

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jane Lee
Communications & Outreach Associate
(718) 353-4553 ext. 22
communications@ywcaqueens.org

YWCA of Queens Hosts Press Conference with YWCA USA CEO Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron on First Site Visit

FLUSHING, New York (February 27, 2014) –The YWCA of Queens, a leading not-for-profit community organization, **hosted a press conference with YWCA USA’s CEO Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron** on Thursday, February 27, 2014, to discuss how YWCA chapters are making an impact on local communities and on a national level. This was Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron’s **first visit to the Queens branch and her first meeting with The YWCA of Queens’ Executive Director Helen J. Kim**, Board of Directors, and staff.

During the press conference, Dr. Dara Richardson emphasized the key role of YWCAs around the country: **“The focus of the YWCA is to empower women and make sure they all achieve rightful access to the ‘American Dream’. This means growing young women into the leadership roles in our society.** We want to advocate for the rights of women and change the gender inequality we have in the country.” She also stressed her duty in **increasing the national awareness to the YWCA and its commitment to understanding importance of family and men in the community in advocating for women’s rights by providing a comprehensive platform of education, social services, healthcare, and career services programs to all individuals.**

Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron further highlighted the importance of local YWCA affiliations around the country: “What I like best about YWCA is that we provide services that meet women’s needs in their respective communities. We are not a one size fits all organization. It is critically important that we have a collective movement to serve all women and their families.”

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, also in attendance, spoke at the press conference: She stated “As the youngest woman in the legislature, hearing Dr. Dara speak was motivating and inspiring. She is a role model with a real focus on empowering woman. The YWCA of Queens is a special place like no other where young girls and women can congregate to build leadership skills.”

The YWCA of Queens Executive Director, **Helen J. Kim stated “It is a huge honor to have Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron stop by our location during her visit to New York. Her visibility and enthusiasm for the growth of local affiliations are pivotal in taking the YWCA to the next level.”** She also added, **“The YWCA of Queens serves one of the highest percentage of Asian community members in the country,** so it is wonderful to have Dara meet some of board members, staff, and program participants and understand the needs of our local community. I look forward to forging a long lasting and successful partnership with Dara and YWCA USA.”

About Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron and YWCA USA

Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron oversees the overall operations of the YWCA USA, one of the nation’s oldest and largest multicultural organization and has over 20 years of experience in the healthcare, corporate and nonprofit sector.

The YWCA is the voice for every woman. For over a century, the YWCA has spoken out and taken action on behalf of women and girls. The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Over 2 million people participate each year in YWCA

programs at more than 1,300 locations across the U.S. Worldwide, the YWCA serves more than 25 million women and girls in 125 countries.

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.

###

for every woman