



Dryades YMCA Today

Dryades YMCA E-News, Issue 1 November 19, 2009

Louisiana Alliance of YMCAs

Leadership and Staff from Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bogalusa, Lake Charles, New Orleans, and Ira Reasons, YUSA Resource Director attended the LA Alliance of YMCA's quarterly meeting on Friday, November 13th in Baton Rouge. The meeting addressed the statewide initiative to expand the Youth & Government program to the Middle Schools. Joe Bringarder, Teen/YIG Specialist of YUSA shared Kentucky's Metro Youth Leaders Program as a potential model for Louisiana to adopt. Dickie Patterson, Lobbyist for the Alliance, expanded on the YMCA's Community Benefit in each of their communities and the importance of gaining the support of elected officials and community leaders.

In conjunction with the meeting, Derek Smith, Executive Director Metro Dallas YMCA, conducted a workshop on Fundraising through an Annual Support Campaign. In this training, he explained reasons for the need to raise charitable income on an annual basis. He also described the volunteer-driven, staff-supported annual campaign model and how the campaign strengthens YMCA member relationships.



Teen Leadership Development

Over sixty-five teens from Dryades' Youth & Government Hi-Y Clubs in Orleans, Jefferson and St. James Parish High Schools gathered Saturday, November 14th at the Dryades YMCA for a Youth Advocacy Training. The training, developed by the Afterschool Partnership and the Urban League, is a critical first step to engaging teens and creating a VISION for city government that effectively supports children and youth, and keeps them on track for a healthy childhood, a successful adolescence, and a bright future. Rep. Karen Carter-Peterson, District 93 and Rep. Walt Leger, District 91 stopped in and spoke to the group.

Natatorium and Wellness Center

Bids were received Tuesday, November 17 for the new construction of the Natatorium and Wellness Center. Keep your eyes open for the ground breaking in near the future.

The Early Childhood Development Center

The Daycare will host the Center's Thanksgiving Luncheon on Friday, November 20th from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

The James M. Singleton Charter School

Forty families attended Family Read Night hosted by the Children's Defense Fund. It was a great success.

Youth Development

Dryades YMCA will host a *Princess and the Frog Party* and the kids will receive a surprise visit from Princess Tiana, actress Anika Noni Rose. Also, the children are invited to attend the Bayou Classic on Saturday, November 28.

The School of Commerce

Know anyone who might be interested in working in the emerging healthcare industry or brushing up on their technology skills? The School of Commerce is gearing up for the next Certified Nursing Assistant & Office Occupation classes that will start in January. Apply now to avoid the waitlists.

Upcoming Events

- Dryades YMCA and New Orleans Saints Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway November 23, 2009 1 pm – 3 pm
- Dryades YMCA James M. Singleton Board of Directors Meeting – November 23, 2009, 12:00 Noon