



ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

eliminating racism
empowering women

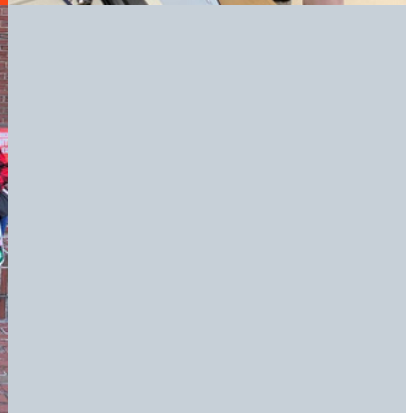
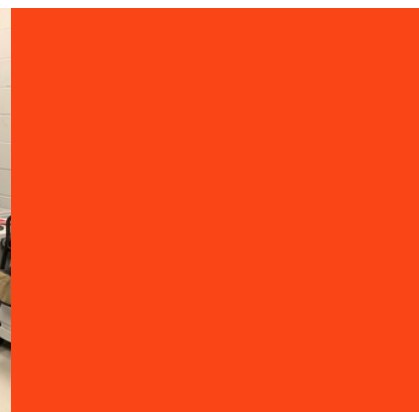
ywca

southeastern massachusetts



our mission

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



Letter from Executive Director Gail Fortes

DEAR FRIENDS,

We did it! This was such an amazing year for our organization. Over a decade ago, YWCA Southeastern MA began a campaign to bring programs and services “Under One Roof” and in 2019, the association celebrated the opening of its 6,550 square foot expansion to the YWCA Standish House. The expansion will house two of our programs: Another Woman’s Place Residential Program for Women and YWkids School Age Program. The new, state-of-the-art YWkids center will be a handicap accessible program space carefully and specifically designed for age-appropriate educational activities for as many as 52 children, ages 5-13, including 3 classrooms with Chromecast technology and an outdoor play space with basketball hoop. This new residential program houses 8 single room occupancy units of permanent housing for low-income women age 18 and over. Our dream has finally become reality!

None of this would have been possible without the efforts of so many people in our community. Special thank you to our amazing Board of Directors and Staff, who always believed in our project and worked so hard this year to make this new building happen. Thank you to our donors, state and city government officials, members, supporters, former board members and board presidents, volunteers, participants, families, campaign steering committee, building committee, and former Executive Director Yvonne Drayton. I also would like to thank our community partners that gave us a home while we were under construction, Northstar Learning Centers, Temple Landing, New Bedford Public Schools and several board members that hosted YWCA Board and Committee meetings at their place of business this year.

This year the YWCA was a recipient of the Highland Street Foundation’s Community Impact grant that provided us with six months of consulting services to work with the Board and Staff to create and implement a new Development Plan. Through this plan we were able to create two new positions, Director of Advocacy and Resource Development and Resource Development Assistant. These new positions will not only work on improving our development and communications strategies, but will also strengthen our advocacy initiatives, in areas such as child care, youth programming in conjunction with the Alliance of YWCAs of Massachusetts and the Justice Flow Menstrual Access Project that our Girls Exclusive program undertook this year.

Special thank you to our outgoing Board President, Dr. Juli Parker. Her leadership, passion and dedication to the YWCA and our Mission of eliminating racism and empowering women is unwavering. Together we made it through many challenging discussions and decisions. I will miss her greatly and I am eternally grateful for all her support and friendship over these last 9 years.

Working with incoming Board President, Jane Gonsalves, YWCA Southeastern MA will create a new strategic plan that will guide us for the next three years. I look forward to 2020, and the new and exciting opportunities that await us. Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Gail Fortes
Executive Director



DEAR FRIENDS,

How quickly 9 years on the YWCA Board have flown! I am honored to have served as the President of the Board of this incredible organization and I never would have seen myself in this role without the encouragement of Gail Fortes. It won't be easy to say goodbye to what has become a regular part of my life.

But what a year it's been! From breaking ground to dealing with architects, contractors, city inspectors, the historical societies and the women's fund for economic development, our summer was not the usual. The Building Committee met weekly dotting every "i" and crossing every "t." And this project was not without its struggles as those ever involved with contractors know. Plenty of finger pointing between architect and contractors took place. But through it all, we kept our eyes on the prize and seven months after the predicted completion, we can hear the sounds of young people in our YW Kids program and our residential building is in the process of being filled by women in need.

None of this could have occurred without the vision and leadership of former Board Chairs, Dr. Patricia Andrade, Jan Baptist, Nicole Almeida, and Lena Pires. And it all came together with our Executive Director, Gail Fortes at the helm. I hope you've had time to take a tour! This combined residential program and childcare under one roof with our existing day to day operations will free us up for many more exciting opportunities that will support girls and women in New Bedford and allow us to expand our reach into the surrounding communities.

My goal as Board President was to expand our fundraising efforts and our footprint. We have been in meetings with folks in Fall River to look at replicating Under One Roof in that city as well as Taunton. Watch out Southeastern MA! The YWCA is going to Eliminate Racism and Empower Women in multiple communities. We know how deep the need for housing and affordable childcare is for women and families throughout Southeastern MA.

Lastly, I have to give Gail kudos for all her work running the construction project, spending hours working with the architect, the construction company, the consultant and owner's representative. And I must thank my amazing Executive Committee, Tanya Alves, Melissa Costa, Kristina da Fonseca and Jane Gonsalves with whom I have enjoyed every meeting filled with laughter, strategic planning and thoughtful discussions on how to best meet our mission. We couldn't be the strong organization we are in this community without the unending support of our donors and our members. Until we have met our mission to eliminate racism and empower women and promote peace justice, freedom, and dignity for all we cannot stop. I wish this organization the best in all it does for Southeastern MA and am honored to have been a small part of its long history.

Peace,
Dr. Juli Parker
Board President



YWCA STAFF



GAIL FORTES

Executive Director

CATHERINE BOURASSA

Director of Programs and Services

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

LISA ROGERS

Finance Director

ANNAMARIE LOPES

Administrative Assistant

JACK DAVIS

Facilities Manager

ADVOCACY & DEVELOPMENT:

JORDAN POULIOT LATHAM

Director of Advocacy and Resource Development

AALIYAH COLON

Resource Development Assistant

YOUTH SERVICES:

ANDREA DAVIDSON

YWkids Program Director

YVONNE ALBUQUERQUE

YWkids Group Leader

CRYSTAL CRUZ

YWkids Group Leader

BARBARA GARRON

YWkids Group Leader

NANETTE RAMOS

YWkids Group Leader

JUSTIN SANTOS

YWkids Group Leader

JEOVANA ALMEIDA

YWkids Assistant Group Leader

JULIETTE SIMMONS

YWkids Assistant Group Leader

JARYNETTE GONZALEZ

Girls Exclusive Instructor

ADULT SERVICES:

LINDA ROSE

Widowed Persons Program Director
Receptionist

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

VALENTINA MARTINEZ

Community Health Worker

ANA SILVA

Community Health Worker

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES:

TANISHA FERRER

Residential Case Manager

ANNAMARIE LOPES

Residential Assistant

LIZ LOZADA

Residential Assistant

YWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DR. JULI PARKER

President

KRISTINA DAFONSECA, ESQ.

Treasurer

MELISSA COSTA, LICSW

Vice President

JANE GONSALVES

Assistant Treasurer

TANYA ALVES

Clerk

CARMEN AGUILAR

RITA BRAGA

JULIE DUGGAN

LEANNE FISHER-ROSS

KRISTY FRANCIS

MONICA FURTADO

SHARON JONES

REBECCA LALIBERTE

LYNNE MASTERA

KELLI MUNROE

JULIA SANTOS

DR. SUSAN SYLVIA

GAIL FORTES

Ex-Officio



INCOME & EXPENSES

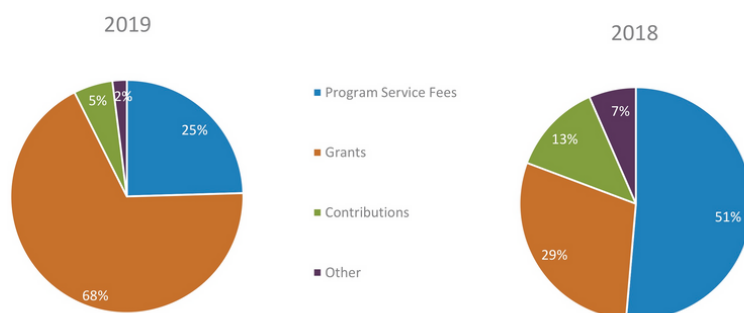
Financials for July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.

Audit prepared by Clifton, Larson and Allen, LLP

2019 Audit Highlights

- Assets – changes from the prior year
 - Decrease in operating cash of \$43k and restricted cash of \$284k
 - Increase in accounts receivable of \$295k
 - Increase in property and equipment of \$2.7M
- Liabilities – changes from the prior year
 - Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses of \$193k
 - Increase in long-term debt of \$1.6M
- Revenues and support – overall growth of \$978k
 - Grants increased by \$1m
- Functional Expenses – overall decrease of \$35k

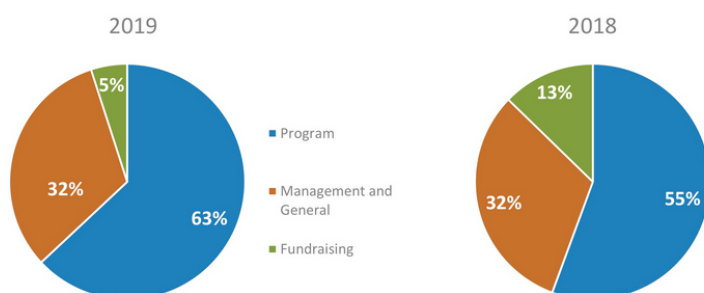
Summary of Revenues and Support



Natural Expense Classification Breakout – Program



Functional Expense Breakout



UNDER ONE ROOF PROJECT

Over a decade ago, YWCA Southeastern MA began a campaign to bring programs and services "Under One Roof" and this fall the organization celebrated the opening of its 6,550 square foot expansion to the historic YWCA Standish House. The expansion houses two of our programs: Another Woman's Place Residential Program for Women and YWkids School Age Program.

This effort would not have been possible without the generous support of numerous donors, supporters, board members, members, volunteers, and staff.



Special thank you to our major donors:

City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MA Department of Housing and Urban Development

Housing Innovation Fund of The Commonwealth of

Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, through its agent, The Massachusetts Housing Partnership

Housing Stabilization Fund of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, through its agent CEDAC

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, Children's Investment Fund and CEDAC

Mass Development

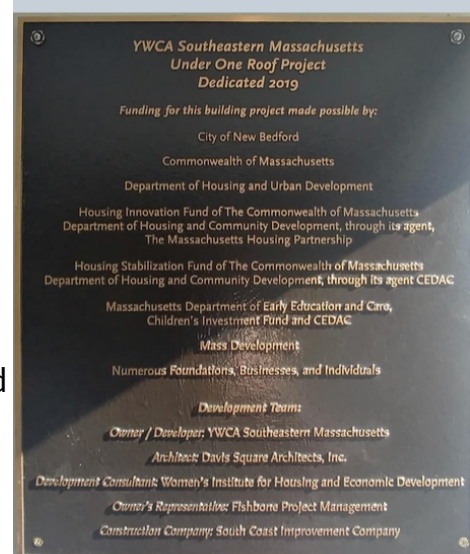
Special thank you to our Development Team:

Architect: Davis Square Architects, Inc.

Development Consultant: Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development

Owner's Representative: Fishbone Project Management

Construction Company: South Coast Improvement Company



UNDER ONE ROOF PROJECT



16TH ANNUAL RED DRESS EVENT

Heart disease is a community and national issue as it continues to be the number one leading cause of death for women in America. Only 1 in 5 American women believe that heart disease is her greatest health threat.

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts hosted its 16th Annual Red Dress Event at the newly renovated Century House in Acushnet, MA, on February 28th. The venue is absolutely beautiful!

The event raises funds to support our Community Health Workers, who provide heart health education and spread awareness on heart disease throughout the Southcoast region. Heart disease survivor, Lynette Lopes, captivated the audience with her journey 6 years post heart transplant. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a full course meal, with dessert donated by Stop and Shop in Dartmouth, a variety of auction items, raffles, music, networking, and a fashion show.

A special thank you to our two top Coco Chanel Title Sponsors, Southcoast Health and BayCoast Bank!

We thank all of the businesses and organizations who sponsored and donated to the event, models, escorts, Red Dress fashion boutiques, guests, our Red Dress Committee, DJ Jordan Paiva, Photographer Andrew Gallagher, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and UMass Dartmouth Fashion Design students who designed dresses for the event, Monaghan's Printing Company for donating the tickets and flyers, and printing all marketing materials, YWCA staff, volunteers and Board of Directors for working together to make this event a huge success!

**SAVE THE DATE for the 17th Annual Red Dress Event on
Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 5:30pm!**



10TH ANNUAL WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

They are women who have made their mark in a variety of Southcoast arenas and YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts honored them on October 24, 2019 as “Women of Distinction.” The Women of Distinction Awards recognizes outstanding women in our region, whose lives, leadership, and accomplishments reflect the YWCA’s Mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. They are recognized for their exceptional commitment to improving the lives of women and girls through their leadership, advocacy, and community service, while achieving success in their career fields.

This year’s Women of Distinction awardees include Ms. Celia Brito, owner of Celia’s Boutique, Ms. Sarah Herman, Head of Our Sisters’ School, and Ms. Marlene Pollock, organizer for Coalition for Social Justice. They are joined by this year’s Spirit of Leadership Award Winners, the YWCA Girls Exclusive Program, as well as the winner of the Yvonne M. Drayton Award winner, Ms. Jane Gonsalves. Lastly, for only the second time in the awards’ history, three men were recognized as “Men of Distinction”: Mayor Jonathan Mitchell, Senator Mark Montigny, and Representative Antonio Cabral.



Special thanks to the individuals, businesses, and foundations which enable YWCA Southeastern MA to advance its mission through their generous financial support. This list reflects donations received between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. We apologize for misspelling or omitting the name of anyone who made a gift during the fiscal year.

Capital Campaign

donors

Neal Weiss
Celia's Boutique
Dr. Susan Sylvia
Elaine Correia
Leslie Glines-Jones
Jan Baptist
UMass Faculty Federation Local 1895
Leanne Fisher-Ross
Melissa Costa
Oxford Creamery
William & Kerry Whelan
Davis Square Architects
PAACA
Catherine Bourassa
Lisa Rogers
Mary Reardon Johnson
Gertrude Burr
Mardee D. Xifaras
YWCA Board of Directors
New Bedford City Council
Liz DiCarlo
Hunt Latham
Deborah Rorer
Lynn Whitney
Cynthia Colson
Coastline Elderly Services
Marlene Lopes
Southeastern MA Football Official

grantors/foundations

Bristol County Savings Bank
Community Foundation of Southeastern MA - Alleviate Hunger & Homelessness Fund

Advocacy

Justice Flow

donors

Shawnee Ballard
Renee Lecuyer
Carol Almeida Fortes
Barbara Grace
Terri Belliveau
Caroline Conzatti
Maureen Sylvia
Sylvia Group
Judith Havens
Bruce Oliveira
Bridget Flynn
Michael Eatough
Anne Fenton
Colleen Trahan
Anonymous
Kelsey Delsordo
Lee Blake
Jean Fox
Val Bassett
Paula Gauthier
Tobey Shea
Moby Dick Brewing Company

grantors/foundations

The Women's Fund of Southeastern MA
The Island Foundation

Economic Advancement

grantors/foundations

Commonwealth of MA Office of the State Treasurer, Office of Economic Empowerment

Community Foundation of Southeastern MA - Hawthorn Medical Charitable Fund
The Blum Shapiro Foundation

Racial Justice

donors

Royal Hartigan
Whaling City Sound
Thomas & Deborah Meggison

grantors/foundations

The Island Foundation

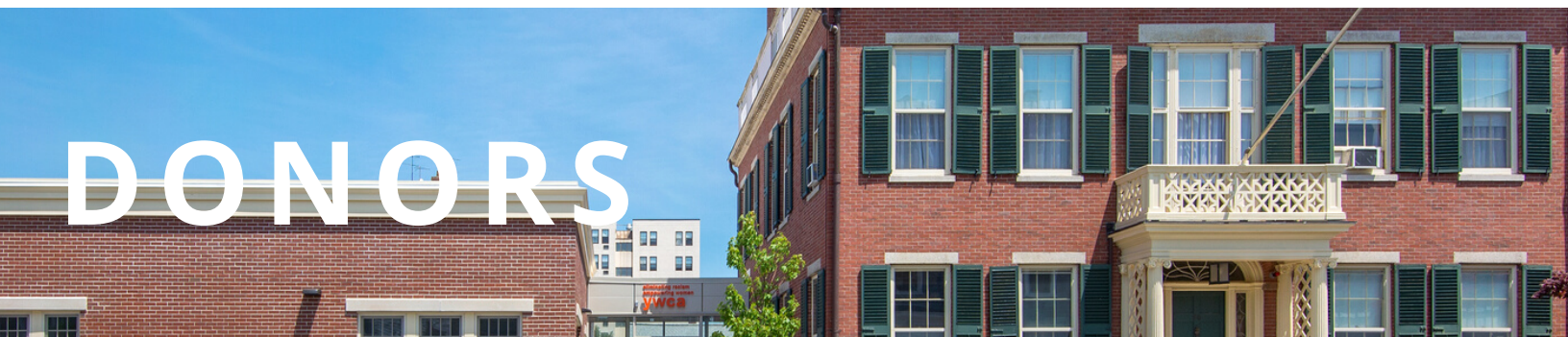
adult services

Widowed Persons Program

donors

Edward Cote
Yvonne Morel
Patricia Root
Roselle Fecteau
Alison Nastanski
Alice Crowley
Mary Santos
Paul Lussier
Claire Caya
Teresa Bedard
Rosemary Medeiros Saber
Barbara Berhold
Irene Lefavor
Albert Joseph
Marguerite Pinho
Joanne Rutledge

DONORS



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Mary Theresa Silva
Joan Pingley
Edwin Payton
Rose Brightman
Frank Sylvia
Dorothy Doyon
Pauline Nadeau
Eugenia Florio
Galdys J. Gaj
Elaine Correia
Theresa Desrosiers
Faith Sweetser Barry
Nancy Chadwick
Lisa Lake
Anna Elch
Thomas Spence
Nelson Pratt
Ronald Jackson
Sylvia Malaguti
Robert Anderson
Janice Smith
Judith Freitas
Frances Mills
Shirley Canton
Rene Pepin
Stanley Orlowski
Loretta Harrington
Dolores Vasconcellos
Kathleen Perry
Tanya King
Frederick Cole
Joseph Ringuette
Mary Lou Davis
Joann Lizotte
Margaret Vallee
Eugenia P. Oliver
Margaret Faria

Kathleen Laviolette
Joan Brierley
Betty Wadsworth
Barbara Tracy
Raymond Lepore
Mary Gauthier
George Barros
Madeline Carvalho
Sally Clark
Marion Reid
Fred Levin
Beverly Dickerson
Katherine Robillard
Ida Cleveland
George Rhoads
Mary Gaughan
Dennis Beals
New Bedford Woman's Alliance First
Unitarian Church
Nora Pimentel
Paul Rousselle
Flora Azar
Katherine Robillard
Elizabeth Dion
Pauline Prudhomme
Carole Duarte
Dianne Tisdelle
August Cote
Gerald Deneault

grantors/foundations

Coastline Elderly Services
Sophia Romero Trust

Health & Wellness

grantors/foundations

Coastline Elderly Services
GNB Allies for Health & Wellness

residential services

donors

Gail Fortes
Maureen Armstrong
Nancy Kurtz
Dr. Patricia Andrade
Royal Hartigan
James & Julianne Kelly
Diane Jones

grantors/foundations

Bristol County Savings Charitable
Foundation
Community Foundation of
Southeastern MA - Henry H. Crapo
Foundation Fund
Community Foundation of
Southeastern MA - Polaroid Fund
Kenneth T. and Mildred S. Gammons
Charitable Foundation
Robert F. Stoico / FIRSTFED
Foundation
Sylvia Group
Webster Bank

youth services

YWkids School Age Program

donors

Ann Marie Lopes
DiCicco, Guiman & Co., LLP
Sharon Canto



DONORS

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grantors/foundations

Carney Family Charitable
Foundation
New Bedford Cultural Council
City of New Bedford Community
Development Block Grant
Commonwealth of MA Quality
Enhancements in Afterschool &
Out-of-School Time Grant
Community Foundation of
Southeastern MA - James Arnold
Fund
Demoulas Foundation
Leonard & Hilda Kaplan
Foundation
MA Department of Public Health
New Bedford Day Nursery
United Way of Greater New
Bedford
Yawkey Foundation

mayor's youth council

grantors/foundation

City of New Bedford Invest in Kids
Grant

girls exclusive

donors

Bridget Flynn
Gail Fortes
Kelli Munroe
Edward Rogers
Liz Arruda
Jason Gregory
Mattapoissett Woman's Club

Judith Hunt
Julie Duggan
Jane Gonsalves
Bonnie Stone
Janine DaSilva
Mali Lim
DeeAnn Pouliot
Alyson Hussey
R. Hunt Latham
Christopher Latham
Christina Bascom
Jill Simoes
Dr. Susan Sylvia
M. Teresa Mozaz
Jennifer Prouty
Patricia Burns
Cynthia Cummings
Susan Krumholz
Nicole Pupillo
Dawn Malaguti
Margaret Monroe
Shannon Finning
John Teixeira

Joanne Gregory
Brenda Melone
Robin Pelletier
The Bromley Charitable Trust
Philip Snyder Foundation
Taunton Federal Credit Union

grantors/foundations

CHT Foundation
City of New Bedford Community
Development Block Grant
City of New Bedford Invest in Kids
Helides STEM Education Fund
Fall River Women's Union
Martin Richards Foundation
MA Department of Public Health
New Bedford Cultural Council

United Way of Greater New Bedford
Summer Fund
New Bedford Public Schools
Agnes M. Lindsay Trust

Week Without Violence

Volunteers

Global Learning Charter Public School
UMass Dartmouth Center for Women,
Gender, & Sexuality
The Women's Center of New Bedford
The Women's Center at Bristol
Community College

Red Dress Fashion Show

volunteers - committee

Dr. Susan Sylvia
India Brown
Lindsey Carter-Monteiro
Melissa Costa
Julie Duggan
Leanne Fisher-Ross
Kristy Francis
Monica Furtado
Kimberly Souza
Gail Fortes
Valentina Martinez
Ana Silva

sponsors/donors

Southcoast Health System
Sylvia Group
BayCoast Bank
First Citizens Credit Union
BMC HealthNet Plan



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Tufts Health Plan
Bank Five
Webster Bank
New Bedford Police Union
AFC Urgent Care
Vaz Construction
GNB Voke
Buzzards Bay Brewing
DJ Jordan Paiva
Monaghan's Printing
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center
The Sail Loft Restaurant
Pasta House
Westport Rivers Winery
Carter's Clothing
The Village Toy Shop
NB Farmer's Market
The Barre Studio
Sharon Jones
Tanya Alves
Carmen Aguilar
Rita Braga
Leanne Fisher-Ross
Hannoush Jewelry
Five Guys
Institute of Contemporary Art Boston
Museum

Women of Distinction

volunteers - committee

Rita Braga
Yolanda Dennis
Rayana Grace
Sharon Jones
Donna Wirzburger

General Operations

volunteers - Board of Directors

Carmen Aguilar
Tanya Alves
Dr. Susan Sylvia
Rita Braga
Melissa Costa
Kristina da Fonseca, Esq.
Julie Duggan
Leanne Fisher-Ross
Kristy Francis
Monica Furtado
Jane Gonsalves
Sharon Jones
Rebecca Laliberte
Lynne Mastera
Kelli Munroe
Dr. Juli Parker
Julia Santos

donors

Dartmouth Dermatology Association
DeeAnn Pouliot
Rebecca Laliberte
Eusie Zane
Dr. Juli Parker
Janice Baptist
Nicole Almeida
Mandi Jones
Bettina Borders
Molly Zane
Highland Street Foundation
Kelli Munroe
Kristina da Fonseca
Kristy Francis
Melissa Costa
Monica Furtado

Olive Higgins Prouty Foundation
Rita Braga
Sharon Jones
Shaws Supermarkets
Stop & Shop Supermarkets
Tanya Alves
Thomas Perkins
United Way of Greater New Bedford
Yvonne Drayton
Carlene LeBlanc
Studio2Sustain, Inc.
Michelle Keith
Christopher Latham
Hunt Latham / The Sail Loft Restaurant
Callie Pimental
Stormi Monteiro
Lalita la Linda
Colleen Trahan
Julieann Jones
Warren Berube
Catherine Bourassa
Elizabeth Arruda
Doreen Kienia
Alexandra Decas
Donna Biron
Margaret McSweeney
Scott Dubois
Jill Beckwith
Bridget Flynn
Lee Blake
Donna Wirzburger
Jane Gonsalves
Julia Spencer
Julie Duggan
Leanne Fisher-Ross
Lisa Rogers

DONORS

**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**

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Lynne Mastera
Heather Estremera
Elise Rapoza
Brianna Alves
Lavisha Hall
Jennifer Edgecomb
Mary Duperre
Marianne DeSouza
Linda Morad
Carolyn Roberts
Mary Ann McQuillan
Rosemary Medeiros Saber
Lena Pires
Julia Santos
Cynthia Colson
New Bedford Police Union
Jennifer Golden
Bernadette Costa
Marlene Barros
Joanne Polk
Liz Davis
Sylvia Merrill
United Way of Massachusetts Bay
& Merrimack Valley
Crystal Cruz
Steve Martins
Sylvia Gomes
Mary Ellen DeFrias
Ashley Wojtunik
Jenessa Gerard-Pateakos
Adria Bolarinho
Luisa Desousa
Clara Tavares-Silva
Kimberly Raposo
Christine Paredes
Angelabeth Faria
Amanda Bolduc
Cheryl Hall

Janet Kawa
Mary Paim
Maelyn Gerard
Danielle Poulin
Wendy Hall
Cynthia Poulin
Beth-Anne Viera
Carmen Aguilar
Dr. Susan Sylvia
Gail Fortes
Jean Fox
Kate Duggan
Catherine Perry
Anne Duggan
Jessica Costa
Anne Bousquet
Rachel Mulroy
Isuara Tavares
Kaitlyn Silva
Gabriela Santos
Patrice Byrnes
Joan Dalton
Mike Russell's Home
Linda Gerard
Carol Freitas

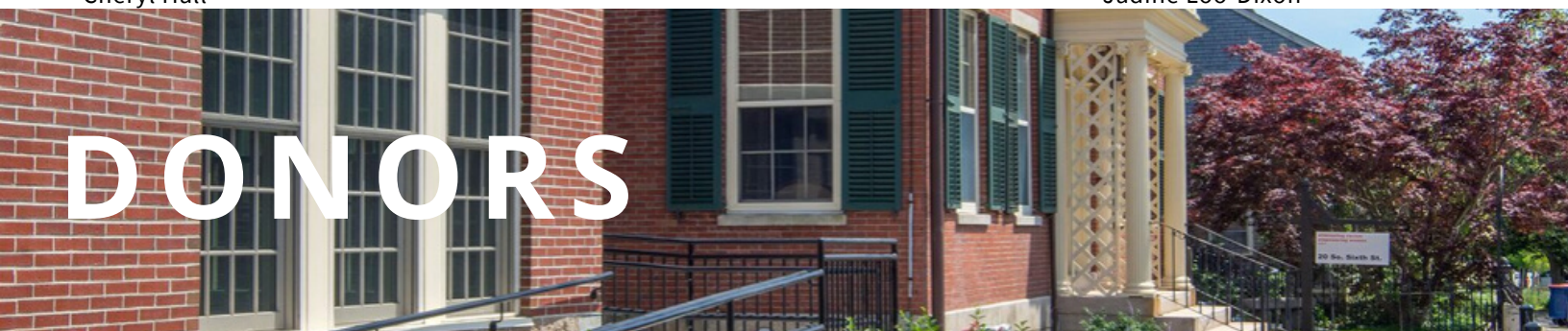
Susan Perry
Thelma Baxter
Boutique Fitness
Laurie Robertson-Lorant
Julie Duggan
Alvin & Shirley Magnett
Norman & Irene Buck
Janet Freedman
Randall & Marianne DeSouza
Judith Hunt
Dr. Juli Parker
Meryl Novek
David Gilbertson & Carolee
Matsumoto
Gertrude Burr
Maryann Kepinski
Marilynn Gonsalves
Mary Harrington
Marjorie Waite
Dr. Patricia Andrade
Steven Leon
Sharon Jones
Monaghan's Printing
Susan Costa
Mary Ann Hunsche
Patricia Burns
Abbvie Employee Engagement
Cecil Lopes
Ann Whiting
Jennifer Prouty
Michael & Susan Kramer
Colleen & David Millett
Janine da Silva
Lara Haupt Stone
Lifestream
Mauren Sylvia
Sandra Santos
Jadine Loo-Dixon

Annual Appeal

donors

Mary Ann Rogers
Karen Parker
Bernard Duggan
Patricia Ford
Archie Rebeiro
Mali Lim
Pamela Souza
Maria Tomasia
Deborah Baker
Cheryl Barrett

DONORS



STRATEGIC PLAN

January 2017-December 2019

Final Report

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

Vision: YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts is recognized as the leader in advancing racial justice and women's economic empowerment locally, regionally and nationally.

Goal 1: Development and Fundraising

Objective:
Achieve Financial Stability and Sustainability

Outcomes:

1. Completed construction of the Under One Roof Project.
2. Increased individual donor support by 25%.
3. Hired new Investment Advisor.
4. Created new full time position- Director of Advocacy and Resource Development.
5. Created new part-time position- Resource Development Assistant.
6. Instituted Development Plan.

Goal 2: Branding and Communications

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

Outcomes:

1. Revamped website and all marketing materials.
2. Increased social media presence by 50%.
3. Implemented the tag line the Difference is in the "W".
4. Increased social media presence by 30%

Goal 3: Programs and Services

Objective:
Expand Mission Impact programming.

Outcomes:

1. Expanded Girls Exclusive Program to Fall River.
2. Established Justice Flow Menstrual Access Project.
3. Implemented Youth/Police Dialogue Program.
4. Revamped Leading Ladies Program.
5. Provided Cultural Competency training to area schools and businesses.



before



after

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

*Dear Linda,
Director of the Widowed Persons
Program*

How do you say thank you for saving my life that really seems to have no meaning, for walking me through a jungle that has no path and seems so fearful for someone who has always been deemed so courageous? No words can express how grateful I am that you so kindly and caringly are there to walk this path and guide so gently through the most painful torturous moments of my life. For being a light when there is no light. My sincere heartfelt love.

YWCA Southeastern MA serves over 4,000 individuals a year 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 a professional networking group for adult women, with the goal to empower women through civic engagement, collaborative social justice efforts, networking, and the opportunity to participate in community dialogues and educational seminars.

Racial Justice offers racial justice, cultural competency, unlearning racism, workplace diversity and white privilege initiatives that engage youth and adults in educational activities and dialogue.



Economic Advancement offers financial literacy workshops for residents, veterans, adults, and children and their families.

The **Clothesline Project** demonstrates the emotions generated by acts of violence against women and children. The project is presented at host sites and staffed by the YWCA. T-shirts are provided by those willing to express their feelings and emotions, and the shirts are hung for onlookers to reflect upon them.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

YWCA **Health and Wellness** provides outreach, education, translation, support and transportation to women and families in order to improve the health of the community.

Residential Services provides single room occupancy housing for women 18 and older. The program offers safe, secure, and supportive living environments for low-income women.

"The GE staff are all so nice and make you feel safe, comfortable, and welcome."
- Girls Exclusive Participant

"I just love this place"
- YWkids Participant

Youth Services:

YWKids School Age Program serves families in need of quality care for their children. YWKids staff strive to acknowledge, respect and design ways to accommodate the uniqueness of each child so that all may reach their fullest potential.

Girls Exclusive is an afterschool & summer program for girls ages 10-14 in Greater New Bedford and Fall River. The goal of this program is to empower girls by cultivating academic and social/emotional learning skills such as teamwork, empathy, responsibility, initiative and problem solving.

Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) was created to be the eyes and ears of city youth in an advisory capacity to the mayor and city government. The council assists city officials in the development of community projects from a youth's perspective.

Youth/Police Dialogues is a nationally recognized program developed by YW Boston, to provide a safe, structured way for young people and police officers to come together, speak openly and build trust and community.



The YWCA remains at the forefront of addressing issues of racial and gender inequities. We are a member of a regional and national movement working together to strengthen our voice in the local, state and national governments. YWCA Southeastern MA strives daily to continue to provide opportunities to help women and their families reach their fullest potential. We will continue to take social action towards racial justice, women's economic advancement and the empowerment of women and girls.

What issues do we advocate for?

- 1. Improved policies and public awareness on the disparity of quality, affordable childcare in Massachusetts.** Childcare affects family stability, workforce participation, children's healthy development and school readiness, and the early education workforce.
- 2. Increased Access to Disposable Menstrual Hygiene Products in Prisons, Homeless Shelters, and Public Schools (HD2272/SD1381).** Lack of access to menstrual products forces menstruating people to use unhygienic substitutes, or to use menstrual products for unsafe periods of time. Menstrual products are a health necessity.

The YWCA's Girls Exclusive program has been advocating for Menstrual Equity and an end to Period Poverty through their self-named initiative, **Justice Flow!** This project is funded in part by the Women's Fund of Southeastern MA and the Island Foundation. You can read more about their work on our website at <https://ywcasema.org/what-we-do/advocacy/menstrual-access-advocacy-project/>



ADVOCACY



**eliminating racism
empowering women**

ywca

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