

# eliminating racism empowering women

ywca press release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **YWCA Adopt A Family Helps Over 90 York County Families**

*Program benefitted YWCA York shelter families, counseling families and more*

York, PA, January 4, 2012— *Children, who are displaced from their homes due to violence, for the first time had a safe holiday. Mothers, who are working to re-build their lives, are grateful to others for assisting them to provide the kind of holiday every child deserves. Smiles on the faces of children, who have lived in the shadow of family violence or poverty, are the greatest gift of all.* These are the measures of success for the YWCA's 2011 Adopt A Family program, where individuals, families or companies "adopt" a family from one of YWCA's programs and help fulfill the holiday wishes of children and adults.

"For the first time ever, J. felt like Santa Claus didn't forget him," said Karen, one of the families who benefitted from Adopt A Family. .

Another mother, Nichole, stated, "My kids could be kids and feel safe at Christmas I was worried that there would be no Christmas this year after leaving a violent home."

This season, over 91 families were personally adopted, and hundreds of gifts were purchased for the general gift fund which is used to provide gifts in the shelter for families who arrived on Christmas day, or throughout the year. Additionally, \$3,741 in monetary gifts were given to Adopt A Family this year, which helped purchase needed gifts, and will act as an emergency fund to provide needed healthcare, locksmiths, cell phones, etc. to families who arrive in the shelter.

The YWCA would like to thank all the sponsors who adopted or donated to the Adopt A Family program this year—making it a huge success. Without the kindness and generosity of these sponsors and donors the YWCA would not have been able to grant so many holiday wishes.

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).

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