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YWCA COLUMBUS ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL MEMBERS OF NEW LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

16 Local Women Selected for Generation Y Leadership Project

(COLUMBUS) – YWCA Columbus recently kicked off its Generation Y Leadership Project and welcomed 16 young professional women to its inaugural class.

Led by Dawn Tyler Lee and Andrea Cambern, the Gen Y Leadership Project will empower young women with the tools and resources they need to become effective leaders. During the 18-month program, participants will explore and strengthen their professional and personal abilities in order to positively impact the community. Program curriculum includes professional development classes, community service projects, experiential learning, fundraising, mentoring and more. The project concludes with a fundraiser that participants will plan, organize and host together.

“YWCA Columbus has always been the place for women to work together to strengthen ourselves and our community,” said YWCA President and CEO Cindy Lazarus. “Gen Y will help us reach out to and develop our next generation of leaders.”

The program has been funded via \$75,000.00 in grants from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. “As an active corporate citizen, Chase believes in encouraging volunteerism, advocacy and leadership – especially among our community’s extremely talented corps of young professionals,” said Melissa

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Ingwersen, the president of Chase in Columbus and the current chair of the YWCA Columbus board of trustees.

The following women are participants in the YWCA's Inaugural Gen Y Class:

Katie Beaulieu (43201), Marketing Manager, Tech Columbus. Beaulieu's community service interests are around women, girls and wellness. She earned a Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business.

Tasha Booker (43110), Learning Life Executive, Boy Scouts of America. Booker attended Franklin University where she earned a Bachelor's degree. She plans to one day manage a non-profit organization with an emphasis on education.

Melinda Campbell (43230), Attorney, Thompson Hine. Campbell holds a Bachelor's degree from Bowling Green University and a Law degree from The University of Toledo. She volunteers with the Court Appointed Special Advocates organization.

Miranda Fields (43204), Attorney, Hahn Loeser and Parks. Fields received a Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College and a Law degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. She was selected to receive the YWCA Bright Futures award her junior year of high school.

Wendy Foraker (43223), Social Worker, Heritage Day Health Center. Working with low-income older adults, Foraker provides her clientele with support so they feel empowered and confident in making their own choices. She received a Bachelor's degree from Capital University.

Lindsey Grant (43016), Marketing Director, Moody Nolan. Grant holds a Bachelor's degree from Ohio University. She is a volunteer with the Nationwide Children's Hospital Woody Hayes Golf Classic.

Elizabeth Hope, (43230), Program Assistant, Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine. As a mentor for two young girls, Hope seeks to be a positive role model for women in the community. She holds a Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University.

Trisha Kaighin (43230), Senior Human Resources Generalist, Limited Brands. Kaighin holds a Bachelor's degree from The Fisher College of Business at Ohio State. Her community service interests are outdoor activities, health and fitness, mentoring youth, the arts and coaching sports.

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Kelly Mulkoff (43215), Fiduciary Officer, National City Bank. Mulkoff is a volunteer with Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Ohio Reads Program. She attended Miami University for her Bachelor's degree and is currently pursuing a Law degree at Capital University.

Victoria Nunes (43230), Hispanic Initiatives Program Manager, Fifth Third Bank. Nunes' community service interests include financial stability and immigrant and minority healthcare. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Franklin University.

Kim Pope (43212), Recruiting Manager, Ray and Barney. Pope holds a Bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University. She volunteers with Junior Achievement and helps raise money and awareness for Leukemia.

Renata Ramsini (43016), Legislative Aide, Ohio Secretary of State's Office. Ramsini's community service interests are around voter education, eliminating poverty and women's health. She received a Bachelor's degree from Otterbein College.

Elisha Starkey (43215), Office Assistant, Office of the President, The Ohio State University. Starkey enjoys working with children, fundraising and mentoring. She received a Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University.

Miranda Terrill (43228), Account Coordinator, Murphy Epsom. Terrill holds a Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. Her community service interests are around causes related to women and children, animal rights, arts and culture.

Vanessa Van Atta (43209), Relationship Manager, United Way of Central Ohio. Van Atta is a coach for the Franklin County Special Olympics Team and volunteers with the Salvation Army food pantry. She holds a Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University.

Brittany Westbrook (43125), General Assignment Reporter, WBNS 10-TV. Westbrook received a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University. Her community service interests are around literacy, education and the empowerment of teenage girls.

The Gen Y Leadership Project runs from May 2008 to November 2009 and is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Chase.

People born between 1978 and 1989 make up Generation Y. According to *Time Magazine*, it is the largest growing segment of today's workforce.

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YWCA Columbus stands for women, hope and promise. Our mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. A proud part of the Central Ohio community since 1896, the YWCA speaks up and acts for women and families on a variety of economic, social and cultural issues. Information on our programs and events can be found at www.ywcacolumbus.org.