

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The YWCA is Celebrating Thanksgiving Early

FLUSHING, New York (November 25th) – YWCA of Queens board members and staff spent Tuesday morning preparing a grand Thanksgiving feast for over 100 seniors from our Y Evergreen program and youth and adults in our Education & Career Services department. Over 85% of YWCA students are at or below the 125% poverty line, making this Thanksgiving celebration a chance for the YWCA to give back to the community it serves.

The menu combined American traditional items like turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and pumpkin pie with Korean favorites like kimchi, jabchae, and jeon. **This celebration presented a rare opportunity for intergenerational dialogue as seniors and youth from diverse backgrounds ate, conversed, and gave thanks together.** Turkeys for the feast were donated by board member Suk Kyong Yoo. Mrs. Yoo donated one extra turkey which was raffled off to the student who knew the answer to our trivia question, “When was the YWCA founded?” The answer? 1978. **Student Vijitha Prathiban from YW’s computer training program won the turkey prize and commented, “I am so happy to win! There is so much food at this celebration and it is so good! It is such a rarity to have a celebration with so many different types of food so everyone can find something they like.”**

Executive Director Helen Kim said, “Our holiday feast gives the YWCA the opportunity to bring to our community the warmth of the holidays. We plan to carry out this tradition every year.”

Board President Christina Choi commented, “I’m so happy to give thanks this year by giving back to our students.”

Director of Development Stacy McKelvey said, “It was wonderful to listen to our youth students converse with our seniors. The holidays are about bringing people together and this feast gave us the chance to bring together young and elderly, board member and student, Korean immigrant with Hispanic immigrant. This type of intergenerational and interethnic dialogue is a key part of the YWCA’s mission.”

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About YWCA of Queens

The YWCA of Queens, founded in 1978, is a multi-tiered community organization with a wide range of education, career services, home health, and social services programs located at the center of one of the most diverse communities in the country. The YWCA of Queens’ mission is to eliminate racism and empower women through education and advocacy. Visit www.ywcaqueens.org for more information.

for every woman