

MEET OUR NEW CEO

Helen Archontou, MSW, LSW, joined YWCA Bergen County as Chief Executive Officer in July. Helen's experience in leading non-profit organizations and advocacy on behalf of children and their families firmly positions her to lead the YWCA.

YWCA Friends,

The past few months have been quite exciting, and I have been inspired by the many discussions I've had with the YW staff and board as well as our partners in the community. Amidst the economic challenges our country is facing, our community needs our support now, more than ever. The YWCA Bergen County must continue the important work that we are doing, while at the same time evolving our services to address the needs arising in our current landscape.



Our focus will be two-fold: to live our name and to live our mission. We will work towards truly becoming the "YWCA Bergen County" by broadening the scope of our programs and services to reach all parts of the county-not only Ridgewood and the surrounding towns. We are currently surveying our members to find out how we can better meet their needs and will be sharing with you what we learn.

Our second goal is to fully embrace the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women: first by defining what this mission means to the community via surveys and discussions, then partnering with organizations and individuals to develop meaningful and impactful programs and initiatives.

I look forward to sharing our progress with you and to hearing how you feel about these changes as they unfold.

Sincerely,

Helen

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
bergen county



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Swim Lessons = Skills for Life 5K
October 9, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Women, Money and Work: A Financial and Career Empowerment Conference
October 29, 2011
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

3rd Annual Fall Fitness Frenzy
November 5, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Fall Fundraiser for the YWCA Bergen County Rape Crisis Center
November 17, 2011
7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Newcomers Holiday Boutique
Thursday, December 1, 2011

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

YWCA Bergen County is embarking on a planning process that will guide future membership and program development. A critical part of this process is having a clear understanding of what members, donors, volunteers and community partners know and think our YW, our mission, and our programs and services.

Working in partnership with a local independent research firm, Bauman Research & Consulting, LLC, we develop an online member survey that went "live" on September 12th. Our goal is to hear from as many members as possible in order to make decisions and improvements that will best meet their needs.

If you are a YWCA member and would like to know how to access the survey, please email Noelle Walker at nwalker@ywcabergencounty.org. Non-members will have the chance to weigh in when we launch a community-wide survey later in the year.

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO SURVIVE, STRIVE & THRIVE IN TODAY'S ECONOMY



Are you looking for a new career or new job search strategies? Join us on Saturday, October 29th for Women, Money & Work: A Finance and Career Empowerment Conference at the Park Ridge Marriott in Park Ridge, NJ. Keynote speakers and workshop leaders who are experts in the fields of finance, career development and business will give practical advice on budgeting, managing debt, paying for college, investing, retirement planning, career management, job-search strategies and more. Workshops for high school seniors and college students will include resume writing, job interviewing skills and dressing for success. The \$25 registration fee (\$10 for high school, college students and senior citizens) includes breakfast, lunch, a job fair, and a live fashion show, plus a wine & cheese networking reception featuring jazz artist Lauren Hooker. [Register now](#) or call 201-881-1729 or [email us](#) to reserve your seat. Our thanks to sponsors Oritani Bank, Prudential, United Water, PNC Bank and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Bergen/Passaic Chapter for supporting this inspiring day designed to help you work smarter, grow professionally and live well with less!

CONNECT WITH US!

Get up-to-date news and alerts from our YWCA. Find out about events and volunteer opportunities. And join conversations about issues that matter to you.



BECOME A MEMBER



RAISING AWARENESS & FUNDING FOR YWCA RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Over 1,800 T-shirts hung from clotheslines on "The Green" in Hackensack on September 14th as the 18th Annual Clothesline Project was held to raise awareness about violence against women, men and children. Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan and special guest Rosemarie D'Alessandro, whose seven-year-old daughter was raped and murdered in 1973, were among the guest speakers at this powerful event-one of the many ways in which the YWCA Rape Crisis Center serves the community. The only one of its kind in the county, the center's free services include a confidential 24/7 hotline, counseling, medical and legal accompaniments, support groups, volunteer training, and education programs. This fall the community will have the opportunity to give back to the Rape Crisis Center by participating in our first-ever [Fall Fundraiser](#). Join us on November 17th for an evening of fine food, lively wines, and tempting auction items as we honor Mark Crawford, NJ State Director for SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests).



TWIN AWARDS RECOGNIZE LEADERSHIP & DIVERSITY

Our YWCA honored 26 women and 20 businesses at its 37th Annual Tribute to Women and INdustry (TWIN) awards gala on May 5th at the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe in Teaneck, NJ. Since its inception in 1975, TWIN has recognized nearly 2,000 women for their outstanding business and community achievements, and over 200 area businesses that are committed to their advancement. Planning is underway for our 2012 event, and we are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker will be retired U.S. Army Brigadier General Rebecca "Becky" Halstead, the first female graduate of West Point to become a general officer. Interested in honoring the outstanding women in your company or organization? Consider becoming a TWIN 2012 sponsor. Call Jeanne Patrican at 201-881-1720 or email jpatrican@ywcabergencounty.org.

YW NEWS NOTES

Vacation Day Program Moves to Ridgewood!

The YWCA Bergen County's Vacation Day Program has moved to our Ridgewood facility! We will be offering the same full day care from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on designated school holidays, including fun trips and activities that are supervised by the YWCA's Trained child care staff. [Check our website](#) for October dates.

Calling all Runners & Walkers!

Enjoy your morning workout and help us raise money for our Make a Splash initiative to provide scholarships for swim lessons for underserved kids. Join us on October 9th at the Ridgewood Duck Pond for our first ever [Swim Lessons = Skills for Life 5K Benefit](#).



Online Registration for Session 2 starts October 24th.

Look for our new brochure in the mail, or get a head start by [updating your membership](#). Take advantage of [Priority Swim registration](#) or check out all of the [YWCA's programs](#), including the new Sleek Physiques class, Judo for all ages, and expanded kids programs!

ywca mission

YWCA Bergen County is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

www.ywcabergencounty.org