

# ywca SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

# our voice



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(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

## August 2010

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

### YWCA to Launch Financial Empowerment Workshops

Are you interested in giving your opinion about what could be included in a new series of workshops on financial empowerment for women? If so, join us on Saturday, September 11th for a short focus group! It will be a small group discussion in which you can give your input about draft plans for the workshops. If you'd like more information, please contact Lisa Brabo at [info@ywcasgv.org](mailto:info@ywcasgv.org) or 626-214-9442.

### CAR RAFFLE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 1, 2010



### Win a 2010 Nissan Altima Valued At Over \$30,000!

\$20/ticket or 3 for \$40

Order tickets online [www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org) or call 626 214-9442

All proceeds benefit YWCA San Gabriel Valley's programs for victims of domestic violence, senior citizens, and teens.

If you have already purchased tickets we will contact you to give you more details.



### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA BRABO

### View the New Video about the YWCA SGV

We've just completed a new video showcasing the YWCA SGV services. View it on YouTube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search YWCA SGV).

Our sincere appreciation to the board members, staff, clients, and volunteers who participated! This video will help us increase awareness about the available services. We're happy to make presentations at meetings or other gatherings, simply contact me at [info@ywcasgv.org](mailto:info@ywcasgv.org) or 626-214-9442.



### YWCA Honored by Stellar Business Bank for Community Service

The YWCA SGV was honored this month with Stellar Business Bank's "Stellar Distinction" Award, which recognizes non-profit organizations in the Foothill communities for their service.

The award includes a star in the sky named for the honoree organization through the Universal Star Catalog. The YWCA SGV was presented with a framed certificate during the bank's customer appreciation luncheon on August 12th at South Hills Country Club in West Covina.

"We hope this award will be proudly displayed in the YWCA's office and serve as a reminder of how much the organization means to those it serves," says Tim Walbridge, president and CEO of Stellar Business Bank.

The YWCA San Gabriel Valley was honored for its commitment to providing community residents with the information they need to manage critical issues in their lives. During the last three years, the bank has also given the award to Valley Light Industries, Covina Chamber of Commerce, LeRoy Haynes Center and The Marino Foundation.

Stellar Business Bank, based in Covina, is a community bank that serves businesses in the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire.

For information, visit [www.stellarbusinessbank.com](http://www.stellarbusinessbank.com). ■

### Cheerleading Program Helps Girls Gain Confidence

Next month, girls ages 5-14 will have a chance to join a cheerleading and drill team program in their San Gabriel Valley or Inland Empire neighborhoods.



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## Woman of Achievement Honoree 2010



### Gerri Guzman

According to Help the Children, Gerri Guzman organized the largest food donation in this organization's 12-year history of distributing food to more than 130,000 economically disadvantaged families each month.

While serving as school board president of Montebello Unified School District in April 2009, Gerri became deeply concerned about the many families struggling to feed their families. Determined to "make a difference," she coordinated the District's 1st Annual War on Hunger Food Drive. She rallied business leaders, the PTA, students, and parents for assistance. Within four weeks, 29 schools collected 30,000 pounds of dried beans, rice, cereal, pasta, and canned goods, which were distributed to Los Angeles County families.

A lifelong learner and advocate of education, Gerri played a key role in garnering support for the 2004 school bond Measure M. This bond provided \$98 million in state matching funds to Montebello Unified to relieve overcrowding, finance renovations, and introduce state-of-the-art technology.

As a California State Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse counselor, Gerri volunteers her time to help students and families address problems drug and alcohol problems. Also, she has served on the board of the local Boys and Girls Club and the American Red Cross.

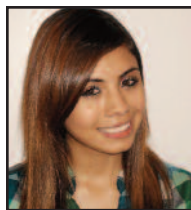
Gerri is an energetic and outspoken public servant, committed to strengthening families, children, and schools in our community. ■

The YWCA SGV is sponsoring these classes with the California Youth Spirit Corps, which has been conducting this type of program for 22 years.

"These classes increase confidence and coordination, and help the participants make new friends," says Sonja Coffee, program manager. "It's a way for kids to stay healthy, be active, and have fun. Our year-round schedule is full of events like marching in parades, and performing at city events, schools, and local sports events."

Class locations are in Baldwin Park, Covina, Arcadia, Azusa, El Monte, Glendora, La Puente/Hacienda Heights, and two locations in Ontario, Rowland Heights, Pasadena, Rancho Cucamonga, Rosemead, San Dimas, San Gabriel, West Covina, and Whittier.

Registration is \$8 and each class is \$7. For more information, contact Sonja Coffee at (909) 948-3861. ■



### A Student's Viewpoint on the YWCA SGV's Services

By Jennifer Mertel, Student Volunteer

When Millie Pederson was no longer able to cook her own meals, she was able to get hot, fresh-cooked food daily, thanks to the YWCA SGV's home delivery meal service. Millie is one of several clients of the YWCA SGV who is featured in a new 11-minute video designed to highlight the services offered to local residents. As a summer intern at the YWCA SGV, I recently had the opportunity to help Lisa Brabo, and the videographer Bob Keeton with the video shoot. I am 15 years old and I am going to be a junior at North View High School. On the set of the video, I learned all about setting up lights, cameras, white balancing colors, and setting up microphones.

What impressed me about the people we interviewed was how thankful they were for the YWCA and their services. They were willing to step out of their comfort zone to share their honest opinion on camera. The common theme throughout the senior services interviewees was how thankful they all were to be able to live in their own homes, where they feel most comfortable. Since I am interested in pursuing a career in broadcast journalism, this experience meant a lot to me because it was a first hand experience on what its like to not only be behind the camera, but in front of it as well. You can view the video at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search YWCA SGV).

## YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund



In the June newsletter we reported that the Women's Foundation of California awarded a new grant of \$20,000 to the YWCA SGV for an Elder Women's Abuse Prevention Project. In actuality, the funding was from the YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund, which is administered through the Women's Foundation of California.

When the YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula closed it's doors, they invested their remaining funds with the Women's Foundation. The interest from this investment supports programs aligned with the YWCA's mission via grant awards. The YWCA San Gabriel Valley is very fortunate to have received one of these grants. Thank you to the Mid-Peninsula YWCA Donor Advised Fund, and our apologies for the error.

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## Woman of Achievement Honoree 2010



**Margaret  
"Peggy"  
Banas**

Seventy-two percent of people over 65 live at or below poverty level, according to a needs assessment conducted by the San Bernardino County Department of Aging & Adult Services. The study also determined that these seniors need hot nutritious meals in order to continue living independently in their own homes as long as possible.

As volunteer program manager for Montclair Meals on Wheels, Margaret "Peggy" Banas plays a critical role in helping seniors stay in their homes by providing these essential meals.

She takes calls requesting Meals on Wheels seven days a week and oversees consistent meal delivery Monday through Friday, including holidays. To ensure quality service, Peggy visits her new recipients in their homes, evaluates their nutritional needs, and develops dietary plans that address their medical conditions.

She is responsible for training new drivers and connecting with all drivers each morning to verify recipients for the day. To stay connected with her recipients, Peggy takes time from her busy schedule to deliver meals herself. She also assists with recordkeeping and volunteer recruitment.

Peggy has volunteered over 3,700 hours of service since she became Program Manager in 2006. "My greatest joy is helping others," she says. "From my work experience to now, I have tried to make a difference in other people's lives." ■



## YWCA SGV Taps New Resources to Maintain Services

During a challenging year for many non-profit organizations, the YWCA SGV managed to tap into private grants and federal jobs programs to maintain a high level of service for senior citizens, youth and domestic violence victims. Heightened public relations efforts, such as a this monthly newsletter and updated program brochures, also helped the organization increase its visibility in the community.

That's the message board members and other key stakeholders heard at the recent annual meeting, where YWCA SGV Executive Director Lisa Brabo and program directors provided an overview of the past year's accomplishments.

"Along with our critical ongoing government contracts, we have actively pursued and been successful in accessing significant funding from private foundations for the first time in many years," notes Lisa Brabo. "The federal stimulus program also provided us with 12 temporary employees who have helped us maintain services."

In 2009-10, the YWCA was awarded \$172,000 by foundations and corporate grant programs. Already in the 2010-11 fiscal year ending June 2011, more than \$225,000 has been awarded.

Board President Miki Carpenter recognized the contribution of YWCA SGV volunteers, including presenting the President's Award to board member Teresa Figueras. Vivien Hao was also recognized with the Volunteer of the Year Award for her contributions to the agency's public relations and marketing efforts.

Program priorities for this year include providing longer shelter stays for domestic violence victims and offering more financial empowerment workshops for the community.

Other goals are to translate agency brochures into Spanish and developing technology solutions to increase the efficiency and tracking of domestic violence and senior services programs.

### 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 Program:** Presentations in schools about healthy relationships to prevent teen dating violence and provide assistance to teens in need.

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

**Email us at [info@ywcasgv.org](mailto:info@ywcasgv.org)  
Give us a call at (626) 214-9440**

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