



YWCA WOMEN'S CENTER in LORAIN
Empowering Women and Supporting Families
200 West 9th Street, Lorain OH 44052

PRESS RELEASE
Friday, July 20, 2007

YWCA WOMEN'S CENTER IN LORAIN: Scheduled to open in September

The YWCA, in collaboration with Beech Brook, Bellefaire, Nueva Luz, and Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio will open a Women's Center at 200 West 9th Street in September to provide HIV prevention, education, testing and case management, outpatient mental health therapy, women health services including cancer screenings, and community workshops, according to Jeanine Donaldson, executive director of the YWCA Lorain.

Ms. Donaldson said, "The YWCA Women's Center will be a wonderful resource for women and their families in our community and it will enhance the YWCA's existing programs." According to Ms. Donaldson, the Center will be a place where women and their families can come to learn about their health, to access information and raise awareness of health care issues and receive services.

Beech Brook, a mental health agency, will provide outpatient mental health services for children who are struggling with emotional or behavioral problems and their families. Those services include: diagnostic assessment; psychiatric consultation; individual and group therapy; family therapy; crisis intervention and safety planning; therapy using play and creative expression; case management and community support. "We are excited to be part of the new YWCA Women's Center so that we can make mental health services easily accessible to children and families in the city of Lorain," said Debra Rex, Beech Brook chief executive officer. "Although we are relatively new to Lorain County, Beech Brook has been working with children and families for more than 155 years."

Bellefaire is an innovative organization that provides exceptional care and advocacy to enhance the emotional, physical and intellectual well being of children, young adults, and families. "We are pleased to be one of the partnering agencies with the YWCA Women's Center. This partnership allows us to expand our services even further to children and families in the Lorain County area. Partnerships like this strengthen the needed services in communities and ultimately strengthen communities as a whole" states Melanie Falls, Director of Community Services with Bellefaire.

Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center's program, Proyecto Luz, will be providing HIV case management services to Latinos/as and other underserved communities in Lorain County. Pastor Max Rodas, executive director said, "We are grateful for this collaborative opportunity given the density of the Latino population in this northern Ohio community."

Planned Parenthood will provide confidential, affordable, preventative health services for women three days a week including pregnancy testing, birth control, emergency contraception, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, cancer screening (pap tests and breast exams) and basic education on sexual health. Tara Broderick, chief executive office of Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio said, "This is a great example of regional cooperation. The YWCA has facilitated this collaboration with several multi-county providers to offer much needed services in Lorain."

The YWCA will continue to provide housing services at 200 West 9th in Lorain featuring fourteen spacious single room units which are complimented by shared facilities. In addition, the YWCA will provide workshops and seminars to assist in empowering women and supporting their families.

YWCA Lorain is planning an Open House on Thursday, October 11, 2007 and a Ribbon Cutting Event on Friday, October 12, 2007.

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The mission of the YWCA Women's Center in Lorain is to support and empower women and their families by nurturing mind, body, and spirit and advocating for peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

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