

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

southeastern massachusetts

# YWCA IS ON A MISSION



## Annual Report

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



# Our Mission

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



**eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca**





*“The only way to combat racism, bias, and hate, is with patience, understanding, collaboration, inclusiveness, love, peace, and hope. Together, we can eliminate racism and empower women.”-Gail Fortes*

Dear Friends,

AT LAST! We FINALLY received the remaining funding needed to complete our Under One Roof Capital Project. Thank you for your continued patience and unwavering support to make our dream a reality. This year, funding from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, Early Education and Care Out of School Time Fund, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of New Bedford, provided us with funds needed to close the gap and finish this much needed project. We have assembled a strong committed team comprised of the Women's Institute of Housing and Economic Development, Davis Square Architects, Fishbone Project Management and our contractor SouthCoast Improvement Company. We eagerly anticipate our ground breaking in 2018 and hope to be in our new building in 2019.

YWCA IS ON A MISSION to eliminate racism and empower women. We are working to advance our Mission all day, every day. The only way to combat racism, bias, and hate, is with patience, understanding, collaboration, inclusiveness, love, peace, and hope. Together, we can work to eliminate racism and empower women because the difference is in the “W.” The time is now and we need everyone's help to make this happen. Our voices must be heard and we cannot back down. The YWCA is here, standing up for women, girls and people of color, as we have always done and will always do.

I would like to thank the YWCA Board, Staff, Volunteers, Supporters, Advocates, Donors and Participants for their support of the YWCA. No matter what challenges and barriers appear before us we continue to persevere. We could not have accomplished all that we have this year without you!

Lastly, I want to thank our outgoing Board President Lena Pires for her strategic-thinking, outstanding leadership, commitment, patience, and dedication. You have laid the ground work for our new building and I truly thank you for your support and guidance. I am also very excited to begin our new journey with incoming Board President Dr. Juli Parker. I know that we will accomplish great things over the next few years as we implement plans to expand service provision to other communities in southeastern Massachusetts.

As always, I am grateful to be a part of this amazing community and happy to serve as your Executive Director. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

*Gail M. Fortes*



Dear Friends,

My time serving as a YWCA board member is coming to a close. I am an educator and I LOVE to teach. The work I have done with the YWCA has expanded my knowledge set from math and science to now include social justice. By no means am I an expert in racism or social justice, but I know now I have my sisters who can help me through struggles I may encounter. The YWCA prides itself in empowering women and looks to needs of the surrounding community to best serve them.

I have seen tremendous growth in my awareness surrounding racism, but still have so much to learn. The stories, resources, and conversation surrounding racism have helped me to recognize the struggles of my students, families and neighbors. This past year our country has seen so much hate and malcontent with politics and the media. The YWCA must continue their efforts to engage our youth and community in further discussion and education to counter this hate filled rhetoric.

On a lighter note, we will be breaking ground within the year! Our Capital Campaign project is in the final stages. We have gone to bid and selected our contractors for the Under One Roof Project. Gail and the Board will be tying some loose ends and breaking ground no later than Spring 2018. The Board, staff and community have perservered through their support and hardwork in this project and will finally see the fruits of their labor.

It has been my honor to serve the YWCA SEMA as Board Chair. I started on this board watching and learning from this strong group of women. Gail and the board identified in me the potential to take it to the next level. Honestly, I did not think I was ready. Over the years, I have grown as a leader. I have learned to listen, question, and at times fight for what I believe is right. This has been a bittersweet year. Knowing my term is coming to an end, yet excited for the project's final stages to begin. My time on this board will be cherished and never forgotten.

I would be remiss in not taking a moment to honor Gail Fortes and her work for our board. Many of you know this; she is the heart and soul of this organization. She has been a consistent presence within our community and a role model for all. I have watched her this year and seen that look in her eye. Her single minded focus is to maintain the integrity of our organization and she has done that. The Capital Campaign Project will be successful because of all Gail's hardwork. Gail, you inspire me and I am grateful for my time working beside you.

I am thrilled to welcome this role, current Board Vice-Chair, Juli Parker. A 5-year member of the board that brings a skill set needed to expand our programming. Juli will see the Under One Roof project to its completion and will soon look to see how we can reach more communities with the wonderful work we do. I look forward to seeing the energy and focus she will bring to the board.

I thank you for unwavering support through the years, and I hope you will continue to stand with us in our efforts to eliminate racism and empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

- Lena Pires,  
Board Chair

# Income and Expenses

**YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts FY' 2017**  
**Audited figures completed 10/23/17 by Clifton, Larson and Allen**

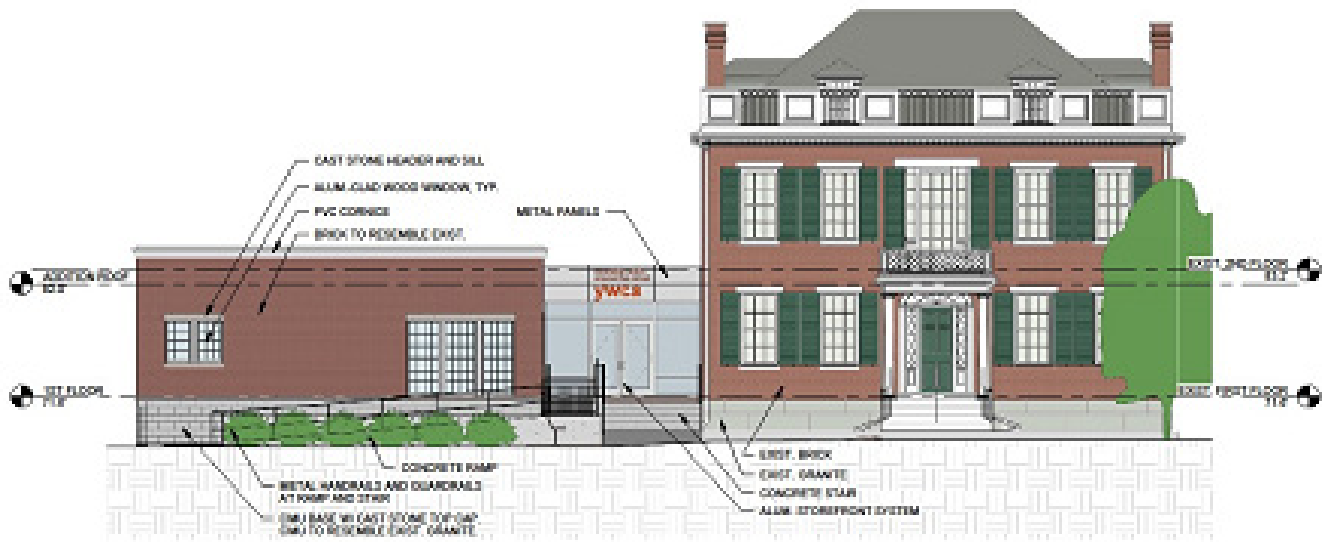
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
Contributions, Gifts Legacies, Bequests & Special Events	82, 251	7,865	90, 116
Grants	722,753	94,000	816,753
Program Service Fees	398,816	0	398,816
United Way	40,000	0	40,000
Investment Revenue	14,674	0	14,674
Other Revenue	2,828	0	2,828
Net Assets Released from Restriction	45,032	(45,032)	0
Satisfaction of Equipment Acquisition Restrictions	60,698	(60,698)	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	1,367,052	( 3,865)	1,363,187
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration (Management & General)	181,168	0	181,168
Fundraising	73,172	0	73,172
Total Program Services	621,307	0	621,307
<b>Total Expenses</b>	875,647	0	875,647
<b>TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	491,405	(3,865)	487,540
<b>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	1,141,937	454,486	1,737,299
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	1,633,342	450,621  140,876 permanently restricted	2,224,839

# Balance Sheet

**YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts FY' 2017**  
**Audited figures completed 10/23/17 by Clifton, Larson and Allen**

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	46,242
Accounts Receivable-Programs and Services	43,008
Net Accounts Receivable-Programs Services	43,008
Contributions Receivable	3,346
Prepaid Expenses	2,674
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	95,270
Land, Buildings and Equipment	1,977,828
Accumulated Depreciation	(491,888)
Net Land, Buildings and Equipment	1,485,940
Long-Term Investments	116,683
Other Assets	1,244,191
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	2,942,084
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable	171,048
Accrued Expenses	51,937
Current Notes Payable	737,592
Other Current Liabilities	960,577
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	(15,945)
Long-Term Liabilities	396,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	717,245
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted	1,633,442
Temporarily Restricted	450,521
Permanently Restricted	140,876
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	2,224,839
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	2,942,084

# YWCA Under One Roof Campaign



The YWCA embarked on a capital building project several years ago to bring all of our programs and services “Under One Roof.” This project makes our administrative offices at the Levi Standish House, accessible by installing an enclosed walkway to connect the addition to our building. The addition will house two of our programs: Another Women’s Place Residential Program for Women and YWkids School Age Child Care Program.

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. YWkids is currently housed at the Campbell 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 supportive permanent housing for women. The YWCA recently closed this program, located on Middle Street, in preparation for our new building addition. Our current location, A Woman’s Place, will remain open.

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. Through their assistance \$4.1 million has been secured for the project from diverse funding sources which includes \$1 million from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, \$1 million from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Bond Bill, \$800,000 from the Massachusetts Early Education and Care Out of School Time Capital Fund, \$250,000 from the City of New Bedford, \$535,000 from Office of Housing and Urban Development, private foundations, banks, businesses and individual donor support.

The YWCA has a dynamic team working on this project. Davis Square Architects, Women’s Institute for Housing and Economic Development, Fishbone Management Company and SouthCoast Improvement, Inc.

Grounbreaking is anticipated for Winter 2018 with occupancy in Winter 2019.





*“ This new center will increase staff and child interaction, and produce higher educational and skill development outcomes.”*

*“I like coming to YWkids because of all the fun things we get to do. “- Kaelani, YWkids participant*



# DONORS

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## **Capital Campaign**

### **donors**

Bank Five  
BayCoast Bank  
City of New Bedford  
Denise Porche  
Fiber Optic Center  
Gail Fortes  
Jack Davis  
Jan Baptist  
Jean Kellaway  
Katrina Semich  
Lena Pires  
Mali Lim  
Maria Pinnarreta  
Mary Zane  
Neal Weiss  
Nicole Almeida  
Shara Porter Designs  
Spherion  
Whaling City Sound  
Womens Fund of Southeastern  
Massachusetts-Women's Fund  
Philanthropy Fund  
Yvonne Drayton

### **advocacy**

## **Economic Advancement**

### **grantors/foundations**

Community Foundation of Southeastern  
Massachusetts-Hawthorn Medical Associates  
Charitable Fund

## **Racial Justice**

### **grantors/foundations**

Island Foundation  
United Way of Greater New Bedford South  
End Engaged  
Whaling City Sound

## **Mayor's Youth Council**

### **grantors/foundations**

City of New Bedford-Invest in Kids  
HRIA Tobacco Grant  
Health Resources in Action

### **adult services**

## **Widowed Persons Program**

Association for the Relief of Aged Women  
Coastline Elderly Services  
Sophia Romero Trust  
Millie Sanchez

## **ywca health & wellness**

## **Health & Wellness**

### **donors**

### **grantors/foundations**

Alda's Angels

American Medical Association Foundation

Ann McCrillis

Avon Breast Health Outreach Program

Coastline Elderly Services

SouthCoast Health System

### **residential services**

## **A Woman's Place**

### **donors**

Barbara Silva  
Gail Fortes  
Marie-Frances Rivera

### **grantors/foundations**

Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable  
Foundation  
Community Foundation of Southeastern  
Massachusetts-Rainy Day Fund  
Community Foundation of Southeastern  
Massachusetts-Hawthorne Medical  
Associates Charitable Fund  
Kenneth T. & Mildred S. Gammons Charitable  
Foundation, Inc  
Ludes Family Foundation  
New Bedford Housing Authority  
Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable  
Foundation  
Santander Bank Foundation  
Shaws & Star Market Foundation  
Smith Family Foundation  
United Way of Greater New Bedford  
Webster Bank Foundation

### **youth services**

## **YWkids School Age Program**

### **donors**

Bristol County District Attorney's Office  
Carney Family Charitable Foundation  
CHT Foundation  
City of New Bedford-Office of Housing and  
Community Development  
Colleen Millett  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts-Office of  
the Attorney General  
Community Foundation of Southeastern  
Massachusetts-James Arnold Fund  
Community Foundation of Southeastern  
Massachusetts-New Bedford Education  
Foundation Fund  
Community Foundation of Southeastern  
Massachusetts-Rainy Day Fund  
Gail Fortes  
Hunger Commission of Southeastern  
Massachusetts  
Jane Gonsalves  
Leonard and Hilda Kaplan Charitable  
Foundation  
Massachusetts Department of Education  
Massachusetts Early Education and Care  
Michelle Keith  
New Bedford Cultural Council  
New Bedford Day Nursery Fund

Our Sisters' School

Patricia Burns

United Way of Greater New Bedford

## **Girls Exclusive**

### **donors**

Andrea Burns  
Andrew Lang  
Annamarie Lopes  
Atty. Scott Lang  
Barbara Garron  
Barbara Weatherford  
City of New Bedford-Invest in Kids  
City of New Bedford-Office of Housing and  
Community Development  
Danielle Curran  
Elizabeth Waring  
Fall River Women's Union  
Gladys Gaj  
Lauren Burns  
Lynne Burns  
Ken Rice  
Marilyn Gonsalves  
Mary Zane  
New Bedford Day Nursery Fund  
New Bedford Public Schools  
Norma Warrington  
Office of the Commissioner of Probation  
Patricia Burns  
Patty Burns  
Sagres Restaurant  
Sharon Canto  
Susan Burns  
Susan Kramer  
Tanika Richardson  
United Way of Greater New Bedford  
United Way of Greater New Bedford-Summer  
Fund

Victoria Morton

## **Week Without Violence**

### **Volunteers**

Global Learning Charter Public School  
UMASS Dartmouth Center for Women,  
Gender and Sexuality  
Women's Center

## **Red Dress Fashion Show**

### **volunteers - committee**

Lindsey Carter-Monteiro  
Jane Gonsalves  
Shawnai Mattos  
Kimberly Souza  
Susan Sylvia

### **sponsors/donors**

Southcoast Health System  
Sylvia Group  
BMC Healthnet Plan  
Bank Five  
BayCoast Bank  
AFC Urgent Care New Bedford  
First Citizens Federal Credit Union

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, 2016 and June 30, 2017. We apologize for misspelling or omitting the name of anyone who made a gift during the fiscal year.

Senior Whole Health  
Andrew Gallagher  
Ann McCrillis  
Couto Management Group  
Gifts to Give  
Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational  
Technical High School  
Monaghan's Printing Company  
PACE/YouthBuild  
Celia's Boutique  
Dress Barn  
Fatima's Bridal Boutique  
Gilda's Place of Bridals  
New York Lace  
Party Dress Express  
Joseph Abboud  
Acushnet Company  
Alina's Runway Salon  
Antonio's Restaurant  
Carmen Aguilar  
Tanya Alves  
Ashley Bendiksen  
Bella Beauty  
Boston Celtics  
Boston Red Sox  
Boutique Fitness  
Brick Pizzeria  
Buttonwood Zoo  
Calico  
Canobie Lake Park  
Cardi's Furniture  
Children's Museum of Easton  
Destination Soups  
Disney World  
DNB Burgers  
Domino's Pizza  
Rachel Fortes  
Monica Furtado  
Elizabeth Leiwant  
Drift Day Spa  
KO Gym  
Leanne Fisher-Ross  
Lynne Mastera  
Gail Fortes  
Glass Slipper  
Mali Lim  
Jade Garden  
Jane Gonsalves  
Juli Parker  
Mermaid Baubles  
MVB Printmaking & Bookbinding  
Pawtucket Red Sox  
Maria Pinarreta  
New England Patriots  
Pa Raffas  
No Problemo  
Plimouth Plantation  
Lena Pires  
Providence Bruins  
Providence Children's Museum

Rebecca Laliberte  
Seastreak  
Starbucks  
Stop and Shop  
Storyland  
Target  
Water Wizz  
Westport Rivery Vineyard & Winery  
Ashley Bendiksen  
**Sister 2 Sister Conference**  
Bernard Duggan  
Bernadette Souza  
Beverly Baccelli  
Brewer Banner Designs  
Brenda Grace  
Bristol County District Attorney's Office  
Carol Almeida-Fortes  
Carol Ann Nelson  
Catherine Bourassa  
Charles Smiler  
Colleen Millett  
Council of Women's Organization  
Cynthia Cummings  
Denise Porche  
Dianne Newman  
Donna Wirzburger  
Eleanor Pontes  
Erica DeLima  
Fire Systems, Inc.  
Gladys Gaj  
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren  
Irene Buck  
Jan da Silva  
Jane Gonsalves  
Jean Bennett  
Jennifer Prouty  
Julie Duggan  
Lee Charlton  
Lynne Burns  
Marcia Williams  
Marlene Roderiques  
Martha Briggs Educational Club  
Mary Ann Rogers  
Mary Ellen Lees  
Mattapoisett Women's Club  
Pamela Lowell  
Patricia Burns  
Penny Brewer  
Rebecca Laliberte  
Robert Mendes  
Rev. Pamela Cole  
Robyn Branco  
Rosemary Medeiros  
Rosemary Saber  
Sista Hood  
Shonda Escobar  
Susan Perry  
Studio2sustain, inc  
Target  
Thelma Baxter

Women's Center  
Yvonne Drayton  
**Women of Distinction**  
**volunteers - committee**  
Tanya Alves  
Carmen Aguilar  
Kristina da Fonseca  
Leanne Fisher-Ross  
Cyndi Colson  
**General Operations**  
**volunteers**  
Maggie Brum  
Amy Recuperero  
Serena Silva  
Nichelle Watkins  
**volunteers - board of directors**  
Carmen Aguilar  
Tanya Alves  
Ashley Bendiksen  
Cyndi Colson  
Melissa Costa  
Kristina da Fonseca, esq.  
Julie Duggan  
Leanne Fisher-Ross  
Monica Furtado  
Jane Gonsalves  
Rebecca Laliberte  
Elizabeth Leiwant  
Lynne Mastera  
Kelli Munroe  
Dr. Juli Parker  
Maria Pinarreta  
Lena Pires  
**donors**  
Acushnet Company  
Amazon Smiles  
Anonymous Donor  
Ashley Bendiksen  
Ashley DeSimone  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Bettina Borders  
Birdlyn Watson  
Boutique Fitness  
Camille Raymond  
Carmen Aguilar  
Carol Ann Nelson  
Catherine Bourassa  
Cyndi Colson  
Dartmouth Management Group  
Denise Rego  
Diane Neuman  
Dianna Chace-Davidson  
Donna Cordeiro-Tobin  
Donna Wirzburger  
Dr. Juli Parker  
Eleanor Pontes  
Elizabeth Leiwant  
Evelyn Wilbur  
Gail Fortes



# Donors

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*"I like coming to Girls Exclusive because we get to be our own person and have quiet time if we need to relax."*

*- Lily M., Girls Exclusive Participant*

Gifts to Give  
Jack Davis  
Jan Baptist  
Jane Gonsalves  
Janice McDonough  
Jean Fox  
Jean MacCormack  
Jean Smith  
Judith Havens  
Judith Freitas  
Julie Duggan  
June Pina  
Kristina da Fonseca, esq.  
Larry Tot  
Leanne Fisher-Ross  
Lee Blake  
Lena Pires  
Lynne Mastera  
Mali Lim  
Marica Williams  
Mary Ann Rogers  
Mary Harrington  
Maria Pinarreta  
Mary Zane  
Mattapoissett Women's Club  
Melissa Costa  
Molly Zane  
Neal Weiss  
Nicole Almeida  
NorthStar Learning Centers  
Olive Higgins Prouty Foundation  
Paula Tavares  
Rebecca Laliberte  
Rebecca Viera  
Sean Patrick Toomey Medical AED  
Defibrillator Programs  
Sylvia Group  
Sylvia Merrill  
Tanya Alves  
Tina Borges  
United Way of Massachusetts Bay  
UMASS Dartmouth Labor Center  
UMASS Dartmouth Faculty Federation  
Whaling City Sound  
Women's Fund Southeastern Massachusetts  
Dorothy Duarte  
Hunger Commission of Southeastern MA

## **Annual Appeal**

### **donors**

Arthur and Jean Bennett  
Bernard Duggan  
Claire Carney  
Carlton Burr  
Carlene LeBlanc  
Dorothy Lopes  
Elizabeth Leiwant  
Gail Fortes  
Harrington Family Trust  
Irene Buck  
Jan da Silva

Jane Gonsalves  
Janet Freedman  
Jennifer Prouty  
June Pina  
Law Office of Marc Deshaines  
Linda Aguiar  
Louise Sawyer  
Marc Deshaines  
Margaret Atwood  
Marjorie Waite  
Mary Harrington  
Mary Zane



*Girls Exclusive Summer 2017*



*Women of Distinction 2017*



*Stand Against Racism 2017*





*YWCA Community Health Workers Valentina Martinez, Ana Silva, and YWCA Executive Director Gail Fortes at Alda's Angels Breast Cancer Event.*

After being brutally attacked in my country by a gang, I was left with no choice but to flee my country with my young child to the United States to unite with my husband in New Bedford. While my child and I were running for our lives, I was raped at the border of the U.S. My humanity had been taken from me in that moment. I became pregnant and developed diabetes. Due to my diagnosis, I was referred to the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts Health and Wellness Program. When I met Valentina, I received more than diabetic support. She assisted me with services for my child, my unborn child, Primary Care Physician, obtaining a professional to help me with the trauma I experienced, amongst other things. Valentina went above and beyond for me and my family. I am grateful to have been referred to the YWCA and meeting a woman who showed support and encouragement.

*-Health and Wellness Participant*

The YWCA has helped me become an independent woman, find stable housing for now and the future, go back to school at 48 years old, get my drivers license and become the woman I am meant to be. I am happy, hopeful and successful. I hope to be a power of example to all women that "WE DO RECOVER and WE ARE WORTH IT!"

*-Jonna McKeown, Residential Participant*


I recently lost my husband after being married for 18 years. Your article in the lamplighter is exactly how I feel. It comforted me to know that other people have the same feelings. In fact, I thought all your articles in the lamplighter are excellent and I am looking forward to future issues.

*- Anne, Widowed Persons Program Participant*


*Widowed Person's  
Memorial Service  
2017*







# Sister 2 Sister 2017 UMASS Dartmouth

  
UMass  
Dartmouth

# Strategic Plan

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts  
Strategic Plan  
January 2017- December 2019

## Goal 1:

### *Development and Fundraising*

Achieve Financial Stability and Sustainability

## Goal 2:

### *Branding and Communications*

Increase marketing/communications to raise community profile and enhance knowledge of YWCA in the community

## Goal 3:

### *Programs and Services*

Expand Mission Impact Programming

### Objective 1:

Increase individual donor support by 25%; increase membership by 50%.

### Objective 2:

Implement planned giving program.

### Objective 3:

Increase grants and fundraising efforts for existing and new programs.

### Objective 1:

Increase social media presence by 50%.

### Objective 2:

Implement new YWCA branding into all web and print materials.

### Objective 3:

Utilize outside media outlets/partners for enhanced marketing.

### Objective 1:

Develop program for teen girls.

### Objective 2:

Determine need and viability for service provision to LGBTQ population.

### Objective 3:

Increase racial justice and financial literacy programming and advocacy efforts, and research expansion opportunities across service area.

### Action Steps:

Implement annual summer community event.

Reach out to former board members.

Target YWCA investments via estate planning.

### Action Steps:

Create stories about YWCA women and girls to promote programs and services.

Create short videos and cable T.V. programs to tell YWCA story highlighting different programs.

Revamp website utilizing new "YWCA Is On A Mission" marketing campaign.

Create and use tagline "The Difference is in the W" on all YWCA materials.

### Action Steps:

Create quarterly speaker series.

Conduct needs assessment for service provision to the LGBTQ population.

# Programs and Services

Founded in 1911, this YWCA serves an area that stretches from the Rhode Island state line east to Provincetown and north to Attleboro, Brockton, and Plymouth; a region that encompasses 37 diverse municipalities.

Over its long and steadfast history of service, the YWCA's service area has expanded and its membership has become more inclusive. Programs and services that meet ever changing socio and economic needs of women, girls, and their families are offered in the community on a regular basis with specific events and activities provided across the region.



*YWkids Summer 2017 at Buttonwood Zoo!*

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts serves over 4,000 people annually and provides programs and direct services within four concentrations: Adult Services, Health and Wellness, Residential Services and Youth Services.

## Adult Services

Established in 1992, the **Widowed Persons Program** sponsors the area's only series of support groups for persons who are newly widowed. Needs are met through social activities and personal phone support. Services are available to men and women of all ages.

**Leading Ladies** is an initiative which provides networking and leadership development opportunities for young women ages 18-30, through active participation in a variety of group activities, as well as philanthropic activity in the community.

The primary aim of Leading Ladies is to empower young women by enhancing a sense of community and communication with a special emphasis on women's advancement and social justice efforts.

Our **Racial Justice Program** includes workshops focusing on cultural competency, white privilege, unlearning racism and racial justice; training on impact of racism for work groups; and workshops in cultural competency for service providers, teachers and businesses.

**Economic Advancement** offers financial literacy workshops for adults and children. Financial planning classes, and investment clubs.

The **Clothesline 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 by those willing to express their feelings on T-shirts.





*Women's Advocacy Day 2017*

**Health and Wellness Programs:** Since 1994, this program has provided outreach and education to almost 24,000 women and men in the service area with English, Spanish, and Portuguese presentations on different health issues. The concentration is on breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular health, colorectal and prostate health, smoking cessation, diabetes and nutrition workshops.

**Residential Services** at A Woman's Place provides safe, secure, permanent housing for low income women age 18 and over, working, going to school or a combination of both.

## **Youth Services Programs**

**YWkids School-Age Childcare Program** has provided services since 1988 and is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care to care for children ages 5 to 13. This after-school and summer program includes transportation from New Bedford's local schools to the program site. The curriculum for the program features art, science, physical education, and literature with projects that lead children through creative discovery in individual, partnered and group experiences.

**Girls Exclusive** is a gender-specific program that focuses on education, STEM activities, leadership development, community service, financial literacy, cultural competency, etiquette and home alone babysitting workshops for girls in grades 3-8.

**Mayor's Youth Council**, is a teen advisory group that meets to provide input to the mayor on issues of concern to their age group, attending civic functions and meeting with representatives of city government to get and give perspective on community activities.

# Youth Police/Dialogues

The past year YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts implemented a new program: Youth/Police Dialogues. This is a nationally recognized program developed by the YW Boston, to provide a safe, structured way for young people and police officers to come together, speak openly, build trust and community.



*The program is funded in part by United Way of Greater New Bedford South End Engaged and by a gift from the Island Foundation.*

Youth/Police Dialogues engage young people age 13-20 and police officers in voicing and addressing negative experiences and stereotypes, exploring how youth-police relationships affect community safety, and building more trusting relationships. Our Youth/Police Dialogues illuminates barriers between the youth and the officers rebuilding positive relations, including stereotypes youth and police have of each other and the “stop snitching” culture and how to change it. The dialogues are highly interactive and structured to increase trust and build relationships, using group generated agreements, and 1 on 1 conversations.

## **Demonstrated Impact:**

Through the Youth/Police Dialogues, conflict between youth and police is reduced as understanding, trust, and cooperation increase.

### **Youth that participate in the dialogues series report:**

- Increased comfort in talking to police.
- Increased sense of safety having police in their neighborhood.
- Greater willingness to report a crime.

### **Police officers that participate in dialogues series report:**

- Increased/consciousness of racial dynamics.
- Greater effort to interact with youth outside of conflict settings.
- Incorporate learning from the series into their policing.



**eliminating racism  
empowering women**

**ywca**

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