

MEDIA ADVISORY / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For Thursday, May 6, 2010

Luncheon Celebrates Women Leaders

14th Annual Circle of Women Luncheon is Testament to Work of YWCA of Minneapolis

WHAT: On May 6, more than 1,200 community and business leaders in the Twin Cities will gather at the 14th Annual Circle of Women luncheon to hear the stories of girls and women empowered by the YWCA of Minneapolis.

Luncheon guests are over 90 percent women and will gather early to bid on a silent auction of the latest styles in purses and handbags. During the auction, models will show off the bags during an orange carpet Runway Show. Makeup and hair will be styled by **Jon Charles Pure Salon**.

WHEN: Thursday, May 6, 2010
10:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. “Purses and Passions” silent auction and networking
Orange carpet Runway Show with Jon Charles Pure Salon
12 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch and Program (featuring speakers listed below)

WHERE: Minneapolis Convention Center
1301 Second Ave. S.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55403
(612) 335-6000

PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

Featured speakers at the luncheon will be available to share personal testimony about the positive impact of YWCA programs on their lives:

- **Paige Thomas** was 10 years old when Hurricane Katrina devastated her home town of New Orleans, and forced her and her mother to live in a shelter for six months. Shortly afterwards, Paige moved to Minnesota to be closer to her father. Despite moving more than a half dozen times in the past four years, she has built skills and relationships through the YWCA of Minneapolis that provide newfound stability and support. Now 14 years old, Paige is a straight “A” student at Folwell Middle School in south Minneapolis.
- **Alexis Mann** is a reserve teacher, paralegal and graduate student. She is also the mother of three daughters ages four, six and 18. When Alexis first moved to Minneapolis, she couldn’t afford the childcare that she needed in order to hold down a job. She works hard to provide for her daughters, while pursuing her own career and education. Like many parents in Minnesota, Alexis faces the challenge of choosing between quality childcare, employment and education. The YWCA of Minneapolis helped her find a balance.
- **Becky Roloff**, CEO of the YWCA of Minneapolis, will reflect on the importance of women’s leadership in the community and the YWCA mission to empower women and girls and eliminate racism.

WHO: The YWCA of Minneapolis is a nonprofit organization striving to achieve the empowerment of women and girls, and the elimination of racism. The YWCA of Minneapolis has been empowering women and girls since 1891 and is a community leader in girls and youth programming, early childhood education, health and fitness and racial justice work. Last year, the YWCA provided services to 20,000 health and fitness members and more than 2,300 program participants. 82% of participants were from low-income households, 90% were people of color, 62% were female and 100% were children and youth.

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