

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca news release

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YWCA KALAMAZOO PRESENTS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SYMPOSIUM

For Immediate Release
August 10, 2016

KALAMAZOO, MI -

Join YWCA Kalamazoo on September 29, 2016, 8:30am – 4:00pm at WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine for The Interplay of Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Pre-registration and payment, \$55 per participant, is required for this event via <http://ywcakalamazoo.org/event/domestic-violence-mental-health-substance-abuse-symposium-keeping-our-families-safe/>. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. The intended audience includes medical and mental health professionals, social workers and other social service professionals, law enforcement professionals, attorneys and others who interact with people who experience or are affected by domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse. This symposium is approved for 6 CMEs or 6 Social Work of MCBAP CEUs.

Domestic Violence and trauma can happen to anyone, affecting the person harmed and their entire family. They may need support from a broad spectrum of health care providers and social service and legal agencies. You can help change the lives of victims and families by asking the right questions, responding appropriately and working with them to create comprehensive and effective treatment plans.

Grace Lubwama, YWCA Kalamazoo CEO stated, “[This is] a great opportunity for our partnership to offer trainings that will advance the best practices for practitioners in meeting the needs of individuals in Kalamazoo County, especially at their most vulnerable moments.”

A morning panel discussion, led by local and national experts representing medical and mental health care, social services and legal perspectives, will share best practices on working with people who experience or are affected by domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse. Afternoon skill building presented by David Mandel, MA, LPC of David Mandel & Associates will present the *Safe & Together Model* which will teach attendees how professionals and systems that support victims of domestic violence and trauma can adapt to develop victims’ strengths rather than penalize them for things beyond their control.

Additional event sponsors: Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health, and Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine.

For more information about this event, please contact Sherry Brockway at (269) 345-5595 or sbrockway@ywcakalamazoo.org.

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About the YWCA of Kalamazoo

The YWCA of the USA, of which the YWCA of Kalamazoo is a member Association, is the oldest, largest autonomous women's membership organization in the world. YWCA Kalamazoo is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA of Kalamazoo, the oldest Association in Michigan, was founded in 1885 and began as a residence service provider to young women who gravitated to the city to work in its factories. Today, the YWCA provides the only shelter, crisis intervention services and an array of post crisis shelter supportive housing options specifically designed and operating for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children; the only services of our kind for adult sexual assault survivors, including medical forensic exams in a non-hospital setting, supportive volunteers and counseling; one of very few licensed child care centers that both offers tuition assistance and accepts government subsidies; and services to the community-at-large, focusing on racial justice.

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