



A Child's World  
a childcare center

**The following are the primary needs of the Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs offered at the YWCA Cass Clay:**

- Any food donations are appreciated!
- New mattress pads & sheet sets (twin & full)
- Gently used furniture (couches, dressers, full & twin beds, desks)
- Good Start infant formula (orange label)
- Gas & grocery gift cards
- New pot/pan and silverware sets
- Kids toothbrushes/paste
- Unscented lotion
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Hair conditioner
- Hand sanitizer
- New underwear, winter clothing, winter outdoor gear (all sizes)
- Disinfecting wipes
- Baby wipes & lotion
- Body wash
- Shaving cream / razors
- Cold sore meds, Imodium, Pepto-Bismol, nighttime cold medicine

A complete list of needs is available at [www.ywcacassclay.org](http://www.ywcacassclay.org).

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Clothing Room Coordinator**

- Days and times are flexible; prefer one day/week commitment
- Organize clothing on racks, face hanging items, and general organization
- Could be done as a pair or small group

**Donations Coordinator Assistant**

- Days and times are flexible
- Maintain donation storage areas, keep inventory organized, rotate stock, and update needs list
- Must be highly organized and self-motivated

**Building Maintenance Assistant**

- Days and times are flexible
- Assist with indoor building maintenance, painting, wallpapering, lawn care, etc.
- Prior maintenance experience preferred

For a complete listing of volunteer opportunities, visit [impactgiveback.org](http://impactgiveback.org) and search for "YWCA."

Have a volunteering idea? Just ask Amber! Call her at (701) 232-3449 or email [adahl@ywcacassclay.org](mailto:adahl@ywcacassclay.org).



January 2012 Edition

January

- Stalking Awareness Month
- Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
- National Birth Defects Prevention Month

January 2

New Year's Day Observed  
A Child's World Closed  
YWCA Administrative Offices Closed

January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
A Child's World Closed  
YWCA Administrative Offices Closed

February

African-American History Month

February 14

Giving Hearts Day  
YWCA Annual Meeting @  
Holiday Inn 11:30-1:00

February 20

Presidents' Day

**Angel Appeal offers hope for families**  
Community's gifts support women and children in need

Thank you to everyone who gave the gift of hope to those who needed a place to call home this past holiday season. It is with warm gratitude that the YWCA thanks you for your gifts. The continued support has been critical as we provide safe shelter and supportive services to women and children experiencing domestic violence, economic devastation, and homelessness.

**Because you chose to give so generously**, many women and children enjoyed a safe, secure holiday season. **Because you support the YWCA**, women and children were provided with food, clothing, daily living supplies, comprehensive case management, on-site licensed childcare, transportation, education and employment opportunities, wellness education, and parenting support.



**Because of your contributions**, children like Brandon are no longer insecure and fearful. Instead, with the support of his Grandma MaryAnn, Brandon is a bright and energetic kindergartner. Your efforts allowed the YWCA to help families in our community continue to thrive. **Because of you**, their new year is full of promise.

We could share many stories like Brandon and MaryAnn's, each one unique, yet all seeking hope, a home of their own, and wanting to feel loved. We are thankful to our community for allowing the YWCA to continue to be here for women and children needing support and guidance as they face difficult challenges. Your ongoing support demonstrates your belief in the human spirit and your willingness to help women and children dare to dream of a brighter tomorrow.

**Now accepting Women of the Year nominations**

*Celebrating and honoring outstanding women in Cass and Clay counties*

The YWCA Cass Clay is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Women of the Year event, which will be held on Monday, April 30. This special occasion honors women who live or work in Cass and Clay counties and who impact the lives of others. Please consider nominating an inspirational woman or business for one of the twelve categories. For a nomination form, contact Nicole at 232-2547, [nellis@ywcacassclay.org](mailto:nellis@ywcacassclay.org), or download one from [ywcacassclay.org](http://ywcacassclay.org).

**Categories for Individuals**

- Advocate for Equality
- Arts & Communications
- Business
- Community Service
- Education
- Florence Reed Owens (Lifetime Achievement)
- Faith Community
- Volunteer Service
- Wellness
- Young Woman of Today & Tomorrow (ages 15-22)
- Youth Advocacy

**Category for Businesses**

- Business/Organization that Empowers Women



**Deadline for nominations is March 7, 2012.**

# Thank you to our 2011 Community Collaborators



## Community Partners



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our 2011 Community Collaborators & Partners. Their significant support over the past year has impacted our organization in so many ways. Most importantly, it has allowed us to continue to provide supportive programs and services to women and children in our community as we strive to live out our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women and children. Thank you for your investment in our work and our community! We look forward to announcing our 2012 Community Collaborators & Partners in our March issue.

## North Dakota tax credits expanded by legislation

### Consider making a gift to the YWCA Cass Clay ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund

Are you looking for a way to reduce your income tax liabilities and benefit the women and children who receive services from the YWCA? North Dakotans may now receive a 40% tax credit for gifts made to qualified endowments of North Dakota charities such as the YWCA Cass Clay.

The 40% state income tax credit applies to ND businesses and individuals who pay ND income tax. The credit is nonrefundable meaning that the credit for the current year will be limited to your ND income tax liability. However, any unused credits can carry over for three years. The requirements for this credit are as follows:

- The aggregate of the current year's gifts to a particular fund must be \$5,000 or more.
- The maximum annual credit that may be claimed is \$10,000 (\$25,000 in gifts) for an individual and \$20,000 (\$50,000 in gifts) for married individuals filing jointly.
- Businesses (corporations, partnerships and LLCs) are also eligible for the \$10,000 credit.

Gifts to this new endowment fund will enable us to look to the future with increased confidence as we continue to fulfill our vital mission of empowering women and eliminating racism. If you are a ND individual taxpayer or an owner of one of the qualifying businesses described above, we hope that you will consider a gift to the YWCA Cass Clay ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund. Your gift would be highly valued and appreciated!

**Disclaimer:** *The above article is intended to provide information of a general nature only. It should not be construed as legal, tax and/or financial advice. Readers are urged to consult their own professional advisors for their specific situations.*

*Gifts to YWCA Cass Clay ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund are tax deductible under Federal income tax law. For more information, please visit [ywcacassclay.org](http://ywcacassclay.org) or call (701) 232-2547.*

## 2011 YWCA Annual Meeting Recognition, thanks, and 2012 outlook

The YWCA Cass Clay's annual meeting will be held Tuesday, February 14 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Fargo Holiday Inn. All YWCA members are invited to attend this event filled with recognition, thanks, and the outlook for 2012. Additionally, "Friends Awards" will be presented to three outstanding volunteers, new board and committee members will be introduced, and a former YWCA housing participant will share her journey to independence.

Please RSVP to Darren by Wednesday, February 8 by calling (701) 232-2547 or email [dbuttke@ywcacassclay.org](mailto:dbuttke@ywcacassclay.org).

## Giving Hearts Day is February 14 Turn one sponsored day of shelter into two



**Giving Hearts Day**  
Hosted By: [www.impactgiveback.org](http://www.impactgiveback.org)  
24 Hour Online Fundraising Event  
2.14.12

Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF) wants to inspire you to giveback by matching your gift. On Tuesday, February 14, DMF will match online contributions made to Giving Hearts Day participants up to \$4,000. The YWCA Cass Clay has been selected to participate in this opportunity and we invite you to give from the heart!

With your help, the YWCA can raise a tremendous amount of funding to support our mission. If the YWCA is one of the top seven organizations to receive the most online contributions, we will receive additional funding from DMF!

To sponsor a day of shelter for a woman or a child at the YWCA and have it matched, simply go to [www.impactgiveback.org](http://www.impactgiveback.org) on February 14 and click on the Giving Hearts Day "Learn More" button to make your secure donation. On the fifth annual Giving Hearts Day, you can double your charitable dollars and GiveBack with Impact!

## Fill the Dome fills a need Food drive benefits Emergency Shelter

The YWCA Cass Clay would like to commend the Fill the Dome students for their extraordinary efforts to help address hunger issues in our community and surrounding region. Fill the Dome, a student led food drive, raised 160,021 pounds, or 80 tons, of food and approximately \$80,000. Of that, the YWCA was a recipient of a percentage of the food collected and dollars raised.



These students have provided inspiration to our community by modeling the importance of giving back. We are proud to have them as part of our community and believe they will continue to lead and impact the world around them for years to come.

## Baby supply drive thanks Community responds to shelter need

In November, the YWCA asked the Fargo-Moorhead community for help and the response was overwhelming. The moms, newborns, young children, and expecting moms seeking safety and shelter at the Emergency Shelter were in great need of baby supplies.

Through September 2011, Shelter Children's Services, the childcare center within our shelter, had met the needs of 559 children ranging in age from newborn to 18 years old. Additionally, we were serving, on average, six pregnant women each month. This demand had depleted our supply of baby-related items.

Over 25 groups and numerous individuals donated diapers, wipes, baby formula, bottles, sippy cups, and baby monitors. Through your support, we have been able to continue to provide the essential items for moms and babies who seek the safe haven of the YWCA. Thank you!



This was just part of the three car-loads full of baby items the United Way's 35 Under 35 program collected for the shelter - wow!

## YWCA receives Bremer grant Dollars to support shelter operations

The YWCA was selected to apply for and was subsequently awarded a \$35,000 Bremer Response Initiative (BRI) grant in December to support Emergency Shelter operations.



The BRI is an integral part of the Otto Bremer Foundation's desire to help build healthy, vibrant communities—communities where basic needs are met, mutual regard is prized and opportunities for economic, civic and social participation are within everyone's reach. The objective of the BRI was to help ensure adequate access to food, clothing, shelter and personal safety for vulnerable individuals in communities that are homes and neighbors to Bremer Banks.

## No easy task, no ordinary organization

Thank you to all of our wonderful donors who support us; whether it be financially, with in-kind donations, or with the gift of time. We are grateful for the significant community support and truly are strong alone, but fearless together! It is our goal to continue to bring peace to women and children facing homelessness by providing a safe haven and supportive services through our emergency shelter.

Listed below are those who have financially supported the YWCA Cass Clay through a gift in honor or in memory of someone special. We would also like to acknowledge the many donors who have chosen to remain anonymous - their gifts are greatly appreciated even though not publicly recognized.

### October 19, 2011 - December 15, 2011

Monique Ammi in honor of Julius Johnson	Doris Johnson in honor of Thordis Danielson	Denise & Mark Magness in memory of Eleni Wilson
Kathryn Benson in memory of Eleni Wilson	Doris Johnson in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Randy Seifert	Jim McKay in memory of JoAnn McKay
Beverly & Lloyd Paulson Family Fund in honor of Beverly Paulson	Laurie Johnson in memory of Jean Ista	Gelaine Orvik in honor of Bonnie & Norm Smith
Barbara & Mark Bibelheimer in memory of Tom McShane	Ramona Johnson in memory of Eleni Wilson	Lori Thalman-Pytlik & Joseph Pytlik in memory of Linda Warner
Ann Braaten in memory of Frank Deitz	Barb & Tim Kraft in memory of Douglas & Junior Enger	Sharon & Richard Saunders in memory of Goldie Houkum
Dorothy Brakke in honor of Deb Brakke	Barb & Tim Kraft in memory of Bob Monilaws	Angela & Kristofer Schlieper in honor of Coleen Schlieper
Becky Cote in memory of Eleni Wilson	Barb & Tim Kraft in memory of Karen Kost's Mom	Kimberly & Noel Shuckhart in memory of Eleni Wilson
Jeanette & Frank Debrito in memory of Richard Witt	Judith Lee in memory of Annie Daley Kingsbury	Kimberly & Noel Shuckhart in honor of Linda Howden
Shelley Earsley in memory of Eleni Wilson	Judith Lee in honor Shirley Moen	Ranelle Turman in memory of Tom McShane
First Presbyterian Church in memory of Frank Deitz	Denise & Mark Magness in memory of Richard Fetzer	
Janice Gabriel in honor of Karen Carlson		
Lona Daley Getz & Family in memory of Annie Daley Kingsbury		
Julie Gould in memory of Eleni Wilson		

**Due to space constraints, as of January 1, 2012 we will only list donors who give a gift in honor or in memory of someone special. We look forward to bringing you more stories and pictures with the additional space!**

## Active play encourages learning but could prove messy

### Engage children through organized and fun-filled activities



Red paint in the hair? Blue paint on the jeans? Sand in the shoes? Spaghetti sauce on

the favorite shirt? White socks that look brown? Sleeves a little bit damp?

#### Your child probably...

Worked with a friend, solved a problem, created a masterpiece, negotiated a difference, learned a new skill, had a great time and developed new language skills.

#### Your child probably didn't...

Feel lonely, become bored, do repetitive tasks that are too baby-like, complete worksheets inappropriate for his/her age, do sit-down work that is discouraging.

#### You probably...

Paid good money for those clothes, will have trouble getting the red paint out, are concerned that the caregiver isn't paying enough attention to your child.

#### The caregiver probably...

Was aware of your child's needs and interests, spent time planning a challenging activity for the children, encouraged the children to try new things, put smocks on the children, was worried that you might be concerned.

Try to remember your favorite activity when you were two or three years old. Was it outdoor play with water and/or mud? Or playing with dress up clothes with a friend? Young children really learn when they are actively involved in play. There is a difference between "messy" and "lack of care/supervision." Your child's caregiver made sure your child had fun, was warm, took a nap, washed hands after toileting and before eating, and also planned messy fun things to do because that's how young children learn.

Based off an article by Susan Ruans, M.A.

*A Child's World, one of ten nationally accredited childcare centers in North Dakota, provides high quality childcare for children in an environment that supports all families, regardless of income, diversity, or family structure.*

## Holiday thanks from the YWCA Cass Clay

### Area's generosity impacted many affected by homelessness and violence

The YWCA Cass Clay would like to take this opportunity to thank those who were true angels this holiday season - your giving spirit is inspirational! Special thanks go out to the following:

### Cass-Clay Community

To all those who donated items, dollars, and their time to the YWCA this holiday season, your generosity is greatly appreciated. It is with your help that we are able to continue to provide programs benefiting women and children in our community. Thank you!

### FM 105.1 Christmas Wish

The FM Christmas Wish grants Christmas wishes all year long to friends, family, and neighbors in the Red River Valley. This year, two families from the YWCA were granted wishes through this program. Both were single moms with young children who are on the road to becoming independent and improving their families' lives.



### Stuff the Bus

Radio station Y-94, along with KFGO, teamed up again to collect new Christmas presents for the women and children at the shelter, as well as the Red River Children's Advocacy Center. They drove a passenger bus, courtesy of Valley Bus, throughout the Fargo-Moorhead area, stopping at local businesses to collect donations from community members. The outpouring of support was overwhelming!



The "stuffed" bus, courtesy of Valley Bus

### Unique Boutique, Adopt a Family, & Client Party

This holiday season finds us, yet again, humbled by the generosity of our community. Not only were we blessed with gifts for Unique Boutique, but every family in our Transitional Housing program was granted a special Christmas through the Adopt a Family program. Our current shelter residents celebrated the holiday with games, good food, and a special visit from the man in the red suit.

"Thank you so much for the Unique Boutique opportunity," stated a former shelter resident. "Christmas this year would have been near impossible. Thank you!! I appreciate it so much."

Our community's generosity was evident with the outpouring of support for both Unique Boutique and Adopt a Family. Over 356 individuals enjoyed a special holiday shopping experience during Unique Boutique. Also, 87 women and children were provided Christmas presents through our Adopt a Family program. An extra thanks to all who helped make these families' holidays a little bit brighter.

Finally, one more thank you is needed for those who made the client party possible. The evening concluded with a visitor straight from the North Pole - Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrived at the shelter on a horse-drawn sleigh. Assisted by several elves, they delivered Christmas presents to each and every child residing at the shelter. It was truly a magical night for all in attendance.



Presents ready to be placed under the tree at Unique Boutique



## YWCA named Savers official community donations partner Donated items benefit YWCA housing program participants

The YWCA relies upon the in-kind contributions of many generous people and groups in our community. Your donations are critical to the continued operations of our organization. However, due to storage constraints, there are limitations to the donations we are able to accept. Through our partnership with Savers, the items we are unable to accept or use still benefit the YWCA. Savers contributes a portion of the proceeds from the sales of those items to the YWCA.

Their support throughout the year is crucial as it allows the YWCA to purchase needed items that are not received through in-kind donations. If you have any items you would

like to donate, please refer to our current needs list on the back page of this newsletter or our website. If your items are not listed, please consider donating them directly to Savers. Your donation will still be benefiting the women and children seeking a safe haven at the YWCA!

The YWCA would like to extend a special thanks to Savers for this amazing program. We appreciate collaborative partners who create win-win scenarios for our entire community.

*Savers is located at 1623 38th Street South in Fargo.*



## Violence Against Women Act introduced for reauthorization Bill's focus is to bring an end to domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking

*The following is an excerpt from the December monthly address of Susan B. Carbon, Director of the Office on Violence Against Women.*

November closed with great excitement: on the 30th, 17 years after its original passage, the Violence Against Women Act was introduced for reauthorization with the bipartisan leadership and support of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID). The act, whose current authorization expired in September, was first championed by Vice President Joe Biden and passed by Congress in 1994. VAWA has been reauthorized twice since, in both 2000 under President Clinton, and 2005 under President Bush. This bill has always enjoyed bipartisan support, as it should: abuse knows no bounds – victims can be young and old, of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, all genders, from every corner of the country, urban and rural, tribal and territorial, and certainly every party. One's right to live with safety and security ought not to depend on who you are or where you live.

The Violence Against Women Act has been the cornerstone of the federal government's efforts to bring an end to sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. The Act supports formula and discretionary programs serving all segments of society, and encourages close collaboration among community service providers and professionals to coordinate efforts to end violence. Since its passage, well over \$4 billion have been awarded for victim services and hundreds of programs around the country such as transitional housing, supervised visitation, and legal assistance. VAWA is best identified for the way in which it has helped strengthen coordinated approaches by bringing together survivors, victim advocates, law enforcement, court personnel, health care professionals and faith leaders, among many others. The impact of VAWA cannot be overstated: it has profoundly improved lives, has saved lives, and has led to a paradigm shift whereby domestic and sexual violence are no longer private matters never to be shared. To the contrary, we have seen a cultural shift take hold – we repudiate violence and work in myriad ways to stem the tide.

While violence has been reduced substantially as a result of VAWA, much remains to be done if we are ever to achieve



safety and security for all. The proposed legislation includes a number of important updates and improvements to the law, including a greater emphasis on meeting the needs of survivors of sexual violence by adding purpose areas and dedicated funding from the STOP state formula grant and the Grants to Encourage Arrest program. A greater focus is also included to address domestic homicides. The legislation recognizes that training of law enforcement, victim service providers and court personnel can help identify, and bring to safety, those victims at particularly high risk of harm.

A greater emphasis is also placed on reaching traditionally underserved communities through the STOP planning process and through new purpose areas in some of the funding streams. And through consolidation of some of the youth programs, it is hoped that more emphasis can be placed on prevention and its relationship to intervention work as well.

Major improvements are also included to improve the response to the incredibly high rates of violence committed against women in tribal communities. Among other things, the legislation proposes to strengthen tribal responses by recognizing certain tribes' concurrent jurisdiction to investigate, prosecute, convict and sentence both Indians and non-Indians, and intends to clarify that tribal courts have full civil jurisdiction to issue and enforce certain protection orders.

*For more information on the Violence Against Women Act, please visit [www.ovv.usdog.gov](http://www.ovv.usdog.gov).*

## YWCA to take part in Stand Against Racism National movement to raise awareness that racism still exists is April 27



The YWCA Cass Clay is excited to announce that it will again participate in the national Stand Against Racism event on Friday, April 27, 2012.

### What is the Stand Against Racism?

Stand Against Racism is a movement of the YWCA with the goal of bringing people together from all walks of life - across the country - to raise awareness that racism still exists.

### Why Stand Against Racism?

Racism hurts everyone and has had a profound effect on children and adults, our communities and our institutions. Today, we can look back on our history and examine the events that have shaped the current attitudes and actions supported by the power of law, institutional structures, and culture in this country. Race and the legacy of discrimination continue to affect our lives - whether in our everyday interactions with others at work, school, or in our neighborhoods and communities.

Racism can take many different forms. These can include, but are not limited to:

- Discrimination
- Personal attacks of any kind, including violence
- Written or verbal threats or insults
- Damage to property, including graffiti

The methodology of the Stand Against Racism is to bring together like-minded organizations that share the vision of eliminating racism and celebrating the richness of diversity. By inviting community organizations to partner together and attracting hundreds of thousands of participants, we will maximize the outreach of this mission.

For additional information, please call (701) 232-2547 or visit [www.standagainstracism.org](http://www.standagainstracism.org) to become a Stand Against Racism partner.

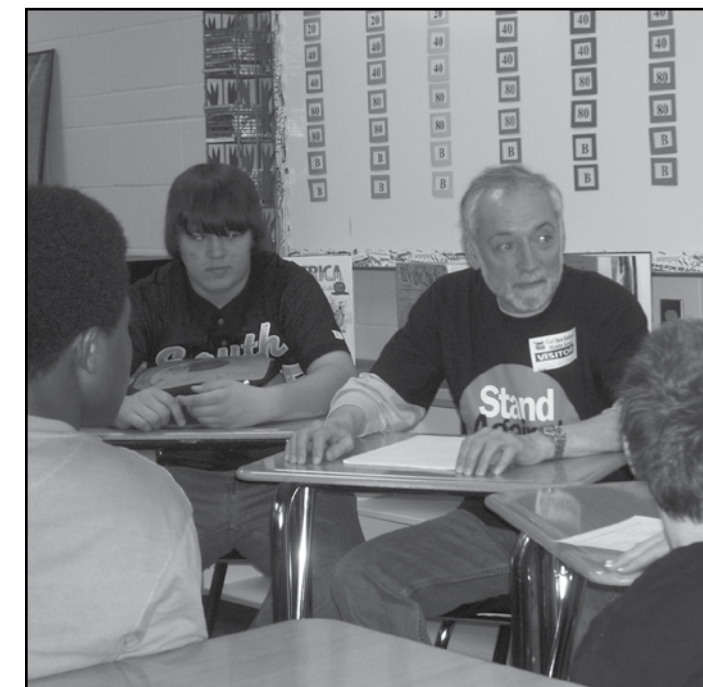
**Take the Pledge**

As an individual committed to social justice,

I stand with the YWCA against racism and discrimination of any kind.

I will commit to a lifetime of promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity

for all people in my community and in the world.



District Judge Wick Corwin facilitated a dialogue with Carl Ben Eielson Middle School eight graders during the 2011 Stand Against Racism.

### What you can do to combat racism

- Learn about your family's ethnic background.
- Find out if your family name was ever changed.
- Notice what ethnic groups are missing from your workplace, your neighborhood, place of worship, and social groups.
- Become aware of what assumptions you may have about other ethnic groups. Make a list of them and commit yourself to counteract or unlearn them.
- Speak up when you hear someone make a racist remark.
- Get to know co-workers of different ethnic groups.
- Form a lunch group at work that meets on a regular schedule to talk about racism.
- Read magazines that are directed at ethnic groups other than your own.
- Read books written about race and ethnicity in our country to broaden your understanding.
- Learn about the histories of other ethnic groups in the United States.
- Think about why people find it so difficult to talk about racism in an ethnically mixed group.
- Discuss this with other of your won ethnicity and those who are ethnically different.
- Notice how people avoid talking about differences. Think about what this avoidance creates. What does it mean to be different in your community? Talk to others about this.
- Find other who are taking active steps to combat racism and become their ally.