



**For Immediate Release**

## **YWCA of Minneapolis Announces new Board Chair**

*New Chair brings passion for diversity to leadership role*

**MINNEAPOLIS – September 1, 2009** – The YWCA of Minneapolis announced today that Velma Korbelt is the new Board Chair for the organization. Velma is currently Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, and was appointed to that position by Governor Pawlenty in 2003. Korbelt has been a volunteer with the YWCA for the past seven years, and has served as a member of the Board of Directors since 2006. Korbelt was elected Board Chair at the August 25 YWCA Board meeting.

“Velma is a passionate leader and tireless advocate. Her commitment to diversity and inclusion will help shape our direction and strategies as we work to eliminate racism and empower women and girls,” said Becky Roloff, president and chief executive officer, YWCA of Minneapolis.

Korbelt will serve a two year term as the Chair of the YWCA Board of Directors. She will work with Board members and the President and CEO of the organization to refine the strategic plan and ensure the mission is fully developed and fully supported through resources, metrics and advocacy.

Korbelt has provided leadership on the YWCA It’s Time to Talk Forums on Race steering committee for the past 5 years, and been an event co-chair for two of those years. “I think the YWCA mission of eliminating racism and empowering women is compelling and relevant,” says Korbelt. “And I’m looking forward to this exciting opportunity.”

Korbelt also serves on the boards of the Heritage Achievement Foundation, the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, and the Andover YMCA. Prior to her role at the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, she was the Director of Diversity & Equal Opportunity for the Metropolitan Council. She is also a member of the Minnesota Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**Editor’s Note:** A photo of Korbelt is available upon request. Please contact Ellen Cleary at 612-215-4164 or [ecleary@ywcamppls.org](mailto:ecleary@ywcamppls.org).

### **About the YWCA of Minneapolis**

The YWCA of Minneapolis is a nonprofit organization striving to eliminate racism and empower women and girls. The YWCA of Minneapolis has been empowering women and girls since 1891 and is a community leader in health and fitness. The YWCA of Minneapolis serves approximately 25,000 people in the community annually.

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