

ywca SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

our voice



943 No. Grand Ave.
Covina, CA 91724
(626) 960-2995
www.ywcasgv.org

SENIOR SERVICES
YWCA Intervale
24-Hour Message Line:
(626) 214-9465

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
YWCA WINGS
24-Hour Help Line:
(626) 967-0658

eliminating racism empowering women

January 2012

OUR MISSION • *To eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.*

Women of Achievement in the Armed Forces: Honoring Courage and Commitment

Nominations are due February 20, 2012 for women who have served or are serving in a branch of the U.S Armed Forces (veteran, active duty, or reserves).

Download the nomination form at www.ywcasgv.org/woa_nomination.pdf or from our website at www.ywcasgv.org. If you'd like a form mailed or emailed to you, contact the YWCA SGV at 626-960-2995 or info@ywcasgv.org

Honorees will be guests of the YWCA SGV at the Women of Achievement Awards presentation on Thursday evening, June 21, 2012, at the Pavilion in the Industry Hills Expo Center, 16200 Temple Avenue, City of Industry. Honorees are selected by a diverse panel of professionals.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA BRABO

Happy New Year!

As we enter into a new year, we are thankful for the many individuals and groups who gave so generously last year. You donated time, items on our wish lists, you provided gifts for families during the holiday season, and you made financial contributions. We couldn't do it without you.

The happiest of new years to you all!



Unihealth Foundation Awards Grant To Assist Homeless Patients

The Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has been awarded a planning grant by the UniHealth Foundation to create a medical respite care program for homeless patients discharged from the hospital. Primary partners in this effort are the Pomona Community Health Center and the YWCA San Gabriel Valley.

Medical respite care is defined as acute and post-acute medical care for homeless persons who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets but who are not ill enough to be hospitalized.

Without proper respite care for recovering homeless persons, there is a high incidence of poor health outcomes, repeated hospital and emergency room visits, lengthier hospital stays, and unacceptable discharges of unwell homeless to the streets," says Lisa Brabo, YWCA SGV executive director.

"Although several cities in the United States have respite care as a part of their medical services system, Southern California has long identified respite care as a missing part of our health care continuum," she adds. She notes that Pomona Valley safety net providers are especially affected by this issue since Pomona has a disproportionately high number of homeless persons living on our streets or in unstable temporary housing situations. ■



Sarah Ludwick to be Honored at Brunch

Sarah Ludwick, a tremendous community volunteer and contributor to the YWCA SGV and countless other organizations will be honored March 25 at a champagne brunch and reception at the Covina Center for the Performing Arts.

Co-sponsored by the Covina Center for the Performing Arts and The Gas Company, the proceeds of the event will benefit the YWCA SGV's Intervale

Continued on next page

YWCA SGV Programs

Services for Domestic Violence

Victims: Shelter and support services so that adults and children can be safe, healthy, and lead violence-free lives.

24-Hour Helpline
626-967-0658

Teen Education Services:

1) Healthy Relationships Education Program for Teens to prevent teen dating violence and provide assistance for those already experiencing violence.

2) Respect for All Anti-Bullying Project that uses award-winning films and discussions to reduce prejudice & bullying.

Services for Seniors:

Nutritious meals and care management so that elders can live in their own homes with independence and quality of life.

24-Hour Message Line
626-214-9465

Leadership Development Opportunities for women, girls and older adults.

If you'd like to help the YWCA SGV save money and communicate more efficiently with you, please sign up (via one of the three options below) for our free email newsletter.

Sign up instantly at www.ywcasgv.org
Email us at info@ywcasgv.org
Give us a call at (626) 214-9440

View YWCA SGV's New Video on YouTube at www.youtube.com (search YWCA SGV).

Visit our [facebook](#) page and become a fan of the YWCA SGV

Senior Services Meals-on-Wheels Program and the WINGS Domestic Violence Program.

The event begins at 2:00 pm with a Champagne Brunch with Sarah and Art Ludwick. Ticket Prices are \$125 per person or \$800 for a table of eight people. These tickets include the champagne brunch, reception, and awards program.

At 3:00 pm is the Reception and Awards Program. Ticket Prices are \$40 per person or \$25 per person for YWCA SGV volunteers. These tickets include appetizers, a no-host bar, entertainment, a silent and live auction, and the awards program in which Sarah Ludwick will be honored.

For information on the brunch/reception or to purchase tickets, contact Lisa Brabo (626-214-9442 or info@ywcasgv.org) or visit www.covinacenter.org ■



Jazzercisers Play Santa to Domestic Violence Victims

Christmas is a time when dreams come true, and this past Christmas, the wishes of dozens of women and children at the YWCA WINGS domestic violence shelter were granted by a Santa in tights.

Playing Santa were about 40 women who all exercise at the Jazzercise studio in Glendora and Covina. After visiting the shelter, Jazzercise owner Dena Garvin-Smart made copies of the "wish list" she got from WINGS and set up donation bins with her fellow owner Jerianne Latourelle.

"At each class, we would announce the need for donations and give credit to women who had already donated items," says Dena. "Our friends, co-workers, and family members also contributed and within two weeks we had most of the wish list items." According to Dena, even those who themselves didn't have much were generous.

"One woman who donated five dollars worth of shampoo had experienced the loss of not only her own job, but her husband's too," says Dena. "Everyone gave what they could and we ended up fulfilling the entire list."

Among the thousands of dollars worth of items donated were clothing, pillows, toys, blankets, toiletries, and a gas barbecue grill.

Dena says the entire experience was so positive that she hopes to make this an annual event. She and her Jazzercisers are already planning something special for Mother's Day at the shelter.

If you want to find out more about how you can help WINGS families, contact Ana Interiano at 626-214-9451. ■



Dr. Perri with Congresswoman Chu and Citrus College Representatives

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri 2011 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

A 5.5 magnitude earthquake struck during the first month that Dr. Geraldine M. Perri became the superintendent/president of Citrus College. That was July of 2008, and she immediately recognized the need for a revised Campus Emergency Plan.

But the potential for an even larger "shakeup" was the looming accreditation site visit at Citrus College. It would be conducted during this era of increasing difficulty with accreditation reaffirmation for community colleges. Added to these challenges were ongoing campus construction projects and the need for a strategic plan. The road ahead seemed long and arduous.

Now, three years later, Dr. Perri has made outstanding progress down that uncertain path. Her most noteworthy achievement is leading Citrus College to a full six-year reaf-

Continued on next page



YWCA Staffers Join 10,000 in HomeWalk

YWCA staff members raised more than \$900 as they joined 10,000 walkers, runners and volunteers in the United Way of Greater Los Angeles' annual HomeWalk last November.

HomeWalk, a 5K run/walk, seeks to bring attention and funds to help end homelessness. In Los Angeles County 51,000 people are homeless. Over the past four years, HomeWalk has mobilized 18,000 walkers, raised \$1.7 million and funded organizations that have moved 9,000 people into permanent housing.

All proceeds go directly back to the community, supporting permanent solutions to end homelessness for chronically homeless people, veterans and families. The YWCA SGV's WINGS domestic violence program is one of the homeless services funded by the United Way.

"Although our clients are homeless due to domestic violence, the number one reason for homelessness is job loss. With our region's unemployment at the highest it's been in a decade it's not surprising that we are the homeless capital of the nation and that 40 percent of the homeless population are women and children," says Melissa Hauck, the YWCA staffer who organized the agency's participation.

"Homelessness is a solvable problem and we are demonstrating that every day at the YWCA," Melissa says. "Services in our program help domestic violence victims find their footing again so that they can move into permanent housing and make it on their own." ■

firmation of accreditation. Under her leadership, the college has made other significant strides, including progress in facility construction, completion of intensive emergency preparedness training, and preliminary development of a new strategic plan and Educational and Facilities Master Plan.

As an educator and community college graduate herself, Dr. Perri has dedicated her career to building relationships and empowering others. Despite our struggling economy, she helped establish Citrus College as a national leader. *Community College Week* magazine lists Citrus as one of the top degree and certificate producing two-year institutions in the U.S. It has been ranked by *Hispanic Outlook* as one of the top 50 community colleges in Hispanic student full-time enrollment and in the number of full-time Hispanic faculty. *GI Jobs Magazine* named it a "Military Friendly School."

An American politician has said, "Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army." It is indeed one of the strongest weapons against racism and injustice. So the real measure of Dr. Perri's impact on her community is the success of hundreds of Citrus College students, who are prepared for immediate employment and/or to continue their education at four-year institutions throughout the nation.

Dr. Perri's passion for student success, as well as her commitment to the mission of community colleges, instills confidence and support in the communities Citrus College serves. ■



Irene Redondo-Churchward 2011 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Irene Redondo-Churchward realized many years ago that her local neighborhoods were flooded with alcohol and tobacco promotions targeting young girls and women. At that time, most treatment programs were geared toward men, leaving Latina women to battle addiction in the shadows.

So in 1987 she won a small grant to create a media campaign that would educate Latinas about alcohol abuse. This was the beginning of the AASUL (Assistance with Alcohol & Sobriety Uniting Latinas) program, which now distributes nearly 8,000 information-packed newsletters annually to help girls, women, and parents with addiction. AASUL also hosts an annual self-empowerment conference for 300 girls from 19 local high schools.

This success led Redondo-Churchward to envision a community-centered organization that would inspire hope in those who felt only deep despair. Today, SPIRITT (Skills for Prevention, Intervention, Recovery, Individual Treatment & Training) Family Services helps those plagued with addiction to drugs and alcohol, confronted by domestic violence, or struggling with mental disorders. It assists more than 6,000 people annually, offering curriculums on parenting and families, child abuse prevention services, substance abuse education and therapy, and youth programs for potential dropouts and gang members.

Redondo-Churchward is a founding board member of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives and has served on other drug and alcohol awareness committees. She is also a member of the national coalition WomenHeart, advocating for women with heart disease. Redondo-Churchward uses her leadership skills to strengthen individuals and families by successfully forging partnerships with lawmakers, public agencies, and school districts.

A compassionate visionary, Redondo-Churchward believes that the human spirit is resilient, able to embrace recovery, and live a healthy, self-determined life. Acting on her convictions, Redondo-Churchward created community-based programs that promote health services, education, and prevention, with a special focus on vulnerable and minority populations. ■