

**20th Annual Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism:
Sept. 16, 2016
YWCA, 304 N. 8th Street, St. Joseph, Mo.**

The 20th Annual “Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism,” cosponsored by the NAACP and YWCA, was held on September 16, 2016 at the YWCA St. Joseph. Over 75 attended the breakfast event. Loes Hedge served as the emcee for the event, and Rev. Dr. Bill Hedge gave the opening prayer. Mayor Bill Falkner read a special proclamation and Jeannette James told the history of the Kelsy Beshears Racial Justice Award.

Students from the Central High School Diversity Student Union and children from the St. Francis Baptist Temple participated with the program.

Charles Triplett, president of NAACP, gave out community service awards to: Clarence Green, Chief of Police, Northwest Missouri State University; Latoya Fitzpatrick, Multicultural Education Center at Missouri Western State University; and the Missouri Highway Patrol, Troop H.

Jason Grayson, human resources manager at Tyson Foods, Inc. served as the guest speaker. Kimberly Chilton, senior nursing student at MWSU, received a \$1,000 Kelsy Beshears Scholarship.

There were six nominees for the Kelsy Beshears Racial Justice Award. In alphabetical order, they were: Chief Chris Connally, Shelia and Kenzie Gilbert, Richard Lewin, Joyce Starr, Mike Veale, and Kimberly Warren. The 2016 Kelsy Beshears Racial Justice Award was presented to Chief Chris Connally.

The program ended with the audience reciting a pledge against racism and the singing of “God Bless America” led by Merlynn Hughes.

For more information, contact Ellen Kisker at the YWCA, 232-4481.