

FEBRUARY 2022

A Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings YWCA Friend!

We are now well into 2022, and yet feel the pains from 2021 and 2020, fully aware of the struggles that we have faced. The past two years have been extremely difficult, marked with pain, loss and struggle and yet our community has come together finding new ways to adapt with hope for a brighter future.

We have teamed up with the Alton Mission Church Common Meal, LeMay's Catering and the Overnight Warming Center to provide direct assistance to some of our most vulnerable populations with special funding provided by the United Way. The Common Meal brought people together from all walks of life, giving us an opportunity to connect, socialize and be seen--experiences we will not soon forget. We provided many critical programs this past year--from our year round Child Enrichment program serving school aged children, to our summer Community Tutoring program aimed at preventing summer learning loss, our Girls Circle program designed to increase resiliency skills and foster positive relations. We continue as a community center utilizing our nearly 100 year old facility for various athletic and social events at rates priced for the community we serve.

We held multiple racial justice related events including 21 Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge, Awareness Sessions, DiverStory Sessions, Community Conversation Circles and Book Talks. We hope to have our Boys Council and Riverbend Reading Club operational in the next few weeks. Stay tuned for important information about our Stand Against Racism events and Josephine Marley Beckwith Future Leaders Scholarships and Women of Distinction Announcements.

It is our hope that you continue to stand with us as we aim to eliminate racism and empower women. Much work is needed and working along with our friends brings us great joy.

Until Justice Just Is,

Dorothy Hummel

Women of Distinction

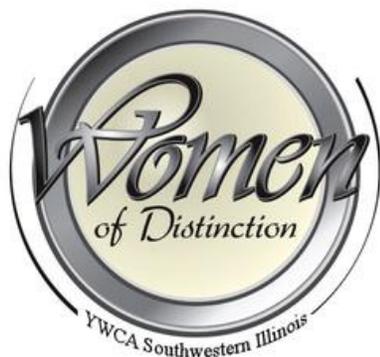
Nominations Due March 11, 2022

Please consider nominating a woman; a mother, a friend, a mentor, a teacher or professional, someone in your life who has continued to make a difference in their community, improved the lives of families and who serves the YWCA mission — empowering women, eliminating racism and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

We know many women who have stepped up and fought valiantly during the Covid pandemic --first line health care workers, teachers, non-profit leaders. These women have day in and day out provided critical services to our community and deserve your support. Support a sister and submit a nomination package this year before time runs out!

Nomination packet available at www.altonywca.com

"No matter where you are in life, inspire and empower the women around you. Success is never reached alone. And wisdom and wealth are sweeter shared."



Women of Distinction



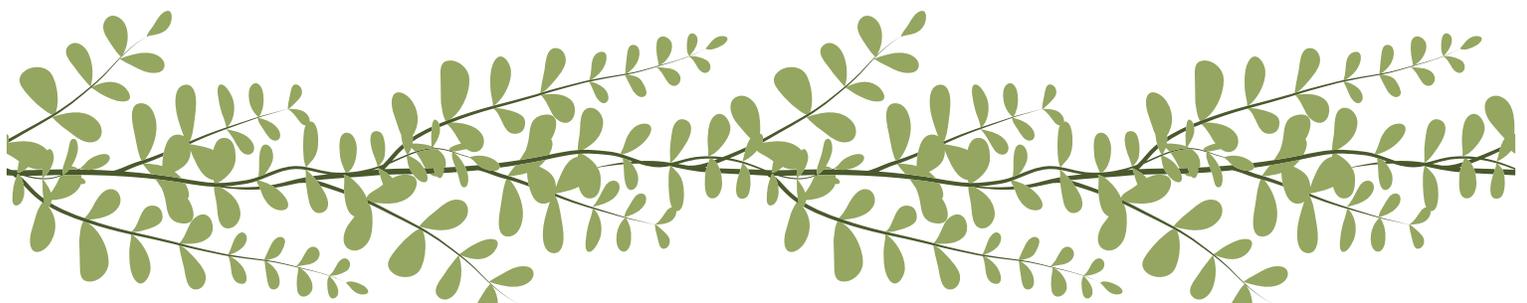
Women of Distinction Dinner Thursday, April 28, 2022

Let's gather together and celebrate this year's outstanding honorees. We will be at Julia's Banquet Hall, Eastgate Plaza, East Alton. Expect the fine food and good times that are a natural part of the Women of Distinction celebration.

Tickets can be purchased on our website at www.altonywca.com.

Sponsorship, Advertisement and support options are also available on our webpage.

Last year's unique celebration honoring both the 2020 and 2021 Women of Distinction and Mrs. Vernetta Caffey as Emcee is hard to out do but we will give it our best shot.



2022 Stand Against Racism 21-Day Challenge



This year we are excited to offer another Stand Against Racism Challenge to help foster a virtual community of growth and learning around social, systemic, and institutional racial inequity. This initiative, is designed to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership. This opportunity is open to anyone and will provide participants with daily challenges such as reading an article, listening to a podcast, reflecting on personal experiences, and so much more.

During the month of April, participants will have the opportunity to learn and engage with challenges about racial inequity within the following topics: Critical Race Theory, Reproductive Justice, Living Wage, and Film and Television.

Participation in this virtual community of growth helps us to discover how racial and social injustice impact our community, to connect with one another, and to identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination.

Registration for the challenge:
<https://standagainstracism.org/>.

Participants should sign up under **"Select a Region"** field and clicking the **"Midwest"** option.

Under **"Midwest"**, participants should click **"Southwestern Illinois"**.



New Girls Circles Forming

New Circles are starting this month (4 total)

Alton 21st Century Program: February 24, 2022

Alton 21st Century Program (5th Grade): March 2, 2022

Our goal is to counteract social and interpersonal forces that impede girls' growth and development by promoting an emotionally safe environment within which girls can develop caring relationships and their authentic voice.



Donate Now to Support Girls Circles

Our Amazon Wish List will be posted on FB at @ywcaswil

Every week girls participate in activities related to the unit they are working on. Continued participation promotes positive body image, self-efficacy, school attachment, social support, and communications with adults. Extra rewards and fun foods are a great way to treat our girls.

We will be utilizing an Amazon Wish List on our FB page to hopefully get donations for food, drinks, treats, and supplies for the Girls Circles we run. All donations are greatly appreciated.

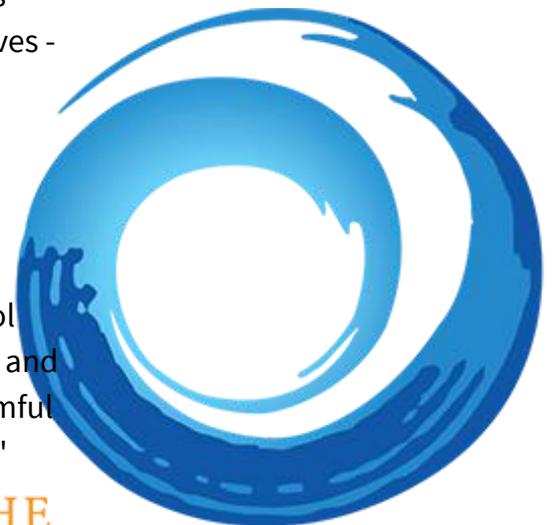
Introducing: The Council for Boys and Young Men

What is The Council?

A strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years. In this structured environment, boys and young men gain the vital opportunity to address masculine definitions and behaviors and build capacities to find their innate value and create good lives - individually and collectively.

We are looking for Boys Council Facilitators! Please see the job description at the end of the newsletter and spread the word.

This program has been shown to help young men increase school engagement, educational goals, confidence in avoiding fighting, and conflict schools. Program also helps reduce aggression and harmful beliefs about toxic masculinity ("be tough" "don't show feelings" "don't ask for help")



THE
COUNCIL®
FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

Child Enrichment

February Curriculum:

Geography Week: Students will learn the names and locations of all the world continents and start to learn the names of countries.

Black History Month: Students will learn the importance of Black History month and learn about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

Dinosaur Week: Students will learn about the differences between dinosaurs



2022 Summer Camp

Enrollment packages for already enrolled families will be sent out on March 28th, 2022

Open enrollment for the public will begin April 8th, 2022

Curriculum is still in the works, but themes will include:

**A Week in Paris,
Famous Artists,
Detective Week,**
and more to come.



Current Job Opportunities

Riverbed Reading Club Reading Instructor

This is a part time, 12 month term position totaling 32 hours per month. RRC reading instructor is responsible for delivering Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention curriculum instruction, keeping children engaged throughout a 40-minute lesson. Complete instructor reports for each session, maintain time management, communicate with parents, Alton School District, and Alton Housing Authority personnel when needed.

Must be a certified substitute teacher or teaching assistant with paraprofessional license and have experience with youth grades K-3.

Part-time Male Boys Council Facilitator

A facilitator is the guardian of the circle space. Of utmost importance is the facilitator's primary task: protecting the physical, emotional, and social/cultural safety of the group. Other aspects of the facilitator's role include preparation for circle activities (snack prep, shopping for supplies, lesson review, creative activity prep), administrative tasks (sign-in sheets, permission slips, surveys, etc.), and weekly reports of circle happenings. This is a part-time opportunity. Hours can vary dependent on the number of Councils you want to facilitate.

Assistant Direction of Child Enrichment

This position is a hybrid, part time administration and part time lead teacher/manager at a site location. The assistant director is responsible for curriculum development, data tracking, site document production and collection, as well as curriculum delivery, and engagement with students while in the classroom. This position reports directly to the Child Enrichment Director and is considered a full time position.

Programs Manager

Responsibility for planning, developing, implementing, and coordinating various program in conformance with local, state and federal program requirements. The manager position requires a full- time commitment, which may include evening or occasional weekend duties.

Under general supervision from the Executive Director, the position includes grant writing and fund raising, community outreach, development of program from initial concept to implementation stage, program budget, policies and procedures, oversight of programmatic staff, analysis of program outcomes, communications, analyzing program finances, and reporting.

We are
HIRING

**Be sure to check
www.altonywca.com
for further
information. All
resumes should be
sent to
info@ywcaswil.org**