

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

244 Dayton St., Hamilton, Ohio 45011

www.ywcahamilton.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Mark Your Calendar

Apr 27 YWCA Annual Meeting & Dinner, 6:00 pm
Apr 27 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
May 26 May Morning Breakfast, 7:00 am, Woman of the Year
Presentation, 8:00 am, Board Meeting, 9:15 am

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Spring 2010

Serving Butler County Since 1900

the ywca news

2010 YWCA WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Sherry Armstead



The YWCA Hamilton, serving Butler County, is proud to honor Sherry Armstead as the 2010 Woman of the Year. For many years, the Liberty Township resident has been instrumental in the community development arena for Butler County, whether for the church or community.

Sherry does much of her work with her "all-time best" friend, her husband of almost 30 years, Lou. She says, "he allows me to be me." "She says he is the perfect husband who has always loved and supported her sometimes crazy ideas and non-stop work ethic." They also love traveling, especially the opportunity to look for that next interesting piece of handcrafted artwork

Most people know Sherry as the owner/artist at Art on Symmes in Fairfield, a business she established in 2002. She decided to leave her life in real estate to follow her passion: creating art. With the ever present support of her husband she opened the doors to Art On Symmes. The business has grown to represent over 350 American artists. In 2007, Art On Symmes was recognized as one of Home Accents Magazine's "Top 50 Retail Stars."

Sherry has always had a passion for community activities and fund raising. She finds the YWCA Dove House closest to her heart because of past life experiences. After hearing the Dove House's Director, Fran Reese, along with two clients at the time make a presentation to United Way Women's Initiative members, it just seemed the direction for her fund raising talents.

Over the years Sherry has been involved in many capacities including: Established a Festival of Trees Fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation, which has supported the YWCA's Dove House in 2008 and 2009.

Keeping with her passion for art, she arranged the first indoor Art Fair during the Hamilton City of Sculpture's Ice Fest. Established The Village Green Art Fair with the City of Fairfield, which will celebrate its seventh event in June 2010.

Sherry also created the Famous Faces Charity Auction in June 2003 to aid a welfare-to-work mother of eight obtain decent affordable housing, counseling, and job opportunities.

She has played a role with the Butler County United Way as a board member with the Women's Initiative 2005-2008 and as a board member for the 2007 Campaign.

Sherry has also used her talents as a member of the Fairfield Women's group and the Fairfield Kiwanis. She also is currently on the Board of Directors of the Hamilton City of Sculpture.

Despite being busy in the community and helping others, Sherry and her husband Lou cherish the time spent with their five children: Michele, Steve, Debbie, Suzanne and Preston, and a houseful of grandchildren. ▲

YWCA

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A United Way Funded Agency

YWCA

2009 - 2010
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▲ ▲ ▲

Executive Director
Sherrie Bluester, M.Ed.

▲ ▲ ▲

Newsletter Editor
Mary Glasmeier

110 YEARS OF CARING FOR
BUTLER COUNTY WOMEN AND FAMILIES!



Sibyl Miller Honored for Her Impact on YWCA Hamilton

On February 24, 2010, the YWCA hosted 75 people at a reception to bid farewell to its former Executive Director, Sibyl Miller and to welcome her successor, Sherrie Bluester. The YWCA

Board of Directors honored Miller, by naming the board room in the historic building after her. Miller retired December 31, 2009, after being at the YWCA for 10 years.

Message from the Director

This year the YWCA Hamilton is celebrating another great year, and what a year it has been! The wonderful Board of Directors and our Staff have been working diligently to ensure that we achieve excellence in all we do every day. Our clients deserve nothing less. The many women and children and their families who come to us for help tell us that they are better off for having come through our doors. They come to the YWCA for many different reasons. Some are homeless, desperate and afraid, and often are alone, but they come to the YWCA for help. And they leave with a renewed and revitalized spirit, with new skills, and with a better and stronger outlook on life.



We are looking forward, and we are imagining the YWCA's future, however, there are some very important things that will never change: Our mission. Our vision. Our values. Our focus. More than 100 years ago, the YWCA Hamilton was founded on a higher purpose—to pave the way for women and their families, and for the oppressed. Today, new generations of women, their families, and victims of hate continue to come through our doors seeking that higher purpose. The commitment to our clients will never change.

Sincerely,

Sherrie

Sherrie Bluester M.Ed.
Executive Director



Did You Know?.....

- 🏠 YWCA Hamilton was founded by Dr. Julia Goodman in 1900.
- 🏠 In 1932, the YWCA of Hamilton moved to its current location at 244 Dayton Street.

YWCA ANNUAL MEETING

• FEATURING •

MONICA SCALF



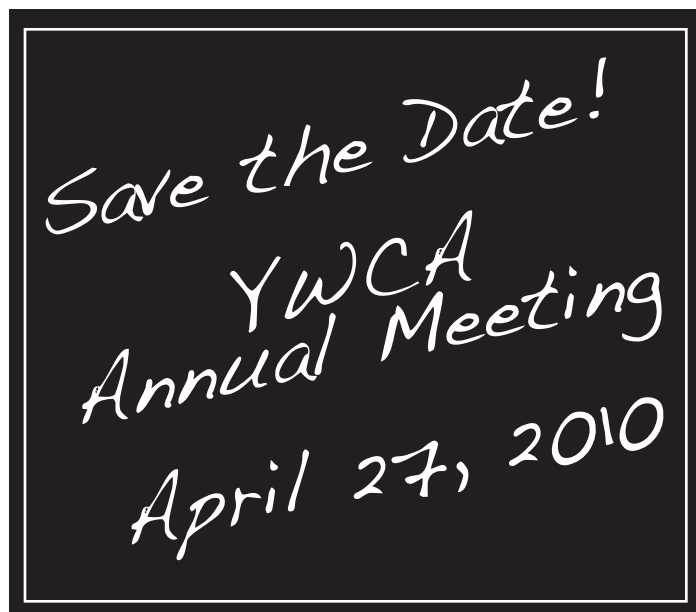
Award winning writer and Cincinnati Enquirer Our Town columnist Monica Scalf, will be the speaker at the YWCA Hamilton's Annual Meeting on April 27, 2010.

Monica will talk about excerpts from her first book, "Live in the Little," which, is filled with humorous anecdotes, uplifting advice, and practical ways to find the extra in the ordinary, chaos and all.

Monica Scalf is the founder of *The Playground Group*, a creative learning company that

develops and delivers workshops, keynotes, retreats, virtual learning, blogs, and books. Monica's mission is to help others find the extra in the ordinary, that special something that makes individuals exceptional and organizations stand out among the rest. Her award winning writing focuses on finding the joy, energy and humor in everyday life. She lives with her husband and two children in West Chester, Ohio. ▲

Find Monica at mscalff@theplaygroundgroup.net or at 1-877-404-3327. Read her blog at www.theordinarymatters.com, or find more at www.theplaygroundgroup.net.



The Doors Never Close at DOVE HOUSE



As we all watch the gray skies for the first sign of spring, it truly saddens us to know that for some of our neighbors that spring will never come. In the last 2 months, three women – all mothers, some sisters, and some wives, lost their lives to domestic violence within a 30-mile radius of Hamilton. In each case, one of their children witnessed their death. One child, still an infant, bears the physical scars and will grow up without her mother.



The other two children not only face the rest of their lives without their mothers, but will have to deal with the emotional scars of watching the tragic deaths.

The doors of Dove House never close to those seeking help and safety from abusive situations. Ever hopeful, we know that many

who are victimized by domestic violence do not escape and go on to build better lives for themselves and their children. That building begins, not only with the

life-saving services provided by Dove House, but also with the other YWCA programs to increase self sufficiency and create a sense of self worth.

The YWCA Hamilton understands the complexity of domestic violence and uses its Dove House Programs to reach out and provide crucial services to those in need. Our primary services are crisis intervention, education, advocacy, case management, safety planning, and counseling. These services are offered to every client--both in our residential and community programs. ▲

Goodman Place Program Provides Choices

The Goodman Place Program offers a supportive residence, life skills discussions, and referral information for women coping with mental health challenges who want to make changes in their lives. Women in the program describe themselves as dealing with depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and a wide variety of other mental health issues. Many of the participants have been given formal psychiatric diagnoses such as depression, bipolar disorder, dissociative identity disorder, or anxiety. The real commonality, however, is that women feel isolated, unable to cope, and in need of support from other women in similar situations. What's great

about the Goodman Program is that it helps participants broaden their choices, and develop better coping skills. This is done through a holistic approach, which includes medication monitoring and focuses on strengths, competencies and empowerment. Life Skills programs such as GED classes, tutoring, and culinary arts programs are an integral part of the program. The program maintains private apartment units with common areas, spanning the top two floors of the YWCA, and houses over 37 women annually. ▲

The January earthquake that swept through Haiti caused terrible devastation in a country that is already one of the poorest in the world. The staff and residents of the YWCA Hamilton took action to assist with the global relief efforts by making health kits. These health kits provide basic necessities to those affected by natural disasters.



The YWCA family was able to assemble 26 kits which include a hand towel, wash cloth, comb, nail clipper or file, soap, toothbrush, and band aids. We also collected the money needed to send with the kits for toothpaste and shipping costs. Everything

was provided by staff and residents – no YWCA resources were used on this project. The kits will be distributed through the United Methodist Committee on Relief which is partnering with Action by Churches Together, Church World Service, and Global Medic to respond effectively to the people of Haiti.

Many of our residents are often on the receiving end of assistance, and our staff is constantly seeking that assistance. Working together to offer something to those in crisis has been empowering for all of us. We recognize that the YWCA provides a safety net for women in our community and globally. We join with others across the nation and around the world to help during this critical period of relief, rescue and recovery. ▲