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Leader Luncheon 2016

**HOMETOWN
HEROES!**



Please make plans to join us at YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's annual Leader Luncheon on November 17, 2016, as we celebrate the organization's 140th Anniversary. We will also recognize the accomplishments of five "Hometown Heroes" who are examples of Chicago-bred leaders who through innovation, compassion and courage have significantly contributed to the greater good, particularly for women and girls.

More information and tickets available at www.ywcachicago.org/leader-luncheon



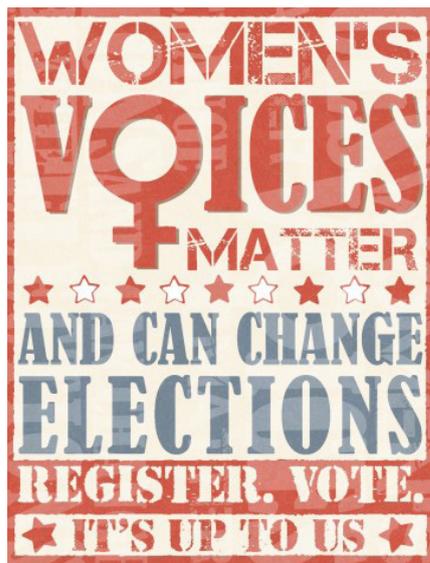
We all aspire to **be fit, be happy** and **be well**, but understanding all the information and options available to us can be overwhelming. YWCA's new **Women's Health Exchange** was created to be your online resource for health insurance as well as trusted information to make smart, healthy decisions for yourself and your family. Launched with generous support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois and Community Memorial Foundation, and in partnership with GoHealth and other wellness experts, we will host ongoing workshops, develop rich online content and work toward helping our communities achieve wellness.

To find out more, follow us on Twitter at [@ywomenshealth](https://twitter.com/ywomenshealth) or visit www.womenshealthexchange.org.

Nothing But Net...



Providing a unique summertime opportunity for young male residents of the North Lawndale Community, YWCA created All Net, a program that combines the basics of website design with basketball. Designing a program which combined fun along with learning kept program participants engaged throughout the summer. All Net program participants met weekly for web coding instructions, followed by basketball practice. At the conclusion of the summer, members engaged in tournaments which were held with other community basketball leagues.



Our Voices Matter

Women's Equality Day commemorates a historic day, August 26, 1920, when women were granted the right to vote with the enactment of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. But as we know, it wasn't until much later, after the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, that all women in the United States were allowed to fully exercise their rights. Women remain an influential voice in politics and in helping to determine the outcomes of elections. In 2012's presidential election, 53 percent of votes cast were by women! With the presidential election nearing, take action and honor the courage of the women who fought so hard for this liberty by casting your vote.

In honor of Women's Equality Day, YWCA hosted a leadership forum featuring many of Chicago's leading companies for a discussion around women's equality and the future of women's leadership. The forum, hosted by Baxter and supported by CDW, ITW, UL, Walgreens, Discover and North Shore Gas, provided an opportunity for young, emerging and experienced professionals to share challenges, insights and solutions for creating truly inclusive workplaces and a pipeline of women leaders.

A Renewed Investment

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago has received a \$500,000 gift from local business and philanthropic leaders Cheryl and Zed Francis. This contribution comes ten years after an initial \$500,000 investment which made the opening of YWCA's south side center possible, named after the donors' mothers, Laura Parks and Mildred Francis.

This new gift will ensure their mothers' legacies live on through ongoing support of the Woodlawn-based Parks Francis Center. The private investment will especially help to support and sustain the YWCA's Economic Empowerment offerings, which provide women and families with career services, digital literacy education, and training and technical assistance for local entrepreneurs. The center is also home to the YWCA Young Parents Program, which allows teen moms to continue their education, explore employment opportunities and ensures that their children are receiving appropriate care to grow and develop.

"Our family is proud to continue to invest in the important work being done by the YWCA on the south side of Chicago. We honor our mothers who were examples of strength and resiliency and wish to encourage the same from these communities that face obstacles but offer such promise. We believe in the power of the YWCA's services to foster skills growth, career development, employment retention, economic self-sufficiency and aspirational opportunities for women and youth," said donors Cheryl and Zed Francis.



Pictured: Zed and Cheryl Francis

Many thanks to Cheryl and Zed for their investment in the YWCA and the women we serve!

Shaping Your Legacy



A legacy may take many forms – children, grandchildren, a business, a home, or a cherished story passed down through generations. We shape our legacies through the lives that we live and by making a commitment to creating a better world for the future. Spearheaded by Legacy Giving co-chairs Cindy Burrell, Renetta McCann and Deborah Stevens, the YWCA is hosting Legacy Conversations to create the opportunity to reflect on the people, work, ideas, commitments, and organizations that have given our lives joy and meaning. To learn more about YWCA's Legacy Giving or to attend one of our Legacy Conversation events, please contact Brian Starr at 312.762.2710 or brian.starr@ywcachicago.org.



www.yshop.org