

# THE ASSOCIATION

*Ex-Wife of the DC Sniper shares her story at the  
14th Annual Benefit Luncheon*

On March 2, 2011, at the Memphis Marriott-East, the YWCA of Greater Memphis hosted its 14th Annual Benefit Luncheon to over 400 guests as FOX-13 Good Morning Memphis Anchor, Valerie Calhoun, served as Mistress of Ceremony.

Mildred D. Muhammad, abuse survivor and ex-wife of the now executed DC Sniper, shared her story that recounts the devastating events that included her as the main target of the DC Sniper shooting rampage. During this tragic time Ms. Muhammad worked diligently to locate their children after her ex-husband kidnapped them for 18 months. As a result, Ms. Muhammad expressed the importance of the awareness of domestic violence and how it affects families especially children.

Author of Scared Silent, her biography outlines her life as a victim of domestic violence. Ms. Muhammad is also a active member of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

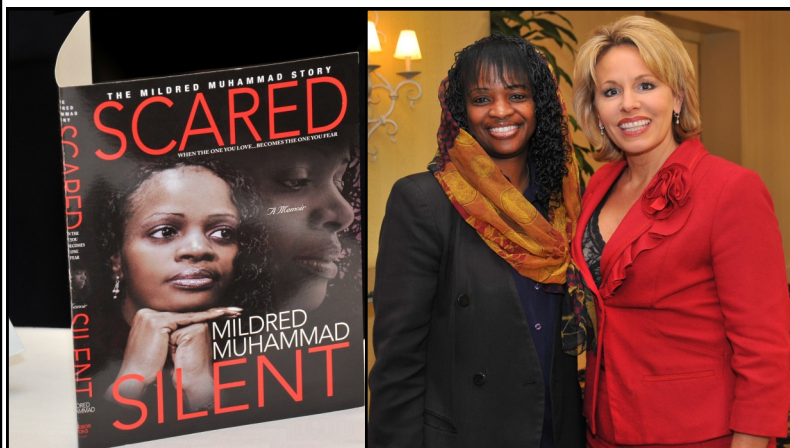
The YWCA of Greater Memphis also recognized Tina Birchett, Owner and Publisher of Grace Magazine and the Sisterhood Showcase, with the Distinguished Community Leadership Award.



Ms. Birchett shared with the Luncheon guests that with perseverance you can succeed in anything and the importance of loving yourself and knowing your self-worth.

The luncheon honorary Co-Chairs, Edith Kelly-Green Co-Partner of HK Group, and Carolyn Hardy, CEO of Hardy Bottling Company expressed the importance of supporting the YWCA; who responds to over 5,000 women and children that are victims of domestic violence.

The YWCA-Abused Women's Services Program is comprised of four components- 24/7 Crisis Hotline, Emergency Shelter, Immigrant Women and Community Education.



*FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK.....*



Spring is here! And with it comes the joy of seeing new life and new things. It is an especially joyful time here at the YWCA because of the recent accomplishments and additions.

As you read this edition, you will see the joy of our accomplishments which was evident during the Annual Luncheon. The heartfelt speech by Ms. Mildred Muhammad, along with the Distinguished Recipient; Ms. Tina Birchett drew joyful smiles from the attendees. Additionally, I was extremely delighted with the selection and participation of this year's Honorary Co-Chairs.

Other accomplishments include another successful V-Day performance and a first time visit of the Nanas from Happiness Happens.

Finally, we are joyful about our recent partnership of Common Ground.

As always, I am delighted by the tremendous work and support the YWCA of Greater Memphis has in its board, staff and members.

Until next time!

*Jackie*

We're pleased to announce that the YWCA of Greater Memphis and Common Ground have combined efforts to improve race relations in Memphis and Shelby County!



To learn more about Common Ground or to register for an upcoming session, visit [www.commongroundmemphis.org](http://www.commongroundmemphis.org)

**GOING GREEN**

*The YWCA of Greater Memphis is going green by offering all announcements on our website- [www.memphisywca.org](http://www.memphisywca.org)*

*The Association Newsletter is printed on paper that was manufactured from the well managed forest, controlled sources and 25% recycled wood or fiber.*

## V-Day in Memphis



During February, the YWCA joined efforts with V-Day, a global movement originated by Eve Ensley, that seeks to stop sexual violence against women and girls.

The YWCA-Immigrant Women's Services produced, for its second time, a Spanish production of the play "Vagina Monologues". The play allows Immigrant Women's Services the opportunity to increase awareness in the Latino Community about sexual and domestic violence as well as raise funds for the program

The play was performed at the Evergreen Theater on February 23, 25,&27, 2011. Over 200 members of the Latino community, and other diverse backgrounds, were in attendance to support this effort.

## Happiness Happens to the YWCA



The Happiness Happens Nanas donated their delicious homemade pound cakes with curds to the YWCA- Emergency Shelter for the families that are victims of domestic violence.

Along with the warm smiles the Nanas granted the wish of providing new pillows for each bed at the shelter, and toiletries that included new toothbrushes, feminine products and hair products.

The Nanas has join the YWCA in bringing awareness to domestic violence with hopes of ending this silent destroyer of our families. For nearly 35 years, the Happiness Happens Nanas have been randomly selecting strangers and organizations surreptitiously sending them blue-ribbon cakes, sauce and a logo T-shirt or bag.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### April 2011

Training and Development will offer the following classes:

- Computer Repair
- Electrical
- Warehouse Logistics
- Computer Literacy
- Job Readiness

April 11-15 Crime Victims  
Awareness Week

### May 2011

May 6- Common Ground  
Anniversary Celebration at  
Rhodes College 6pm

May 31- YWCA Summer Camp  
begins

### June 2011

June 15- 3rd Annual World Elder  
Abuse Awareness Day

BACK MAILING PAGE Atomic has this information