

# our voice

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca

volume 5.2 winter 2012  
southeastern massachusetts

## 99th annual meeting



**YWCA Board of Directors -- Top Row: Lena Pires, Ine Ogagan, Ashley Bendiksen, Marcia Williams, Mali Lim, Rita Ribeiro, Maria Pinarreta, Yolanda Dennis, and Victoria Moniz. Seated: Nicole Almeida and Jan Baptist.**

On November 30, 2011 at Cafe Funchal, members and friends of the YWCA celebrated its 99th Annual Meeting. Guests were moved by testimonies of program participants Pat Rafael, Waterpals participant; Carol Mitchell, resident of Another Woman's Place; and Thomas McGarr, a widower from Westport who attends the Dartmouth Support Group. Elizett Pires, a member of YWCA Leading Ladies, spoke on the value of what the group provides the community. Marie Frances-Rivera, former Assistant Treasurer, also made an inspiring speech on her experiences with the YWCA.

Newly elected positions inducted at the meeting include: Vice President, Nicole Almeida; Assistant Treasurer, Victoria Moniz; Board Member, Ashley Bendiksen. Jan Baptist and Gail Fortes expressed their gratitude to the board and staff for their hard work and dedication to the organization. The YWCA installed newly elected Board Member: Ashley Bendiksen, studying Administration of Justice at Salve Regina University. Ashley currently serves on the YWCA's Red Dress Committee and is Chair of YWCA Leading Ladies.

Officers of the 2012 executive board include: Jan Baptist, President; Nicole Almeida, Vice-President; Marcia Williams, Treasurer; Victoria Moniz, Assistant Treasurer and Lena Pires, Clerk. Continuing board members include: Carolina Africano, Esq., Yolanda Dennis, Mali Lim, Ine Ogagan, Maria Pinarreta, and Rita Ribeiro.

### what's inside...

p. 2  
challenge grant  
met

100th anniversary  
gala

p. 3  
save the dates

webster bank grant

staff recognitions



**New Board Member  
Ashley Bendiksen**

## ywca meets \$25,000 challenge grant

The YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts has met the \$25,000 challenge grant issued by Charlesbank Homes in May 2011 for a new women's residency at the Levi Standish House. Charlesbank Homes will double the \$25,000 in contributions and help transport the YWCA's women's residency from an outdated building in a high crime area to a nurturing, designed residency at the Levi Standish House on South Sixth Street.

The construction of the third floor will provide a congregate living program for low-income women over the age of eighteen with five units for 10 women. The YWCA currently rents a facility to provide housing for low-income women while they transition to self-sufficiency and independent living. Another Woman's Place provides supportive, clean housing with shared common living spaces, kitchen and bathroom facilities. "Final plans for our addition are complete and the third floor women's housing facility is a key part of this project," stated Gail Fortes, Executive Director. "Providing the women who seek our help with safe housing will help ensure their success and positive growth."

The YWCA has already completed phase one of its first-ever capital campaign to accomplish critically needed exterior restoration of its Levi Standish House. In June 2011, phase two commenced with interior renovations and the replacement a long-lost east portico. YWCA has plans to construct a \$4.6 million LEED-certified 12,000 square foot building addition onto its Levi Standish House headquarters to consolidate its women's housing and childcare programs on a barrier-free facility. A teen center and women's resource center will also be established in this new addition. The YWCA celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2011 and plans to have a ribbon cutting and program relocation in 2012. The YWCA seeks an additional \$1.7 million in contributions to fund this transformative project by 2012.

## 100th anniversary gala



A great time was had by all at the YWCA's 100th Anniversary Gala on November 4, 2011 at the Century House. The night featured entertainment by Guilty Pleasure, speeches by prominent community members and YWCA President Jan Baptist, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and a chocolate fountain. During the event, YWCA staff were recognized for milestones and their commitment by Gail Fortes, Executive Director; volunteers were also appreciated.

Guests of honor included women featured in the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book, *100 Women for 100 Years*, unveiled at the Gala. The book is available for purchase at [ywcasema.org](http://ywcasema.org), and honors 100 community women, many of whom were present. Gail Fortes presented the book to these notable women at the 100th Anniversary Gala.

YWCA has come a long way in its last 100 years. From a meeting of several women at a New Bedford home, to supporting factory working girls and providing swim lessons for youth into the 1980s, YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts continues to fill a vital role in our community.

## Save the Dates

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**



9th Annual  
Red Dress  
Fashion Show  
and Silent Auction

Thursday February 16, 2012  
5:30 pm - Cocktail Hour  
6:00 pm - Dinner

Century House  
107 South Main Street Acushnet, MA  
Individual Ticket: \$50.00  
Private Table/Seats Up to 10: \$500.00

Wear your favorite Red Dress

To support HEARTplus  
raising awareness of cardiovascular disease in women

Purchase your tickets before they sell out at the YWCA  
@ 508-999-3255 or Online: [www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org).  
Tickets will not be sold at the door!



eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**

**ywca women of distinction awards**  
information and nomination form are available  
for download at  
[www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org)  
nominations are due by 4pm on March 16th

for more info, please contact:  
gail fortes, executive director  
508-999-3255 or [gfortes@ywcasema.org](mailto:gfortes@ywcasema.org)

## staff recognitions



**Sophia Rose Mota**  
December 14, 2011  
12:54 am  
5 lbs. 8.5 oz. 20 in.

Proud Parents  
Gregory and  
Athena Mota  
and Big Brother  
Dominic



**Giovanni Antonio Bido**  
January 5, 2012  
2:27 am  
6 lbs. 13 oz. 20 in.

Proud Parents  
Leonardo Bido and  
Valentina Martinez,  
Brothers Steven  
and Stanley Acosta

Athena Mota and Valentina Martinez are both part of the YWCA Staff.  
Congratulations Athena and Valentina!

*The New England Business Bulletin has selected Athena Mota as a  
"Top Young Professional Under 40" for 2011!*

## webster bank grant



Webster Bank has made a \$2,500 grant to the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts for its Under One Roof capital campaign and specifically for the planned Another Woman's Place housing floor in a new 12,000 square foot building addition. The grant from Webster Bank also helps match a \$25,000 challenge from Charlesbank Homes issued in May of this year.

"Helping our neighbors in need is part of who we are at Webster -- it's in our 'DNA', said Jeffrey P Pagliuca, Vice-President, Business & Professional Banking at Webster Bank. "We're pleased to lend our support to the YWCA's honorable mission to provide economic empowerment to women from all walks of life."

## ywca board of directors ywca staff

President  
Jan Baptist

Vice President  
Nicole Almeida

Treasurer  
Marcia Williams

Assistant Treasurer  
Victoria Moniz

Clerk  
Lena Pires

Carolina Africano, Esq.  
Ashley Bendiksen  
Yolanda Dennis  
Mali Lim  
Ine Ogagan  
Maria Pinarreta  
Rita Ribeiro

Ex-Officio  
Gail M. Fortes

Gail M. Fortes  
Catherine Bourassa  
Athena M. G. Mota

### administrative services:

Lisa Calvano  
Linda Larsen  
Annamarie Lopes  
Katrina Semich  
Linda Rose  
Jack Davis  
Donald Adams  
Dave Pires

### youth services:

Stephanie DeSousa  
Shawneen Fyock  
Kathryn Nunes  
Natasha Iraheta  
Iris Ruiz  
Melissa Alicea  
Kaitlyn Correia  
Shirley Houtman

### wellness for women and girls:

Ana Silva  
Valentina Martinez

### adult services:

Joan Yotides

### residential services:

Candy Royster

Executive Director  
Director of Programs and Services  
Director of Advocacy and Communications

Director of Finance  
Office Manager  
Administrative Assistant  
Communications Assistant  
Receptionist  
Facilities Manager  
Custodian  
Custodian

Teen Services Coordinator  
YWkids Site Coordinator  
YWkids Coordinator of Support Services  
YWkids Kindergarten Coordinator  
YWkids Group Leader  
YWkids Group Leader  
YWkids Assistant Group Leader  
YWkids Clerical Support

Outreach Specialist  
Outreach Specialist

Widowed Persons Director

Resident Assistant

**eliminating racism  
empowering women**

**ywca**

**southeastern massachusetts**

20 South Sixth Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740



United Way  
of Greater New Bedford

# our voice

for information on any of our  
programs & services, please  
call: **508-999-3255** or go to:  
**[www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org)**