

Thanksgiving is a time each year when we come together and give thanks for what we have and what we were able to accomplish during the past year. It is a time to reflect and be thankful. It is also a time to give back to those in our community who are in need and less fortunate. In the spirit of giving, the YWCA Yonkers (<https://www.ywcayonkers.org>), Tashara Simmons, Freedom of Truth (<https://audioboom.com/channel/freedom-of-truth>) and special celebrity guests, are teaming up to host a Thanksgiving Community Banquet for those in need.

According to the Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey, in Yonkers, 23% of households earn less than \$25,000 per year. Charlie Knight, Executive Director - Yonkers, YWCA advised that "While many of us are blessed to feast and celebrate with our families and loved ones throughout the holiday season. We cannot forget that this season presents a challenge for those that are not as fortunate. Our Thanksgiving banquet welcomes those within our community that are facing hardships in hopes that if even for a few hours we can help to alleviate the burden of having a sit-down family style, Thanksgiving Feast with all of the trimmings, thanks to contributions from our local restaurants and volunteers".

YWCA, Yonkers offers supportive services to women. For over a century, the organization has served and taken action on behalf of women and girls. The organization is a mission driven, multicultural, and ethnically diverse organization, that currently offers an empowerment program designed to help low-income individuals achieve self-sufficiency, a one-stop childcare center for children of all ages, as well as housing and support services for women, youth, and seniors. With programs that accommodate every age group, the organization's "cradle to grave" services strengthen everyone served, while also impacting the community at large.

The Thanksgiving Community Banquet will be held on Wednesday, November 21, 2018 from 2:00pm ET - 6:00pm ET onsite at the Yonkers, YWCA 87 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10701. The event will include entertainment and appearances by Comedian Travon Dowdy, Dj Stephcakes, Andre (Doctor Dre) Brown, Gerald Austin of the Manhattans and Grammy Award winning composer William Goldstein. "I have always believed that giving back is a responsibility. I grew up in Yonkers, I know many of the families that live here and consider them to be extended family members. I welcome all to come out and enjoy a great meal accompanied with live entertainment. I know that we are going to have a great time enjoying the

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atmosphere, conversing, and reflecting on our blessings whether large or small” says Tashera Simmons, Freedom of Truth.

Freedom of Truth, by Tashera Simmons, is a new online destination for highlights on some of the world’s most interesting people with incredible stories. We hope the audience will leave with something that will live with them forever. The primary goal is to educate and encourage the people who contribute in making an impact and changing the world for the better. “Life has taught me that we cannot assume who is informed and not. Information is powerful, and I truly believe that when people know better, they do better. My intention is to bring about more awareness and education on the topic so that those that may be victims, understand that there are supportive services in place for them if help is needed” says Tashera Simmons.

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