National Board
YWCA of the U.S.A.

600 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

- CAROLINE -- On her 54th birthday -- after 37 years of marriage -- her husband walked out of her life. Suddenly she was alone, without sufficient funds and without any employable skills. Desperate, she turned to the YWCA where she found counselling, job training and the support of other "displaced homemakers."

- ANGELA -- Now 17 and a school drop-out, Angela realizes that being a single parent is no fun and that welfare payments guarantee little more than survival. She is studying electronics repair at the YWCA, where she learned parenting and family planning while pregnant. The YWCA will help provide her with the skills to find a job and offer day-care for her son.

- SUSAN -- On her way home from work, she was raped at gun-point. The police and hospital attendants implied that she had encouraged her assailant. At her local YWCA, Susan is getting crisis counselling and working with other rape victims to change public attitudes and prevent further violence.

- ADYA -- In her village in India girls marry at 15 and start an endless cycle of childbearing and hard labor in the fields and at home. Adya is enrolled in the YWCA School of Social Work in Delhi for she wants to help her countrywomen break out of poverty and improve their low status.

Dear Friend,

Millions of women and girls, here and abroad, come to the YWCA for vocational training, crisis counselling, adult education, personal development and recreation. Women from all backgrounds and with widely varying interests and needs -- runaway girls, battered women, shut-ins, the mentally ill, pregnant adolescents, women who have had breast surgery, senior citizens, ex-offenders, women executives and women on welfare, women of every religion and race have been coming to the YWCA for 124 years -- because more than any other organization we are responsive to women's needs. And we are particularly responsive to the needs of minority women -- so that they can move into the mainstream of American life and overcome their double burden of racism and sexism.

Just as the National Board, YWCA pioneered in race relations, improving working conditions for women and children, slum clearance, safeguarding the rights of domestic workers, we are now in the forefront of the fight for ERA, freedom of choice, equal pay for comparable work, day-care, non-traditional employment for women. We are in the forefront of the fight to solve problems women and girls face today as workers, consumers, homemakers, heads of households, as wives, mothers and daughters.

(over, please)