

**eliminating racism**  
**empowering women**  
**ywca**

YWCA USA  
1015 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20036

T: 202-467-0801  
F: 202-467-0802  
www.ywca.org

Sent Email to: lbaechle@ywcasc.org

Monday, April 20, 2009

Linda Baechle  
YWCA St. Joseph County  
1102 South Fellows St  
South Bend, IN 46601

Dear Ms. Baechle:

It is with great pleasure that I can officially inform you that the **YWCA St. Joseph County** initiative entitled **Bridges Out of Poverty/Getting Ahead** has been chosen by YWCA USA as a national model Hallmark Program. The selection process was highly selective with the aim of identifying only programs that were exemplary, for which high impact and effectiveness were clearly demonstrated, showed evidence of strong partnerships, and ones that could become signature programs for replication throughout the YWCA organization. You are to be congratulated on a program that epitomizes the mission of the YWCA with such high marks!

As one of the conditions of having your program represented as a YWCA Hallmark model, a program manual that can serve as a "blueprint" for replication is required for posting on the YWCA Intranet, which is accessed only with authorized YWCA affiliations. If assistance is required to develop such documentation, the national office will be able to provide a grant to support development costs up to \$1,000.

Additionally, at the 2009 YWCA National Conference and Annual Generally Assembly, a formal announcement of the national Hallmark models will be made. As part of the conference, we also will be including a "Hallmark Promenade" where we are inviting all associations that have Hallmark program models selected in this round to present a tabletop poster display of their program, including take-away handout materials or brochures. The "Hallmark Promenade" will be in lieu of an exhibit area to allow conference participants an opportunity to review the newest Hallmark models and related materials in one location. Unfortunately, we are unable to support conference registration or travel and lodging costs for individuals to attend the conference for associations to staff the Hallmark displays. However, we are able to provide \$250 to the association toward the development of the tabletop display.

Again, thank you for your willingness to share your important work.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Cole, Ph.D.  
CEO, YWCA USA