosa Calderon Clark • Rita Colvin • Linda Cozad • Ann Kilmer  
Patricia Lambert, President • Tammy Pabis • Lois Place • Laurie Sweeney • Suzanne Valicenti

#### Administration

Christine M. Morris, MSW CEO

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

Elmira & the Twin Tiers  
211 Lake Street  
Elmira, NY 14901



United Way  
of the Southern Tier