

program update

eliminating racism empowering women YWCA

fall 2010

tucson

■ **Racial Justice Program: Nuestra Voz**

Nuestra Voz is an 18 month-long project designed to develop Latino/a youth leadership and heal historical trauma through dialogue. This new **YWCA Racial Justice Program** is made possible thanks to a \$200,000 "America Healing" grant from the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**. This program is planned and led by members of the **Nuestra Voz Youth Advisory Committees** who meet weekly at the YWCA and John Valenzuela Center.

■ **Youth Art Activism**

Nuestra Voz was launched the week of July 12th with **Youth Art Activism Camp**. This week-long camp provided an opportunity for 40 young men and women to learn to express themselves using photography, video, stencil art, and sculpture from reclaimed objects. The students were taught and inspired throughout the week by local and regional artists and the week ended with a showcase for family and friends with featured speaker, Congressman Raul Grijalva.

■ **Latino Youth Leadership Summit**

The **Nuestra Voz Latino Youth Summit** will work to build community within the diversity of the Latino culture, provide skill building to empower youth voice and support racial healing through dialogue for both Latino students and their allies. The Summit will take place on October 21st at the YWCA and is open to 200 middle and high school students. Young men and women, age 13 to 24, will be trained on October 10th to facilitate discussion with their peers about social inequality and to lead portions of the Latino Youth Leadership Summit.

■ **YWorks Employment Education and Training**

YWorks reached 741 women between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 and we expect those numbers to grow. Women generally enter the program through **Skills for Successful Employment**, open to 14 women each month, which begins with workshops on the second and third Tuesdays of each month and computer training classes on the second and third Wednesdays of each month. This program includes:

- Assessment of personal skills and individual interests
- Development of job search strategies
- Review of educational options
- Interviewing skills
- Resume development
- Computer skills (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Internet)
- Weekly career and job search strategy group
- Individual career guidance
- How to market yourself

We have hired two half-time **Career Guidance Specialists** to make it possible to provide more extensive services within the first month a woman is in the program. A long-time YWCA volunteer and graduate student at ASU School of Social Works has also been assigned to this program on a nearly full-time basis. In addition to **Skills for Successful Employment**, **YWorks** includes:

- Scholarships for job training
- Employment Training Internships
- Building the Brand Called You
- Clothing for Job Interviews

■ **Community Literacy Program for Spanish-Speaking Women**

The following programs have been adapted from existing YWCA programs for English speaking women to accommodate the need for programming in Spanish:

- **Grupo de Apoyo Para Mujeres** (Support Group for Women)
- **Mi Carrera** (My Career)
- **Mi Carrera Domestic Violence Support Group**
- **Mi Carrera ESL Class and English Conversation Group**
- **Mujeres & Dinero** (Women and Money)
- **Mujeres con Pasión** (Women With Passion)

■ **The Partnership for Women and Girls**

The **YWCA Tucson**, **Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse**, and **Sahuaro Girl Scout Council** partnership has been awarded a \$225,000 Community Impact Grant from the **Community Foundation for Southern Arizona**. The goal of our project is to create a community where women and girls are valued, successful, and thriving. The three primary outcomes of this important project include:

- Establishment of an effective public policy voice and increased funding for women and girls.
- The community and media will be made aware of the systemic barriers and gain an appreciation for the benefits of investing in women and girls.
- Women who are single heads of households will have additional opportunities to file for Earned Income Tax Credit and move out of poverty.

■ **Women's Leadership Conference**

The **Women's Leadership Conference** was held on September 17th and featured keynote speakers, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Naomi Tutu. Attendance increased 3% over the previous year.

■ **Bright Futures**

The **Bright Futures Leadership Development and Scholarship Program** for high school seniors will begin with the **Bright Futures Leadership Seminar** on Saturday, October 2nd. The young women in **Bright Futures** will participate in monthly workshops through March and spend a day on the campuses of Pima Community College and University of Arizona. Three program participants will be selected through a random drawing to receive a \$1,000 scholarship to a school of their choice and they are also eligible to compete for one of ten \$2,000 scholarships to attend Pima Community College.

■ **Women & Money**

Women & Money has received a \$15,000 gift from the **Bank of America Foundation** and will launch a workshop series beginning in January 2011: **Making Sense of Your Cents**.

- January 15, 2011: **Understanding Your Relationship With Money**
Overview of Personal Finance
How to Reach Your Personal Financial Goal
- February 12, 2011: **Cash Flow/Budgeting/Savings/Credit**
- March 12, 2011: **Investment Basics/Tax Planning**
- April 9, 2011: **Protecting Your Future/Leaving a Legacy**

For more information or to contact the **YWCA Tucson**, go to www.ywcatucson.org and follow us on **Facebook at YWCA Tucson**.