

# eliminating racism empowering women

ywca press release

YWCA York  
320 East Market Street  
York, PA 17403

**Contact Information**  
Debra Stock  
T: 717-683-3983  
dstock@ywcayork.org  
www.ywcayork.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **COULD THIS BE THE LAST YEAR FOR THE YORK HALLOWEEN PARADE?**

York, PA, August 26, 2011- This year marks the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual York Halloween Parade and the fifth year the YWCA has hosted this memorable family tradition. Unfortunately, as financial support from major sponsors has been steadily declining, it is making it difficult for the parade to continue after this year. YWCA York is considering 2011 to be the final year for their involvement with this event and is hoping another organization will step up to continue the long-standing York County tradition.

As parade expenses continue to rise, donations from local businesses and the community are increasingly difficult to acquire each year. The York Halloween Parade has been without a major sponsor for two years. In today's current economic environment, where YWCA's critical support services: domestic and sexual violence services, counseling, child care, youth development, are much needed, the YWCA finds it more prudent to dedicate its time and resources to these oftentimes life-saving services. "While it disappoints us to announce the possible discontinuation of this beloved community event, we simply can't justify cutting back on our other services. We regret the need to alter such a fine tradition, but feel that it's the just and responsible thing to do. It is our hope, however, that this will not mean an end to the annual celebration and that another community organization or business will consider taking responsibility of the parade," said Deb Stock, CEO of YWCA York.

The YWCA is asking those that enjoy the parade each year to consider making a donation to the YWCA through its website to support current parade expenses. The money raised goes toward parade safety and security, and other operational costs associated with the parade. Businesses are also encouraged to consider sponsorship and should reply by August 31<sup>st</sup>. The YWCA thanks its past and current sponsors for their continued community support.

The parade will be held on Sunday, October 30, 2011, starting at 2:00PM and draws tens of thousands of York County residents each year to the parade route along Market Street, from the York Fairgrounds to Lehman Street. As previously announced, new this year is a pre-parade event, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual YWCA Pumpkin Run, a one-

mile run on the parade route! Complete with costume contests for the runners and a timed race at 1:45 p.m. Please call Tara Neff, 717-845-2631, ext. 131 for more information.

If you would like to volunteer or to learn more about entering the parade and other opportunities, please contact Bernadette Green at 717-845-2631 ext. 128, or visit the YWCA York online at [www.ywcayork.org](http://www.ywcayork.org).

Please direct all media inquiries to Debra Stock at 717-683-3983 or [dstock@ywcayork.org](mailto:dstock@ywcayork.org).

Founded in 1858 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the YWCA is a women's membership movement whose mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. Strengthened by diversity, the YWCA draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. The YWCA represents approximately 2 million women, girls and their families in the United States and 25 million women worldwide. The YWCA has more than 300 associations throughout the United States. The World YWCA is at work in more than 100 other countries. For information about the YWCA or local YWCA associations, visit our website, [www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org).

#####