

YWCA IS ON A MISSION



August 2021 Newsletter

YWCA Southwestern Illinois

Big News-Name Change!

You may have noticed over the past few months that YWCA of Alton seemed to be having a bit of an identity crisis. We are so excited to announce that YWCA USA has approved our final name change to YWCA Southwestern Illinois. Our work in the community has been reaching outside of Alton for many years, and the Board of Directors felt that it was time for our identity to reflect that. As we work to live up to our new name, we hope that you will continue to support our efforts throughout Madison county that we are involved in. We are happily providing services and programs benefitting Alton, Edwardsville, Godfrey, Hartford, Madison, Roxana, Wood River, and Venice. For 103 years we have served you as YWCA of Alton, and we will continue that service as YWCA Southwestern Illinois.

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca
Southwestern Illinois



The Women of Distinction Gala is almost here!

We are less than a month away from celebrating our 2021 Women of Distinction honorees at our annual Women of Distinction Gala! These extraordinary women will be recognized for their strong achievement in their work and personal lives and who have given back in the spirit of the YWCA mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, and dignity for all. These Women of Distinction are trailblazers in their professions, pathfinders for social justice, or individuals on the rise.

The 2021 Women of Distinction Honorees are: Savanna Bishop, Leah Becoat, Yvonne Campbell, Lanea P. DeConcini, Amy Gabriel, Jennifer Gottlob, Cameo C. Holland, Trish R. Holmes, Lacy Spraggins McDonald, Marie Nelson, Carrie Schildroth, Starette Smith, Representative Katie Stuart, Crystal Uhe, and Sandra D. West.



Several of the 2021 honorees attended the annual Women of Distinction Tea to be recognized. Picture from front to back: Starette Smith, Jennifer Gottlob, Amy Gabriel, Yvonne Campbell, Crystal Uhe, Marie Nelson, Lanea P. DeConcini, Lacy Spraggins McDonald, Carrie Schildroth, Savanna Bishop, and Sandra D. West

Everyone is invited to attend this gala to show these incredible women our appreciation for their dedication to those around them. The event takes place on August 26, at Julia's Banquet Center in East Alton. Tickets are available on our website for \$65.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

[Want to know more about our 2021 Women of Distinction honorees and support opportunities?](#)

[READ MORE](#)



Pictured above: Samantha Evanoff

Pictured below: Tristan Johnston



Josephine Marley Beckwith Future Leader Scholars 2021

YWCA Southwestern Illinois is excited to announce the Josephine Marley Beckwith Future Leader Scholars for 2021: Samantha Evanoff, Triad High School, Tristan Johnston, Marquette Catholic High School.

"These young women have shown that they are committed to personal excellence as well as working towards the empowerment, respect, and dignity for all."

Dorothy Hummel, Executive Director

Kathleen Botterbush, Godfrey, and Taryn Geiger, Bethalto, had their \$1,000 scholarships renewed for an additional year.

The Women of Distinction Academy and YWCA friends generously provide financial support for these \$1,000 renewable scholarships.

Community Tutoring

There are two weeks of community tutoring left this summer!

Students in our community tutoring program receive reading and math, as well as enrichment instruction.

This program is free and includes lunch!

The goal of this program is to prevent summer learning loss. After the past year and a half, we believe that it is more important than ever to provide this educational support to the students of the community.

Thanks to the many donors including Sammie's Sandwiches and the Alton Sack Lunch program, as well as the volunteers that help make this program a success.



Child Enrichment

Now Enrolling!

As the summer comes to an end, our child enrichment department is gearing up for the school year. Before and after school care is available this fall at four locations: YWCA of Alton (Alton School District site), North Elementary Godfrey (tbd), Lewis & Clark Elementary (Wood River School District site), and Ivy Heights Church of God in Wood River (Roxana School District site).



Children at the YWCA enjoy a dance enrichment activity during summer camp.



Children at the Ivy Heights location participate in an art enrichment activity in partnership with Jacoby Arts Foundation.

Staff Updates

We are sad to announce Kathy Holder, Child Enrichment Program Director, resigned her position at YWCA after 3 wonderful years here. Kathy was a tremendous asset to our program with her love of children, creativity and exceptional organizational skills. We truly wish her well in new position with the Alton School District.

YWCA wants to congratulate Mallory Jones on her promotion to the Child Enrichment Department Director position!

Mallory completed an unpaid marketing internship at YWCA during 2019. Recognizing her many strengths, Mallory was hired as an Admin Assistant in late 2019. She began working as a Site Coordinator for Child Enrichment in the summer of 2020 and became Assistant Director of Child Enrichment in the fall of 2020. Mallory has a BA from SIUE in Applied Communication Studies and a minor in Psychology. In addition to her solid skills working with children, Mallory possesses strong leadership and management skills.



Our before and after school programs have many benefits including: Reading A to Z program, homework help, snack, STEAM and mission-based curriculum, and a great staff, dedicated to serving children.

Children in our program enjoy curriculum centered around exciting topics such as famous artists, Greek mythology, the solar system, and much more!



A student celebrates their reading accomplishments.

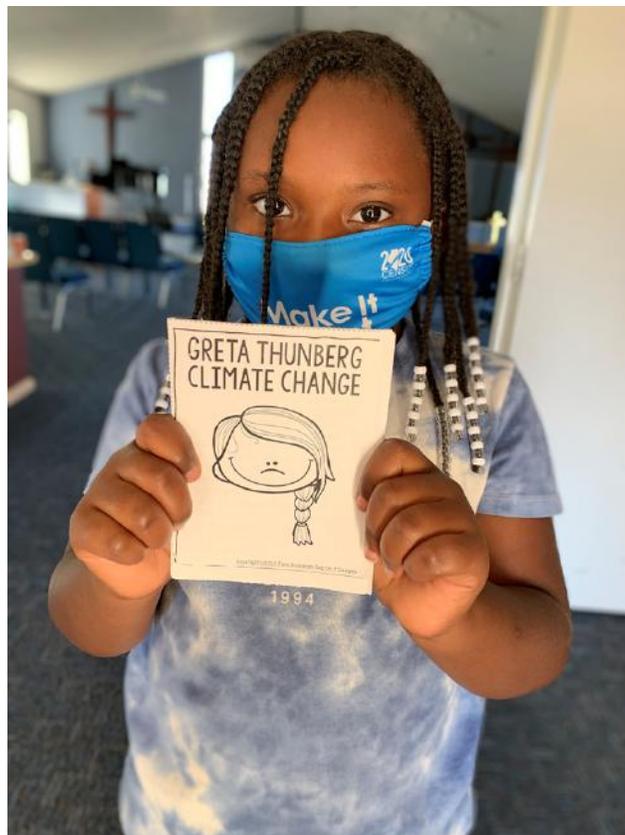
Stay Tuned-Reading Program Coming Soon!

YWCA has been awarded a grant from the Dana Brown Foundation. This grant is going towards the implementation of the Fountas Pinnell Leveled Literacy Program. The Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention is a powerful, short-term intervention, that provides daily, intensive, small-group instruction, which supplements classroom literacy teaching.

Our goal with this program is to get children reading below grade level reading at grade level.

This program will have students meeting in small groups for 30 minutes, 5 times a week.

We hope to have this program operational by late September, 2021.



A student shows the mini-book that they have made about Greta Thunberg.

The 2020 Annual Report is ready!

READ HERE

Buy tickets on our website!
www.altonywca.com

CHANCE TO WIN!

**RAFFLE
TICKETS
FOR
SALE!**



1 for \$10 - 6 for \$50

Winners need not
be present to win!



CASH PRIZES!

\$1000, \$500, \$250 or \$125

Drawing held at the Women of
Distinction Event on August 26, 2021

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