

# ywca SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

# our voice



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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

## April 2012

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

**39th Annual  
TENNIS CLASSIC  
May 4 from 8am to 2pm  
The Claremont Club**

An event not to be missed, this tennis fundraiser supports the WINGS Domestic Violence Program. If you would like to participate please download...

1. Registration form for tennis players.  
([http://ywcasgv.org/tennis\\_2012.pdf](http://ywcasgv.org/tennis_2012.pdf))

2. Silent Auction donation letter  
[www.ywcasgv.org/tennis2012.pdf](http://www.ywcasgv.org/tennis2012.pdf)

For more information, contact the Chair, Ann Baker, at [annbaker@cox.net](mailto:annbaker@cox.net) or (858) 481-1011.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA BRABO**

### Thank You to Covina Area Emergency Aid

The Covina Area Emergency Aid recently provided two checks to the YWCA SGV Intervale Senior Services Program, one for meals-on-wheels and the other for care for Covina's elderly residents. Thank you to Nancy Purnell, Harry Anderson, and Richard Allen, board members of Covina Area Emergency Aid, for this contribution and for the many people you have assisted. We are saddened that after 79 years of service to the community providing food and care, the Covina Area Emergency Aid had to close its doors. We will miss you.



Harry Anderson, Richard Allen, Glen Pierce, Don Herring

### YWCA SGV Announces Honorees for 2012 Women of Achievement in the Armed Forces

The YWCA San Gabriel Valley is proud to announce seven extraordinary women who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces as honorees for the 2012 "Women of Achievement in the Armed Forces: Honoring Courage and Commitment" awards event. In addition, two nonprofit organizations serving military families will also be honored.

#### The 2012 Women of Achievement in the Armed Forces honorees are:

- Debra Anderson: U.S. Air Force 1975 to 1981
- Maya Bisso: U.S. Army 2001 to 2009
- Ila DeLuca: U.S. Coast Guard 1944 to 1946
- Luz Garcia: U.S. Army 2000 to 2004
- Raquel Ippoliti: U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force Guard 1997 to Present

- Katie Roberts: California State Military Reserve 1972 to 1977
- Cristina Zamora: U.S. Navy 2006 to 2010

#### YWCA SGV Awards of Excellence will be given to:

- Cory's Kitchen, Inc. for Service to Veterans
- Operation Homefront for Service to Military Families

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**Take a look at these great new videos from the YWCA SGV**

1. Youth leaders interviewed about the YWCA SGV Respect for All anti-bullying project.  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VQS9dqkZA4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VQS9dqkZA4)
2. Lisa Brabo interviewed on NBC's Non-Stop News, hosted by Colleen Williams, about the new Health Life Employment and Economic Supports Program  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwV0sLbn50M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwV0sLbn50M)

**View YWCA SGV's New Video on YouTube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search YWCA SGV)**

Visit our **facebook** page and become a fan of the YWCA SGV

Honorees will be guests of the YWCA San Gabriel Valley (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). A no-host reception will begin at 5pm, with the awards program at 6:30pm.

To sponsor this event, or to purchase tickets to attend, contact Lisa Brabo at 626-214-9443 or go to the YWCA SGV website at [www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org). Sponsorships are \$500 to \$10,000, and tickets to the event are \$40 each or \$400 for a table of ten.

For more information, contact Lisa Brabo (626) 214-9442 or [LisaBrabo@ywcasgv.org](mailto:LisaBrabo@ywcasgv.org).

**Our generous event sponsors of this event to date are:**

CROWN	Anonymous
DIAMOND	Industry Manufacturer's Council
EMERALD	LA County Supervisor Don Knabe • Majestic Realty Co.
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AMETHYST	Foothill Transit Langlois Fancy Frozen Foods Pat Serio - Sapphire Sponsorship Suburban Water Systems Unified Nutrimeals
CONTRIBUTOR	City National Bank, Industry Hills



**Meredith Flanaghan:  
Three Decades of Tennis and Service**

It's been three decades since Meredith Flanaghan took up tennis - and just as long since she took up the cause of helping victims of domestic violence. She had just moved to Covina from Connecticut after 20 years as a medical technologist. Now she was reinventing herself as an interior designer.

"I wanted to make new friends, so I started playing tennis at the Claremont Club," recalls Meredith. There, she met Ann Baker, who talked her into helping out with a charity tennis tournament to benefit the YWCA's WINGS program. Once she got involved, she was hooked, admits Meredith.

"We have so much fun, and we all feel good about working for such a good cause," she says. "My heart goes out to these women who have been abused and have no place to go. The children need help too and that's why we started Little Wings, a counseling and mentoring program for youngsters."

Meredith says she is proud that in the last 35 years, the WINGS Classic committee has raised \$2.5 million for critical services that enable domestic violence victims to start a new life and become independent. Since the tournament is entirely volunteer-run, 95 percent of proceeds go to the WINGS domestic violence program.

"The reason I keep volunteering after all these years is because everyone on the whole team is so wonderful," says Meredith. "Many of us have been doing this for 10, 20, 30 years and we have become great friends."

**The 39th WINGS Classic** will be held at The Claremont Club (1777 Monte Vista Avenue, Claremont) on May 4, 2012, from 8am to 2pm.

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## 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**

### Healthy Life Employment and Economic Supports Program for People Age 50+

### 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](http://www.ywcasgv.org)

Email us at [info@ywcasgv.org](mailto:info@ywcasgv.org)

Give us a call at (626) 214-9440

In addition to the round robin tennis matches, festivities will include a live auction as well as a silent auction set up courtside, featuring wine, concerts and relaxing vacation packages. Champagne tasting, and sales of jewelry, designer purses, and clothing are also planned. A noon luncheon features a fashion show.

To register, for the tournament or luncheon, click [here](#). There are still opportunities to sponsor this event, make a donation, or contribute an item for the silent auction. The silent auction donation letter can be downloaded from [www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org).

For more information, contact event chair Ann Baker, at [annbaker@cox.net](mailto:annbaker@cox.net) or (858) 481-1011. ■



### Newest Board Member Natalie Clark Wilson Has Compassion for Children

Growing up as the oldest of five children in a family of step, half and adopted siblings, Natalie Clark Wilson developed an instinct for care giving and compassion for children. Now 26 years old and a new member of the YWCA SGV board of directors, she is one of the youngest to serve in that capacity.

Nevertheless, Natalie has plenty of experience and great passion for the work of the organization. As a nanny for a celebrity family's three school-aged children, she also finds time to volunteer as a sexual assault counselor at Project Sister in Pomona.

"I have counseled women who were raped and sat with them while they were interviewed and examined," says Natalie. "Seeing these women, I understand how important it is to educate and empower them so they can move beyond being a victim and instead feel like a survivor."

Natalie has also counseled HIV patients and volunteered in other human service agencies such as Camp Laurel and Prototype Women's Center.

A graduate of Cal State Fullerton, majoring in human services and psychology, Natalie has set her sights on a career in the nonprofit field, working with women and children.

She says she is learning so much as a new board member, especially from the advocacy training that featured Congresswoman Judy Chu. "I am proud to be part of an organization that serves the community in so many ways - from teen programs to helping domestic violence victims to serving the needs of seniors - there is no other agency that is doing all that and doing it so well," she says.

Natalie was born in San Bernardino and lives in La Verne with her parents. ■



### Homeless DV Families Can Get Financial Help Through YWCA

Since most of us are just a few paychecks away from being homeless, there's a new program for homeless victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault offered by the YWCA SGV that could help you or someone you know who needs to find a new place to live.

Through a grant from Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), families like Joann's (not her real name) are receiving flexible financial assistance for their monthly rent to help them transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

Joann and her four children escaped an abusive relationship, but after spending six months sleeping together on a relative's sofa, she knew it was time for her family to move on. Even with assistance through CalWORKs and GAIN to augment her salary

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in her full-time job as a receptionist, she was unable to find an affordable apartment that would take her entire family.

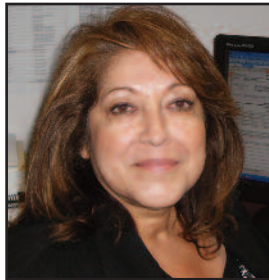
And with the first and last month's rent, plus security deposit required, she found it difficult to come up with the cash needed to move in.

Then Joann heard about the YWCA SGV's new housing assistance program, and after passing the screening process (limited to homeless victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault who are employed or have proof of a regular source of income), she received help from housing specialist Walter Solorzano.

"I knew of an apartment owner who was open to renting to families in tough situations like this," says Walter. "I referred Joann to this owner and they were able to work it out."

In addition, the program can potentially provide six month's rental assistance to homeless victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault. "The idea is that we empower people to make the transition, but over time they are able to be fully independent and self-supporting," says Walter.

For more information, contact Walter at [waltersolorzano@ywcasgv.org](mailto:waltersolorzano@ywcasgv.org). ■



## Free Program Helps Mature Workers Find Jobs

For Pat, who had been employed all her adult life, losing her job as a quality assurance manager in the garment industry was a big blow. Fifteen months later, her unemployment benefits have run out and she was getting desperate and depressed. But thanks to a new free program offered by the YWCA SGV and Women at Work, a Pasadena-based job training and counseling organization, Pat is feeling much more optimistic today.

"I have three job interviews this week and I know I will land something soon," says the 63-year old El Monte resident. "Stella Zarate from the YWCA knew just what I needed to do to change the wording of my resume and to help me think about how I bring experience and reliability to a job."

Pat is just the first of hundreds of people Stella hopes to help, as the YWCA SGV and Women at Work launch a new two-year program to provide mature workers, males and females 50 years and older, counseling and support for employment. By partnering with Women at Work, the YWCA SGV is leveraging job readiness services and skill-building classes already offered and providing additional one-on-one support especially for mature workers, including linkages with resources such as food, transportation, housing assistance, low-cost health care, etc. This new program is funded by the AARP Foundation.

"People over 50 sometimes feel that employers won't hire them because of their age," says Stella. "What we stress with both prospective employees and employers is that mature workers offer experience, commitment, professionalism and established work ethics."

Stella and partner Women at Work are making it a priority to build a network of employers who understand the benefits of hiring mature workers and want to hire them. According to national statistics, the number of weeks the average unemployed person is out of work is 38 weeks, but for people over 50, it's 44 or more.

For information, contact Stella at [stellazarate@ywcasgv.org](mailto:stellazarate@ywcasgv.org) or call 626-214-9471. ■

