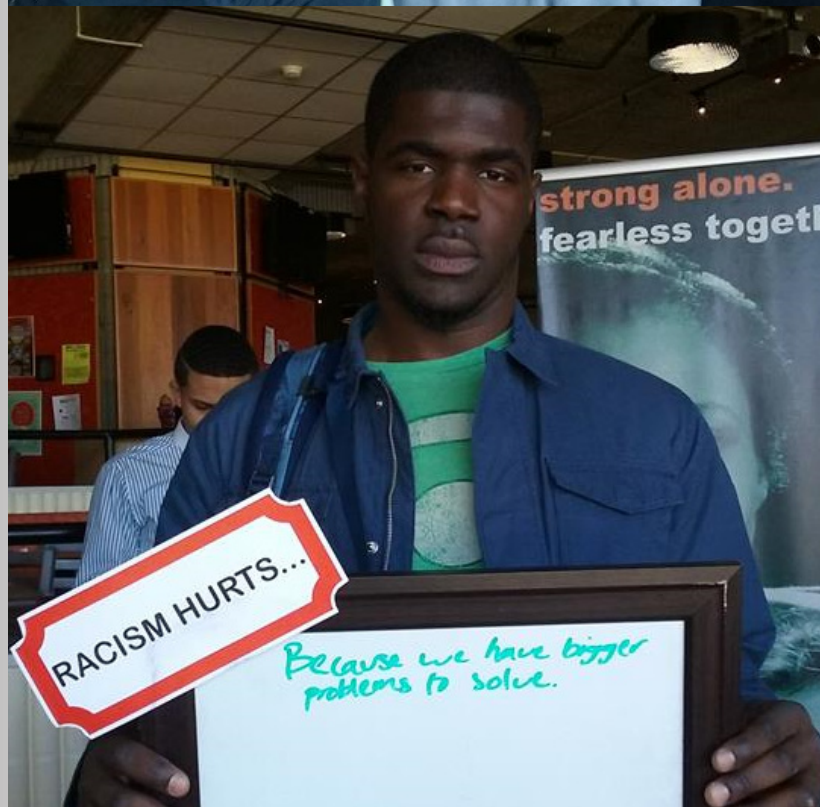


**YWCA** is on a **MISSION**

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

southeastern  
massachusetts



**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# OUR MISSION

**YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.**



**eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca**



# A Message From Our Leaders



YWCA Southeastern MA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice freedom and dignity for all. We stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. YWCAs have been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements for more than 150 years-from voting rights to civil rights, from affordable housing to pay equity, from violence prevention to health care reform. Today, we combine programming and advocacy in order to generate institutional change in three key areas: racial justice and civil rights, empowerment and economic advancement of women and girls, and health and safety of women and girls. Our work is more important than ever with our changing climate and landscape. The YWCA is here for people of all races, ethnicities, immigrant status, ages, sexual orientations, genders, income, gender identity, disability, education level and religion. We need your

support to continue our advocacy efforts to better the lives of women, children and families in our community. We *must* and *will* continue to eliminate racism and empower women. Our work has only just begun.

This has been a year of great change and transition at our YWCA. After a year of financial constraints, we made the strategic decision to close Another Woman's Place program in preparation for our new building addition. The transition was seamless, as two women moved to our other housing program, A Woman's Place and three women successfully moved to their own apartment, with assistance from the New Bedford Housing Authority. No women were displaced during the process. We will reopen Another Woman's Place in the building addition once complete. In addition, YWkids moved from our leased space on Merrimac Street to our new temporary home at the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in New Bedford. We are grateful to New Bedford Public Schools for housing our program while we complete the building addition. These changes helped strengthen our financial viability and sustainability as we prepare for breaking ground in the coming year.

In order to make our building addition more efficient and economical the YWCA engaged the consulting services of the Women's Institute of Housing and Economic Development to assist us in the development and funding for this project. We also hired Davis Square Architects to redesign our architectural plans for our building addition to make it more cost effective. The revised plans include a smaller two - story building, as well as, utilization of the Standish House lower level to accommodate our programming needs. The revised plans are in this annual report. We are very pleased with the new design. We cannot

wait to have all our services "Under One Roof!"

I could not have made it through this year without my supportive board and staff. I am so fortunate to work with an amazing group of dedicated YWCA Women and Men. I am truly lucky and am constantly amazed at their love passion for our organization. As I complete my 10th year as Executive Director, I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity and honor to lead this YWCA. I hope you will continue to work with us as we advocate for Justice, Equity, Equality and Fairness for all.

On behalf of the YWCA Board and Staff, I would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing support it has been a long road, but we are almost there.

Sincerely,

*Gail M. Fortes*

Gail M. Fortes  
Executive Director



**New Bedford's Woman  
of the Year 2015**



# Eliminating Racism Empowering Women



Dear Friends,

As I enter my eight year as a YWCA Southeastern MA Board member, and now Chair, I continue to be impressed and humbled by the work we do as an organization. The YWCA works tirelessly to eliminate racism and empower women. We now have a clear picture of the leadership in our country and we need to act. As an organization, we must support our community in not accepting the inevitable but demanding proper treatment for ALL. Now, more than ever, our community needs us.

This past year, the board with guidance of Gail and her staff, developed a new three-year strategic plan that addresses our organizational challenges. Branding, Development and Programming are the main focus of the strategic plan. We have made strides in each of these categories but we continue to raise the bar to better

serve the organization and community. Our Under One Roof campaign has seen much needed revision to make this venture possible. This process continues to be difficult and fraught with challenges. We have not wavered our resolve. As each challenge is presented, the board and Gail find creative solutions to maintain steady progress toward breaking ground. Funding remains a challenge. Again, as a team we will work through this challenge as we have so many before. This is the year to finalize our funding plan. We will break ground. I have faith in our board, staff and naturally our executive director, Gail Fortes in meeting this challenge.

I am proud to continue as the chair for one more year (That is what Gail claims!) I have had an eight-year run on a board that has taught me so much. As an educator, I recognize the importance of individual growth. Every meeting, discussion and decision is an opportunity to learn by some of the finest mentors/teachers of our community. I thank all of you for this opportunity to continue my work with the YWCA.

It is during these troubling times when our community most needs us. The YWCA SEMA, will continue its work to **eliminate racism and empower women, promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all!** I thank you all for your faith and support of our organization.

Lena Pires  
President



Women's Advocacy Day  
2016



International  
Women's Day  
2016

YWCA  
is  
on a  
Mission

# Income and Expenses

YWCA Southeastern MA FY'2016  
audited figures completed 11/8/16  
by Clifton, Larson and Allen  
Income and Expenses



REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	Total
Contributions, Gifts, Legacies, Bequests & Special Events	\$96,799	\$11, 215	\$108, 014
Grants	\$196, 004	\$52,158	\$248,162
Program Service Fees	\$458,355	0	\$458,355
United Way	\$45,000	0	\$45,000
Investment Revenue	(\$6,308)	0	(\$6,308)
Other Revenue	\$17,158	0	\$17,158
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$280,776	(\$280,776)	\$0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,087,784</b>	<b>(\$217,403)</b>	<b>\$870, 381</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administration (Management & General)	\$185,699	0	\$185,699
Fundraising	\$87,673	0	\$87,673
Total Program Services	\$708,510	0	\$708,510
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$981,882</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$981,882</b>
<b>EXCESS (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$105,902</b>	<b>(\$217,403)</b>	<b>(\$111,501)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,036,035</b>	<b>\$671,889</b>	<b>\$1,848,800</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,141,937</b>	<b>\$454,486</b>	<b>\$1,737,299</b>

The Difference is in the “W”

# Balance Sheet

YWCA Southeastern MA FY'2016  
audited figures completed 11/8/16  
by Clifton, Larson and Allen  
Balance Sheet



<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$60,374
Accounts Recievable-Programs and Services	\$46,657
Contributions Recievable	\$34,984
Prepaid Expenses	\$3,287
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$145,302</b>
Land, Buildings and Equipment	\$1,950,503
Accumulated Depreciation	(\$452,635)
Net Land, Buildings and Equipment	\$1,497,868
Long-Term Investments	\$226,232
Other Assets	<b>\$579, 610</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,460,267</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$84,522
Accrued Expenses	\$27,809
Current Notes Payable	\$203,382
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$315,713</b>
Long Term Liabilities	\$396,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$711,713</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted	\$1,141,937
Temporarily Restricted	\$454,486
Permanently Restricted	\$140,876
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,737,299</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,449,012</b>



# Capital Campaign

## Under One Roof



The YWCA embarked on a three-part capital building project several years ago to renovate our administrative office and bring all of our programs and services “Under One Roof.” We are now in the third and final phase of this project, which will add an addition to this building that will make the offices handicap accessible and also will relocate two YWCA programs: Another Women’s Place Residential Program for low-income women age 18 and over and YWKids School Age Child Care Program for children ages 5-13.

The YWCA has engaged the consulting services of the Women’s Institute of Housing and Economic Development to assist us in the development and funding for this project. We have also hired Davis Square Architects to redesign our architectural plans for our building addition to make it more cost effective. The revised plans include a smaller two-story building, as well as, utilization of the Standish House lower level to accommodate our programming needs.

YWKids will be housed on the first floor of the addition. This new center will increase staff and child interaction, and produce higher educational and skill development outcomes. The YWCA will also remodel the lower level of the Standish House to provide additional classroom and office space for YWKids. The new location will be carefully and specifically designed for age-appropriate educational activities for as many as 50 children, ages 5-13. YWKids recently moved from our leased space on Merrimac Street to our new temporary home at the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in New Bedford.

The second floor of the addition will be the new home of Another Woman’s Place; eight single-occupancy rooms of permanent supportive housing for low-income women age 18 and over. There is no time limit for women in residence. Our longest resident has lived with us for 5 years. All women in the program have a project based voucher through the New Bedford Housing Authority.

***Please contact Gail Fortes for a full list of Naming Opportunities and help us conclude our Under One Roof campaign. Thank you!***



# Under One Roof



The second floor of the addition will be the new home of Another Woman's Place; eight single-occupancy rooms of permanent supportive housing for low-income women age 18 and over. There is no time limit for women in residence. Our longest resident has lived with us for 5 years. All women in the program have a project based voucher through the New Bedford Housing Authority.

We are very excited to report that the City of New Bedford planning and zoning departments were supportive of the building project, voting unanimously after just one meeting to approve the plans. The chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals even delayed the vote to say how important the project was to the City of New Bedford and how pleased he was that we had received zoning approval. The project has also received approval from the Massachusetts Historic Commission for its architectural plans.

**We anticipate a groundbreaking in fall 2017 with occupancy in winter 2019.**



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## Capital Campaign

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Association for the Relief of Aged Women

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Special thanks to the individuals, businesses and foundations which enable the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts to advance its mission through their generous financial support. This list reflects donations received between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. We apologize for misspelling or omitting the name of anyone who made a gift during the fiscal year.

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Archie's General Contracting  
Lena Pires  
Susan Coasta  
Toni Texeira  
Maureen Syllvia  
Mary Zane



Unsung Heroine  
Awards 2016



Women of Distinction-Awards 2016



Leading Ladies 2016

# Strategic Plan

**YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts  
Strategic Plan Final Report  
January 2013 – December 2015**

## **Strategic Goal 1: Stability and Excellence**

***Ensure administrative, operational and fiscal infrastructure that supports accessibility, stability and excellence.***

### **Accomplishments:**

1. Hired part-time fund development associate, established Development Committee, and implemented development plan.
2. Hired Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development to serve as the capital project consultant. Hired Davis Square Architects to serve as new architects on the project. Changed design of building addition to 2 floors and utilized space in Standish House for YWkids.
3. Revised building plans approved by city of New Bedford zoning and planning boards and Mass Historic Commission.
4. Established Governance Committee.
5. Implemented consent agenda at Board Meetings.
6. Restructured board meetings to focus less on daily operations and more on visionary and strategic thinking, public policy, advocacy and public policy creating a culture of strategic thinking and conversation.
7. Created a succession plan for Board Members and Board Leadership.
8. Created job descriptions and orientation for all volunteers.
9. Utilized technology applications, social media and other web-based programming to share program news and opportunities for learning.

## **Strategic Goal 2: Identity and Brand**

***Promote a consistent and distinguished YWCA corporate identity, brand, mission, programs and services.***

### **Accomplishments:**

1. Realigned current staff configuration to create a part-time position focused solely on communications.
2. Revamped and revitalized Board and Staff orientation.
3. Included program presentation at Board and Staff Meetings.
4. Trained and educated staff, board, and volunteers to conduct presentations and to effectively network within community to represent the YWCA.
5. Increased diversity and language of materials through the use of multi-media and positive visual presentations. Presentations and materials are available in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Join the **Movement**



# Strategic Plan

## Strategic Goal 3: Programs and Services

*Enhance and expand programs and services to meet the critical and emerging needs of women, children and families in our communities.*

### Accomplishments:

1. Reviewed current programming for relevancy and vitality.
2. Closed Medical Transportation Program and Another Woman's Place.
3. Moved YWkids Program to the Abraham Elementary School.
4. Restructured departments to four concentrated areas: Health and Wellness, Residential Services, Youth Services and Adult Services.
5. Realigned current staff configuration to create a part-time position focused solely on Leading Ladies.
6. Established a professional development program for staff and volunteers.
7. Established two additional Girls Exclusive Programs in New Bedford Public Schools. Began partnership with Juvenile Court Systems to establish a Girls Program at the YWCA.
8. Trained volunteers to conduct Racial Justice Workshops.



# Programs and Services

The YWCA is the Voice for every woman. For over a century, the YWCA has spoken out and taken action on behalf of women and girls. To accomplished these goals, the YWCA provides a wide range of services and programs in four areas: Adult Services, Youth Services, Health and Wellness and Residential Services. This year over 4,000 women, children and families participated in YWCA programs.

## **ADULT SERVICES:**

“Widowed Person’s Program” is the area’s only series of support groups for persons who are newly widowed in Greater New Bedford. Needs are met through social activities and support group services, facilitated by trained volunteers

The facilitated Racial Justice Programs are workshops, presentations and trainings on racism, white privilege and cultural competency.

The YWCA offers financial literacy training and financial planning workshops.

The YWCA “Clothline Project” demonstrates the emotions generated by acts of violence against women and girls. The project is taken to host sites and staffed by the YWCA with T-shirts provided for those willing to express feelings graphically and the shirts

Leading Ladies is an initiative of the YWCA which provides networking and leadership development opportunities for young women between the ages of 18 and 30.

## **HEALTH and WELLNESS:**

“Women’s Health” focuses on outreach and education to women in our entire service area with presentations on breast, cervical and colon cancer, cardiovascular health, smoke cessation, diabetes, nutrition workshops and other issues related to women. YWCA Community Health Workers provide these presentations in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Services are focused on low-income, uninsured and underinsured women over age 40. The program also provides transportation, translation, accompaniment and support services.

## **RESIDENTIAL SERVICES:**

This is a series of services for women changing the direction of their lives through YWCA housing at: “A Woman’s Place” a residential services program that provide safe, secure, housing for low income women on their own.

## **YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM:**

The “YWKids School Childcare” Program has provided services since 1988 and is licensed by the Massachusetts Office of Early

for the program features art, science, physical education, literature with projects that lead children through creative discovery in individual, partnered and group experiences.

Girls Exclusive is a program that focuses on leadership development activities for middle school girls. Program aspects include community service, nutrition, leadership development, financial literacy, and racial justice.

“Mayor’s Youth Council,” is a teen advisory group that meets to provide input on mayor on issues of concern to their age group, attend civic functions, meet with representatives of city government to get and give perspective on community activities.



**Stand Against Racism  
UMASS Dartmouth, 2016**



# Testimonials

## your support helps everywoman

### Widowed Persons Program

*A Life is Lost.....But Love Never Ends*

When my husband passed away I was in shock. I had no idea his end was near. We did everything together....from grocery shopping to doctor's visit, etc. He was my "buddy." I thought my life would come to an end...yet I knew it wouldn't. I was so depressed, unable to face reality and no one seemed to understand what I was going through. I heard about the Widow's Group and decided I would try it. I walked in alone - - - but that did not last too long. Everyone was so friendly and each one spoke before giving me the confidence to say, with tear filled eyes, just how I felt. After leaving that morning I felt a weight had been taken off my back. I was looking forward to the next meeting, wishing it would be the next day. Just being in the company of those who have gone through the loss and how they came out of it was so gratifying. I would highly suggest to anyone who is "missing" their loved one to join the group. Only those who have gone through it truly understand what we are going through.

**We will be together again when the time comes.**

*Absent From the Body, Present With the Lord*

Submitted By: Terry Silva

### Health and Wellness

I met Carolina a year and a half ago through our diabetes management program. She was pregnant and is a type 2 diabetic. I helped Carolina to manage her diabetes during her pregnancy and I continue to work with her now. I visited her two weeks ago and found out that she had no food in the house. I brought her to the food pantry in Wareham and New Bedford. Even though Carolina's son is a U.S. Citizen she does not want to apply for food stamps due to her immigration status. I finally convinced her to apply for it. She would not be able to get help for herself, but she will be able to get help for her son and put food on the table.

-Valentina Martinez, YWCA Community Health Worker



Widowed Persons Program



Sister 2 Sister Conference 2016

# Testimonials

## Residential Program

"The YWCA Woman's Residential Program has been **a godsend for countless women**, I being one of them. It provides a safe environment for women to regain their self-esteem and self-confidence and the skills needed to move forward. I will always be thankful to the YWCA for that." - Joanne Polk

My name is Mounique Botelho and I am a resident at the YWCA!!! Since I have been here at the YWCA **I see nothing but hope for my future!!!** I have been able to learn how to become a member of society again!!! How to go to work everyday and pay my rent and bills!!! And also how to show respect for other people's space!! I have learned that there are many opportunities for women like me out there as long as you are willing to put forth the effort!! I have learned many other things also that I could go on and on!! The staff here has been very helpful with teaching us different resources in the area and how to go about them!! My life is second to none right now and it's with help of 1st my higher power, family, friends and my living situation here at the YWCA!!! I am so thankful and grateful today!!! - Mounique Botelho

## Girls Exclusive

"I like all of the field trips we go on and how **nobody is left out of anything**. My favorite field trip is Lazer Gate and Olive Garden and Water Wizz." - Girls Exclusive **Summer 2016 Participant**

"My favorite memory at Girls Exclusive is making new friends. Another good memory is the waterslide. **We all had lots of fun!**"  
-Angolique, Girls Exclusive **Summer 2016 Participant**

## YWkids

"I like to do crafts and use the gym"

- **YWkids participant**

"It's alot of work, but its worth it when they hug you or when they complete a project and show it off."

- **YWkids Program Manager, Tracy Saloman**



**I AM**  
*Caring*  
Compassionate  
Community Oriented

**YWMAN**  
eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**

**Neal Weiss, Business Manager**



## Leading Ladies

Leading Ladies has given me an empowerment to feel as though I can be a strong woman in my community. While I am still learning the role and improving my civil engagement strategies with the group, my community outreach has become stronger and has developed a higher self confidence level. It is a growing group of women who enjoy encouraging each other as well as getting involved with the community

- Sara Borden



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## ywca board of directors | ywca staff

President  
Lena Pires

Vice President  
Dr. Juli Parker

Treasurer  
Maria Pinarreta

Assistant Treasurer  
Tanya Alves

Clerk  
Ashley Bendiksen

Carmen Aguilar  
Melissa Costa, LICSW  
Cyndi Colson  
Kristina da Fonseca, Esq.  
Jane Gonsalves  
Elizabeth Leiwant  
Leanne Fisher-Ross

Ex-Officio  
Gail M. Fortes

**Gail M. Fortes**  
**Catherine Bourassa**

### **administrative services:**

Lisa Rogers  
Jack Davis  
Annamarie Lopes

### **youth services:**

Tracey Saloman  
Natasha Furtado  
Kelsey Barrett  
Shelby Barrett  
Shelby Friedland  
Stormi Monteiro  
Arielle Gomes-Williams

### **ywca health & wellness:**

Valentina Martinez  
Ana Silva

### **adult services:**

Linda Rose  
Stormi Monteiro

### **residential services:**

Annamarie Lopes  
Liz Lozado

**Executive Director**  
**Director of Programs and Services**

Director of Finance  
Facilities Manager  
Administrative Assistant

YWkids Program Manager  
YWkids Group Leader  
YWkids Group Leader  
Girls Exclusive Instructor  
Girls Exclusive Instructor  
Girls Exclusive Instructor  
Girls Exclusive Instructor

Community Health Worker  
Community Health Worker

Widowed Persons Director  
Leading Ladies Coordinator

Residential Assistant  
Residential Assistant

**eliminating racism**  
**empowering women**  
**ywca**

20 South Sixth Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740



To learn more about the YWCA Southeastern MA, call: 508-999-3255,  
go to: [www.ywcasema.org](http://www.ywcasema.org) or scan to connect to our social media links. ►►

