Girls modeling at the YWCA Fashion Show. See page 13 for more details.
Mission: We are dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

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STRONG ALONE, FEARLESS TOGETHER

2019 - 2020 YWCA Board Members
Diane Hightower (President)
Marcy Karasek (Vice President)
Karen Struble Myers (Treasurer)
Diane Krivoniak (Secretary)
Vanessa Beggs
Lyndsay Burrik
Janice Burruss-Hainesworth
Catherine Caccia
Kelly Carlson
Cheri Cavanaugh
Keisha Jimmerson
Paula Maloney
Elise Michaux
Carlotta Paige
Rosin Rivera-Bretaña
Theresa Rusbosin
Lois Sculco, SC
Carlene Williams

YWCA Staff
Cindy Leonard, Executive Director
Cheryl Angus, Fiscal Manager
Diana Basick, Thrift Shop Director
Mary Lou Glover, Adult Education Assistant
Cheryl Hershberger, Thrift Shop Staff
Alexis Hough, YWCAmakers Program Specialist
Marae Johnston, Children’s Education Director
Ramona Kocinski, PA Workwear
Matthew Kolbosky, Facilities Director
Gina McGrath, Sr. Program Director & IT Director
Grace O’Donnell, Children’s Education Instructor
Maggie O’Leary, Literacy Program Director
Janet Rossey, Thrift Shop Staff
Gabby Skillings, Office Coordinator
Nichole Smalley, Marketing & Member Services
Cathy Young, Thrift Shop Staff

Vision: We live and work in a community that embraces equity, acceptance, and diversity and in which women and girls have opportunities for enrichment and advancement.
MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With another successful year behind us, we here at YWCA Westmoreland County look forward to 2020 with gusto! In addition to the pending launch of our YWCAmakers program early in the year and new racial justice programs to be announced soon, 2020 is important for a number of other reasons.

In 1848, a women’s rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, an event considered the launch of the women’s suffrage movement. At that time, women were not permitted to vote in elections, keeping them disenfranchised citizens whose cries for social reform mostly fell on deaf ears. Early female reformers knew that in order to be taken seriously by politicians, they needed to rally for a constitutional change that would give women the ability to vote.

It took until 1920 to fully accomplish that change, but accomplish it they did, through determined, peaceful, and democratic processes. The 19th amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified that year and guaranteeing this right, reads very simply:

*The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. (Source: U.S. Constitution)*

2020 is the 100th anniversary of this world-altering decision and victory, and we plan to celebrate in various ways throughout the year here at the YWCA.

Stay tuned for more information as plans come together and look for announcements of events and happenings throughout the year.

2020 is also a key year for civic engagement. It’s a presidential election year, and it’s so important that *everyone* gets registered to vote and gets out to the polls in November. Voting isn’t just a privilege, it’s a right, and we should fully exercise that right *because we can*. Many countries have leaders thrust upon them, whereas we can choose our leaders.

In addition to the election, it’s also time for the Census, the one that happens every ten years. Did you know that the government uses this decennial Census to determine how it allocates $883 billion of federal aid to states and communities? In order to get the appropriate funding for social needs in Pennsylvania and in Westmoreland County, we need as many people as possible to take the Census.

The YWCA will be promoting voter registration and Census participation throughout the early part of 2020, helping anyone who needs assistance with either process (see page five of this newsletter for more information).

So many exciting things to look forward to this year! Continue reading to learn about other happenings at the YWCA, and visit our website for even more information about our programs, [ywcawestmoreland.org](http://ywcawestmoreland.org).

Yours in Service,

Cindy Leonard
The YWCA Westmoreland County invites you to participate in the annual YWCA Sportswomen of the Year Awards nomination process and program. The YWCA has honored over 1,000 outstanding female athletes recognizing their accomplishments in sports and fitness. Please consider nominating an exceptional female athlete from Westmoreland County for this year’s awards. **Anyone can nominate!** Nomination forms will be available soon on our website at ywcawestmoreland.org.

Nominations will be accepted in the following categories:

- Sports Girl of the Year for Individual Excellence in a Sport (grades 6-8)
- Sports Girl of the Year for Excellence in a Team Sport (grades 6-8)
- Girls Sports Team of the Year (grades 6-8)
- Sports Teen of the Year for Individual Excellence in a Sport (grades 9-12)
- Sports Teen of the Year for Excellence in a Team Sport (grades 9-12)
- Teen Sports Team of the Year (grades 9-12)
- Sportswoman of the Year for Individual Excellence in a Sport (college level or adult)
- Sportswoman of the Year for Excellence in a Team Sport (college level or adult)
- Women Sports Team of the Year (college level or adult team)
- Sportswoman with Special Needs Award
- Women’s Health and Fitness Award
- Women’s Coach Award

**Important Dates:**

Nomination Deadline: Monday, March 2, 2020

Winners Announced: Monday, March 16, 2020

Sponsorship Deadline: Monday, March 23, 2020

Awards Banquet: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at the Ramada Inn, Greensburg
#YWomenVote

We know how crucial it is to support women, in particular women and girls of color, this election season and beyond. As part of YWCA’s nationwide Get Out the Vote efforts, we are especially committed to doing our part to make sure women get to the polls, and that our experiences and needs are valued, represented, and made a priority to those who represent us in elected office.

We know that voting is critical to ensuring a healthy, safe, empowered future for us, our families, and our communities. Be sure to: 1) register to vote (or double-check your voter registration is valid) and 2) get out to the polls in November!

For more information, please visit ywcavote.org.

If you need assistance in registering to vote, a paper voter registration form, or to use a computer for registering online, stop in at the YWCA Westmoreland County during our regular business hours and a staff member will help you.

Census 2020

You may know that the census is used to decide the number of seats each state is allotted in the U.S. House of Representatives, but did you know that $883 billion in federal funding is allocated to municipalities based on census results? In addition,

- **Residents** use the census to support community initiatives.
- **Businesses** use Census Bureau data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, and these create jobs.
- **Local government officials** use the census to ensure public safety and plan new schools and hospitals.
- **Real estate developers and city planners** use the census to plan new homes and improve neighborhoods. (Source: Census.gov)

To make sure Westmoreland County gets our share of these critical funds and support for our communities, it’s important that everyone participates in the Census in 2020! It only contains seven questions, so it takes little time to complete.

The 2020 Census will begin on April 1, 2020. Visit the YWCA Westmoreland County during regular business hours if you need to use a computer to take the census or if you need assistance with the census online form.
The YWCA 2019-2020 Preschool year is underway. We welcomed both new and familiar faces this year into the 3 and 4 year old preschool programs.

September’s lessons enhanced the opportunity for children to get to know each other, to learn about families, and to even find out more about themselves. We went camping, watched butterflies hatch, picked some apples, and began learning our ABCs and 123s as the foundation for future development.

October’s lessons focused on the change in the seasons and diversity in the classroom, at home, and in the community. The children were visited by our own Maintenance Director and Volunteer Firefighter, Matthew Kolbosky, who spoke on fire safety. Miss Mary Ellen Tibero welcomed the 4 year old children to the TechTYKES computer lab on Wednesdays. TechTYKES reinforces the preschool curriculum using technology tools such as a SMART Table, tablets and laptops. The children have a wide range of hands-on, interactive materials to experiment and explore.

November’s lessons had the children shopping for their fall harvest at our preschool grocery store. We continued learning our ABCs, 123s, and opposites. We are preparing to welcome parents, grandparents, siblings, and other family members to our Holiday Program in December. The children will be able to display their hard work as well as perform some holiday music for friends and families.

Do you know a child who would like to be part of this educational and enriching program? Would they like to join the fun and gain kindergarten readiness skills? If so, please contact Marae Johnston, Children’s Education Director, at 724-834-9390 x117 for a tour and enrollment packet. You may enroll your child in our preschool program anytime, space permitting.

4 Year Old Preschool Class
(Must be 4 years old by September 1)
Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
Morning Session: 9:30 - Noon
Afternoon Session: 1:00 - 3:30
Monthly Tuition: $95.00

3 Year Old Preschool Class
(Must be 3 years old by September 1)
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Morning Session: 9:30 - Noon
Monthly Tuition: $70.00
YOUNG WONDERS SUMMER DAY CAMP 2020
6-10 YEAR OLD BOYS AND GIRLS

The YWCA Young Wonders Program is licensed by the PA Department of Human Services and holds a Keystone STARS 2 rating. We provide consistency and enrichment for children in a relaxed environment. We are also committed to supporting working parents/guardians by providing a safe, affordable program staffed by nurturing, competent, responsible, trained counselors. We make summer fun! Exciting weekly themes and weekly excursions are what your child can expect this summer at the YWCA Westmoreland County Young Wonders Program.

The program is for children ages 6 -10 (children must be 6 on or before June 1 in order to attend). Summer camp runs June 1 - August 14, 2020, Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Camp activities include games, physical activities, swimming, playground visits, library, bowling, movies, monthly field trips, crafts, community visits, indoor and outdoor fun!

Check our website for updates! Enrollment packets will be available March 17, 2020.
English as a Second Language

We teach English to foreign language speaking adults for use in a setting where English is the primary language. ESL classes are $25/month per student and open to women and men from all countries. There is also a cost for textbooks listed below.

The Spring Semester starts January 6 and classes continue through May 21. Beginners’ Class is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The text book and workbook for this class is $40. Intermediate Class is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The text books and workbook for this class is $32.

Registration is OPEN. Please call Mrs. Maggie O’Leary, ESL Instructor, at 724-834-9390 to register.

ESL Tutor Training

Tutor training is offered online through ProLiteracy. Anyone interested in tutoring, please contact Maggie for more details.

Adult Basic & Literacy Education Classes
Offered at the YWCA Westmoreland County

Adult Basic Education (ABE) – This program offers an introduction to fundamental skills in reading, English, math and career exploration. This class provides the foundation for GED® preparation and introduces career pathways opportunities for employment and post-secondary training.

High School Equivalency (HSE) Prep – This course provides preparation for the GED® or HiSET® test and opportunities to explore several career pathways with a focus on obtaining entry-level employment or entering a post-secondary training program.

Classes are offered Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Call 724-755-2330 x133 for more details. (All classes require an orientation.)
“My Memories”  
Written by Syeda Raza

It was the night of July 2013, and I was standing at the Lahore International Airport of Pakistan. I was waiting for the flight to New York, U.S.A. My family was also there to send me off. I saw my mother’s face. She seemed a little upset which made me even sadder.

The next day, I arrived safely at JFK International Airport in New York City. After getting done with immigration procedures, I traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, by car. My first road trip in the United States was a good experience for me.

Living in the United States is not really easy for me; life is a little bit challenging. After three years here, I lost my husband. It was a great loss in my life which changed me and my life completely.

After passing the driver’s exam, I received my driver’s license. Then I joined an Urdu language newspaper as a writer. I have a degree in Journalism from my country. The chief editor of the newspaper gave me so many opportunities for writing.

Writing has become my identity. I also wanted to write in English, but I hesitated because when I came to the United States my American accent was not good. I decided to join the YWCA in order to improve my accent.

The YWCA is a very good institute where I had a very good experience of a friendly environment. All staff members are very welcoming, especially my instructor, Maggie O’Leary. She helped me to improve my American accent. Maggie is a very helpful and soft spoken lady. I always see her in a good mood with a smiling face. She always gives me a hug as I leave class for the day. Other than Maggie, Patricia, Patti, Marcy Paul, and Nichole also helped me a lot in improving my accent. The YWCA is a great institute for empowering women.

Today I am a U.S. Citizen. I am so proud of myself. It was very exciting and unbelievable to me that the YWCA staff members were present at my U.S. citizenship oath-taking ceremony. They took pictures with me. American people are so nice and good. They filled the absence of my brother and sisters.

I also gave a short, memorable speech at the ceremony to say “thank you” to the U.S.A., USCIS, the YWCA and my brother-in-law who sponsored me. The USCIS appreciated my talk and told me that I highlight the YWCA.

The YWCA organized a memorable event to celebrate my naturalization. They arranged to have a delicious cake and many side dishes. They greeted me very warmly. They also decorated for the event. It was a very pleasant experience for me. I think the Americans are so nice and humble people. They show love to all. They always like my Pakistani dress and matching scarf. The current executive director, Cindy, also showed me appreciation.

I am also a member of the International Women’s group at the YWCA. Previously, I gave a short speech on March 8th for International Women’s Day. The executive director of the YWCA at that time, told me “you are a role model for these women. It is true that women have to endure so much sometimes, so your article and speech are great reminders of how strong we are and can be.” Her words made my morale strong.

Both past and present executive directors of the YWCA are very nice people and all staff members are very loving and caring.

And now at last, my wish to write columns and articles in English is fulfilled just because of the YWCA. I feel every human being needs to get education and learn skills during their life. Today I can write every topic in English because of Maggie O’Leary and the YWCA. I will always remember the YWCA in my life.

“Thank you United States.”
“Thank you USCIS.”
And especially, “Thank you YWCA!”
“God Bless You ALL.”

Congratulations on your U.S. Citizenship, Syeda!!! ~ YWCA Staff
The YWCA's International Women's Group welcomes women of all nationalities to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The International Women's Group provides a meeting place for women to meet each other and develop friendships, to share and learn about the United States (particularly the new area in which they are living), improve their English, and become a part of their new community. Meetings take place from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. on the dates listed below at the YWCA Westmoreland County located at 424 N. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. All women are welcome to join us! You can request more information, by calling 724-834-9390 or by emailing info@ywcawestmoreland.org.

All programs below are tentative and weather permitting.

**Wednesday, December 11**
“Hanging of the Greens”
Holiday Luncheon

**Wednesday, January 8**
Sue Waldrop: exercise, what women can do, what Sue has done, and about her triathlon groups

**Wednesday, February 12**
Claudette Kane:
Teaching Women in Tanzania & Haiti

**Wednesday, March 11**
To Be Announced
See our website for updates

**Wednesday, April 8**
“World Day”
Luncheon

**Wednesday, May 13**
Touring Westmoreland County, free events etc. (such as local festivals, concerts, markets, etc.)
YWCA Thrift Shop News

Happy New Year from the YWCA Thrift Shop staff and volunteers! We are looking forward to another successful year at our store at 221 S. Maple Ave in Greensburg. Our hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and we are open every Thursday until 7 p.m. Donations are accepted during those hours.

As usual, we ended the year with our annual holiday party at Lakeview, to show our appreciation for our 45 volunteers and their loyalty. A three-hour commitment each week is all we ask of our volunteers. We are always looking for cashiers, tag cutters, and consignors. Where else can you volunteer, shop, and make lifelong friendships?! Anyone interested should call 724-834-4339.

Our winter consignment ends on January 4, 2020, so there is still plenty of time to shop for sweaters, jackets, and everything you need to survive until spring.

Remember when you are cleaning out your closets and cabinets we are always thankful for your donations.

See our website ywcawestmoreland.org, for the YWCA Thrift Shop 2020 Schedule.

PA WORKWEAR

PA WORKWEAR, a program of YWCA Westmoreland County, provides women with free professional clothing for job search, training, and employment. The PAWW Consultant grooms each client by giving the clothes, accessories, and hygiene items needed for successful employment. Clients are referred by the County Assistance Office (CAO), Private Industry Council (PIC) as well as other county agencies.

As we are going through our closets at the season’s change, please assist and support PAWW with a tax deductible donation. We welcome and appreciate:

- Clean business clothes including maternity wear
- Khakis, blue and black denim jeans, polo shirts, sweatshirts, and medical scrubs
- Flat, wedge or low heel, closed-toe professional shoes
- Unopened trial / hotel sizes of hygiene products
- Professional purses that are black or neutral
- Clothing store gift cards
- Monetary donations
- Bras

Designate your items for PA WORKWEAR and drop them off at the YWCA Thrift Shop during business hours. For more information or to set up a drop-off, contact Ramona Kocinski at 724-834-1383 or ramonak@ywcawestmoreland.org.

Our clients really appreciate your donations. Each one receives exactly what they need including a smile on their face!
Our Yough Middle School TechGYRLS are competing in the 2019 FLL City Shaper Challenge on December 14, 2019. FIRST LEGO League challenges kids to think like scientists and engineers. During the CITY SHAPER season, teams will choose and solve a real-world problem in the Innovation Project. They will also build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game. Throughout their experience, teams will operate under the FIRST signature set of Core Values: celebrating discovery, teamwork, and Gracious Professionalism®. Firstlegoleague.org.

CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations 2019 Poster Contest Winners!

This year, we promoted YWCA Week Without Violence through our annual poster contest. This year’s poster theme was “Choose Peace, Not Violence.” We also had a table at the annual Unity Celebration on October 17 at Ferrante’s Lakeview, where the community voted on the posters, and had information and materials to spread the word on the importance of ending gender-based violence.

If you’d like to learn more about Week Without Violence visit weekwithoutviolence.org.

To view the posters and for more information you can visit ywcawestmoreland.org.
FASHION SHOW

2019 Girls in Pearls Fashion Show Fundraiser

The 2019 YWCA Westmoreland County Girls in Pearls: Walk The Red Carpet Fashion Show was held at Rizzo’s Malabar Inn in Crabtree on Monday, August 19, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Our emcee for the evening was Tasha Batch, Executive Director of Best of the Batch Foundation. Approximately 325 people gathered for a fun and elegant evening to support the many programs and services of the YWCA Westmoreland County.

The evening began with opening remarks from YWCA Executive Director Cindy Leonard. The event featured fashions from our Thrift Shop starring the clients, customers, and friends of the YWCA. Throughout the fashion show, attendees learned about the YWCA’s support for women and girls of our community through our childcare, ESL, racial justice, technology, and Thrift Shop programs. Among the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the YWCA Rising Star Award to recipient Corinne Coulson, Manager of Strategic Communications and Marketing at Penn State New Kensington.

Many thanks to our sponsors, models, attendees, and everyone who helped make the evening a huge success!

Thank You
Oscar Sponsors

First Commonwealth Bank
Susan Kramer
NexTier Bank
Penn State
New Kensington
Somerset Trust Company
Walmart

Thank You
Grammy Sponsors

Deluzio & Company, LLP
Excela Health
First Energy Foundation
Jessica Rafferty for Judge
Scottdale Bank & Trust
Seton Hill University
Standard Bank
United Way Women’s Leadership Council
Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors

Save The Date!
Girls in Pearls Fashion Show
Monday, August 17, 2020
The Huff Mansion is a historical landmark in Westmoreland County and features a:

- Fully Equipped Kitchen for your Caterer
- Beautiful Portico and Porch
- Elegant Spiral Staircase
- Perfect Venue for Showers, Parties, Family Gatherings and Meetings

and for our business community the main building provides:

- Wireless Internet Access
- Podium and Microphone
- Projector Screens and/or Dry Erase Boards for your Presentations

The entire main floor of the mansion is available for your special event. Business meeting spaces and business rates may vary from special events. Call 724-834-9390 for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 hour minimum on all rentals</th>
<th>Daytime Rates (during YWCA normal business hours)</th>
<th>Early morning, evening, and weekend rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Living Room / Library</strong></td>
<td>$20/hour</td>
<td>$25/hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mansion 1st Floor</strong></td>
<td>$30/hour</td>
<td>$40/hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Living Room, Library, Dining Room, Kitchen)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Founder's Room</strong></td>
<td>$35/hour</td>
<td>$45/hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Founder's Room &amp; Mansion 1st Floor</strong></td>
<td>$55/hour</td>
<td>$70/hour</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Prices Include: Coffee Service, Tablecloths, Napkins, and Receptionist. No charge for nonprofit organizations for meetings for 2 hours or less if held during normal YWCA business hours.
YWCA Wish List

Just like every nonprofit organization we have more needs than we have resources to fill. Receiving items on our wish list helps defray our costs. The YWCA Westmoreland County is a 501(c)3 (nonprofit) organization so your donation is tax deductible to the extent of the law.

For information on donating wish list items, please contact us at 724-834-9390.

Thrift Shop
- Two new vacuum cleaners
- Clothing steamer
- Two mannequins
- Specialized hole punch (for bag lady cards)
- Four rounder racks

Main Building
- Plastic bins with covers
- Headset for telephone
- 8’ pre-lit Christmas tree
- 32GB iPad
- Stylus pens
- Clear 8.5×11 upright sign stands.
- Post-it notes (larger ones that are lined)
- Paper Mate sharpwriter #2 pencils
- Vinyl colored folders
- White board markers – variety of colors
- A paper laminator and laminating sheets
- White card stock paper
- Glossy printer paper
- 3 tier 8.5 x 11 display for marketing materials
- Tool kits (screwdrivers, hammers, socket sets, etc.)
- Paint brushes and roller sleeves
- Spackle
- Circular saw
- Reciprocating saw
- Christmas lights – exterior white LEDs
- Upright shelving storage unit with doors
If you are receiving a hard copy of the newsletter and would prefer to have it sent via email, please let us know by sending an email to info@ywcawestmoreland.org with the subject line "Email Newsletter."

YWCA Westmoreland County Girls Field Hockey

CONGRATULATIONS YWCA DRAGONS

On ending the 2019 season with a record of 11-1...amazing!