

The Rising Star

A Strong Foundation for the Future

On Wednesday, July 30th, 8 young women celebrated an important step in their journey to independence with their graduation from the Strong Foundations program. The program, from our Community Economic Development department, helps women move forward on the path to self-sufficiency with knowledge, resources, and workplace skills.

The celebration was well attended by county and city officials, family members, staff at WomenRising, and intern sites including Marist High School, Caritas Academy, Horizon Health Center, The Nurturing Place (York Street Project), The Urban League of Hudson County, Fairmount Housing Corp, and Bergen Communities United.



Deputy mayor Kabili Tayari spoke about his personal experiences with economic struggle

Speakers were very inspiring and included some very good advice to both graduates and attendees. One of the more memorable messages was “..don’t surround yourself with non-believers that say ‘you can’t do this! Instead surround yourself with people who believe you can do it and will support you on your way.”

As part of the ceremony, graduates read poetry and inspiring quotes, and one lovely woman even sang a heart-felt song! In addition, Strong Foundations alumnae spoke about how the program had changed their lives.

Congratulations to all of the graduates! We wish them much success as they continue on the road to self-sufficiency and empowerment.



Graduates pose proudly with their certificates along with Latania Cobb, Strong Foundations Coordinator, Hudson County Freeholder Jeffrey Dublin, Deputy Mayor Kabili Tayari, and William Bajor, Director of Community Economic Development at WomenRising



Deputy mayor Leona Beldini addresses the graduates

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It’s here already—back to school time! While many students aren’t looking forward to going back, it is a very stressful time for some parents as well— they do not know how they are going to get supplies and clothing for their children. You can help through our ‘Sponsor a Student’ program.



Children are not the only ones getting their ‘education on’. Eight young women just graduated from our Strong Foundations program and 20 women attended a free workshop on financial literacy and credit management. More details about all three of these programs and some tips to get your students to school safe and sound are in this month’s issue of The Rising Star.

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Sponsor a Student

We're looking for volunteers for our "stuff a backpack" project. Participants will assist children that may otherwise attend school without the proper items to assist in their educational achievements. The concept of our program is simple: volunteers will get a list from us and then purchase a backpack and fill it with the school supplies that child needs as well as a gift certificate for school clothing/uniform (store must be accessible by public transportation.) When you're finished you'll bring the backpack to our main offices at 270 Fairmount Ave. in Jersey City no later than September 2nd.

By ensuring that these children have the necessary school supplies, we can work together for the success of our children's education. You'll be investing in the future and give Hudson County's children the best possible opportunity at a good education.

Call An-D at 201/333-5700 ext 537 or write to akoenig@womenrising.org to volunteer today!



"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose."

-Helen Keller

Youth Entrepreneurs

The Youth Entrepreneur Program had another successful summer. The program, known as YEP, helps teens learn business and entrepreneurial skills. From July 10th to August 21st, the teens attended 7 weekly workshops.

They started their own micro-enterprises, chose business names and slogans, designed business cards, invested \$25 venture capital in merchandise, learned to market their goods at a trade fair and developed business plans. The participants each presented their business plan to a distinguished panel of judges from the community. Along the way, they increased their life skills, self-esteem, interest in academics, and hope for the future. Participants learned that they have options in life that are achievable. The teens had a great time and enjoyed themselves too thanks to the instructor, Earlene Greene.

We'd like to thank The United Way of Hudson County for providing the funds for the program. We also want to thank the panel of judges for their time and support. The judges included: Wendy Oliveras, founder & CEO of Oliveras & Company, Inc.; Josephine Cupo, Vice President at Bank of America at the Path Plaza Branch; and Ilene Singh, Job Developer for WomenRising's Community Partnerships in Hotel Employment (CPHE). In addition, thanks to Bank of America for opening their doors to the group and allowing us to hold our trade fair at their Path Plaza Branch. NJCU's Business Development Incubator welcomed YEP to their facility where the youth had the opportunity to meet and interview three entrepreneurs, Wendy Oliveras, Jim Foster and Jarrod Greene. And last, but not least, thanks to others that supported us along the way: Teen Enrichment Program and WomenRising staff, Reyna Burgos, Idalia Borges, Lisania Mejia, & Cecilia Peraza.



Judge Josephine Cupo, VP at Bank of America Path Plaza, speaks with participants about their business plans.



YEP Summer '08 Class Graduates

Me & My Money

WomenRising's Family Micro-loan Program, a financial education and micro loan program recently hosted volunteers for a special education/training session. Volunteers from Goldman Sachs's Community TeamWorks program presented the fiscal curriculum to 20 clients. The session, entitled "Me & My Money" was held in July. Goldman Sachs volunteers helped to train clients about financial and credit management. Attendees learned about their consumer rights and were surprised that they had some control over their credit situation. Both the volunteers and attendees were pleased with the event, and we are considering similar events in the future. For more information about WomenRising's Family Microloan Program, contact Angela Russo at 201/333-5700 ext 554.

Thanks to more Goldman Sachs Community TeamWorks volunteers, one of the affordable housing sites for Fairmount Housing Corp. was also beautified with cleanup, landscaping, and more.

Thanks!

An Evening of Fashion & Fun

Please join us on October 25th for an unforgettable evening as SEAM COLLECTIVE presents FENOMENON! an evening of fashion & music to benefit WomenRising. SEAM is an alliance dedicated to promoting and empowering female talent in the fashion industry. The exciting event will feature hot emerging [female fashion designers](#), live interactive photo shoots, DJ Jen Johnson, [Jenny Rocha and the Painted Ladies burlesque dancers](#), visual art, and more.



The event, at Canco Lofts in Jersey City, starts at 6pm with the Fashion Show beginning at 8pm. You can purchase tickets in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/38872 - \$20 for general admission or \$100 for VIP tickets (VIP tickets are limited!) General admission tickets can also be purchased at the door (cash only please) for \$25. VIP tickets include VIP seating and premium access to interactive photo shoots. Please RSVP here: www.seamcollective.com/rsvp2008.html to reserve your space.

Members of the press can register at www.seamcollective.com/pressregistration.html. Complimentary wine provided from 6-8pm by [Make Wine With Us](#). In addition, snacks and a cash bar will also be available.



[Canco Lofts](#) is located at 50 Dey Street, Jersey City, NJ. To get there by public transportation, take PATH train to Journal Square. A shuttle will be available to and from Journal Square PATH station. You can also [walk \(~12 min.\)](#) For more information call SEAM at 646/530-8310 or contact WomenRising at 201/333-5700 ext 537.

Sponsors Include:



Back to School Travel Safety Tips

The following safety tips are from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL:

By School Bus:

- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.
- Check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing.
- Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.



By Car:

- All passengers should wear a seat belt and/or an age- and size-appropriate car safety seat or booster seat.
- Your child should ride in a car safety seat with a harness as long as possible and then ride in a belt-positioning booster seat.
- Your child should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle's seat belt fits properly
- All children under 13 years of age should ride in the rear seat of vehicles.
- With a teen driver, always limit the number of teen passengers to prevent driver distraction.

By Bike

- Always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride.
- Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals.
- Know the "rules of the road", respect traffic lights and stop signs.

Walking to School

- Make sure your child's walk is a safe route with well-trained adult crossing guards at every intersection.
- Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Because small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic, carefully consider whether or not your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision.

Shop for a Cause

WomenRising is selling tickets to a unique one-day-only shopping event on Saturday, September 20th all day (9am to 10pm) at all Macy's locations. "Macy's Shop for a Cause Day" tickets are only \$5 each. Every dollar from the ticket sales goes directly to WomenRising. You can get some back-to-school items or splurge on that item you've been wanting knowing you're helping WomenRising in the process!

By purchasing a shopping pass to the event, you'll support WomenRising while enjoying a day of discounts*, entertainment, special events, and thousands of dollars worth of prizes including a chance to win a \$500 shopping spree.

This exclusive shopping pass includes:

* **20% off regular, sale & clearance**

- women's, men's & kids' apparel & accessories
- fine, bridge & fashion jewelry
- bed & bath items
- housewares
- frames
- luggage
- china
- crystal
- silver
- kitchen & personal care electrics
- technology items

* **10% off regular, sale & clearance**

- furniture
- mattresses
- rugs



A few exclusions apply, but the savings are great.

You can purchase tickets by calling 201/333-5700 ext 537 or you can order them online at <http://shopforwomenrising.notlong.com/> (2 tickets/ \$10 minimum- just make sure to include the address you want them sent to in the comments section if it's different from your billing address!)

If you can't make it on September 20th? No worries– at the Jersey City Macy's (Newport Centre) you can reserve your merchandise and pick up at your convenience! Merchandise can be reserved using your Shop for a Cause discount card any time after September 7th and picked up any time between September 20th and September 25th.

Our Wishlist

WomenRising has a regular need for items to be donated. Please consider making a donation from the following list. In addition, we've registered an [official wishlist with Target.com](#) here: Next time you're shopping online, pop on over and look at [our list](#) (don't forget that by going through [igive.com](#) you can help us twice with your purchase!)

Here's our list:

- Cell phones & batteries (used)
- Laundry detergent (sealed)
- Pillows (new)
- School Supplies & Backpacks*
- Sheet sets (new)
- Shower Curtains (new)

**new to list*

Please consider making a donation and please make sure to call 201/333-5700 ext 537 to schedule an appointment before dropping items off.

Unfortunately, we cannot pick up items. We also need a volunteer with a truck to donate their time and service to help us get larger items that our clients need from time to time. All donations are tax-deductible. We will be able to provide you with a receipt for this purpose. For more information or to volunteer your time or vehicle, call 201/333-5700 ext 537.

Mark Your Calendars

Here's what's coming up at WomenRising Inc:

BCU (Bergen Communities United) Community Fair

Saturday, September 6th, 11-4

St. Peter's Parking Lot (across from Armory)

For more info or to reserve a space: 201/333-5700 x550

Macy's Shop for a Cause to Benefit WomenRising

Saturday, September 20th

Save 10%- 20% at any Macy's store

Tickets: \$5- for info or to purchase call 201/333-5700 ext 537

Kearney Domestic Violence Response Team Walk-A-thon

Sunday, October 5th

For more information: Margaret 201/333-5700 ext 544

SEAM Presents: An Evening of Fashion to benefit WomenRising

October 25th from 6pm-1am

Canco Lofts, Jersey City

For more information: <http://www.seamcollective.com/details2008.html>



Visit our website at www.womenrising.org.

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