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VICTIM ASSISTANCE CENTER MERGES WITH YWCA
Looks to capitalize on strengthening program services

York, PA – The YWCA of York is pleased to announce that a merger with the Victim Assistance Center (VAC) occurred on January 1, 2009. The merger is viewed by both organizations as an opportunity to strengthen the response to victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes across York County.

According to Keith Sheffer, VAC Board President, “This merger makes perfect sense. Both organizations have been serving the community for a long time. Both are focused on improving lives and serving as a catalyst for positive change. By joining forces, we are able to combine our success and strengthen our capacity for meeting the needs of crime victims.”

Since its early beginning in 1891, the YWCA of York has been a place of hope, healing and renewal by empowering women and children and helping them achieve their full potential. In 2008, the community saw the merging of the YWCA and ACCESS-York in a strategic effort to better respond to domestic violence victims and their children across York County.

Romana Li, YWCA Board President states, "As a result of our merger with ACCESS-York, we're stronger. We're better. We're more efficient." Li indicates that when the leadership teams from the YWCA and the VAC initially met to discuss a merger months ago, an immediate synergy existed. According to Li, "We brought in an outside facilitator to help us reach consensus, then we conducted a due diligence process to ensure that a merger was in the best interests of both organizations and, most importantly, allowed us to better serve our community."

Bob Woods, executive director of the United Way of York County, indicates that there is increasing interest among nonprofits when it comes to mergers. “I commend the Victim Assistance Center and YWCA of York for their continued dedication to making sure that all crime victims across York County have access to services that help them negotiate the criminal justice system and, most importantly, support their healing process,” states Woods.

The YWCA has a long history of providing community-based solutions – and programming that address inequality and tackles violence. “Our commitment is to providing services and programs that reduce crime and violence for all in our community, stated Stock who is the CEO of the YWCA. “This merger allows for better coordination of services, increased capacity to deliver services, and a reduction in overhead costs.”

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