our mission

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.
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  CATHERINE BOURASSA
Executive Director  Director of Programs and Services

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:
LISA ROGERS  ANNAMARIE LOPES  JACK DAVIS
Finance Director  Administrative Assistant  Facilities Manager

ADVOCACY & DEVELOPMENT:
JORDAN POULIOT LATHAM  AALIYAH COLON
Director of Advocacy and Resource Development  Resource Development Assistant

YOUTH SERVICES:
ANDREA DAVIDSON  YVONNE ALBUQUERQUE  CRYSTAL CRUZ
YWkids Program Director  YWkids Group Leader  YWkids Group Leader
BARBARA GARRON  NANETTE RAMOS  JUSTIN SANTOS
YWkids Group Leader  YWkids Group Leader  YWkids Group Leader
JEOVANA ALMEIDA  JULIETTE SIMMONS  JARYNETTE GONZALEZ
YWkids Assistant Group Leader  YWkids Assistant Group Leader  Girls Exclusive Instructor

ADULT SERVICES:
LINDA ROSE
Widowed Persons Program Director  Receptionist

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:
VALENTINA MARTINEZ  ANA SILVA
Community Health Worker  Community Health Worker

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES:
TANISHA FERRER  ANNAMARIE LOPES  LIZ LOZADA
Residential Case Manager  Residential Assistant  Residential Assistant
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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
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  
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Jan Baptist  
UMass Faculty Federation Local 1895  
Leanne Fisher-Ross  
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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  
Community Foundation of Southeastern MA - Alleviate Hunger & Homelessness Fund  

**Advocacy**

**Justice Flow**

**donors**
Shawnee Ballard  
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Michael Eatough  
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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  

**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  

**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  

**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 Orłowski
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
Gail Fortes
Maureen Armstrong
Nancy Kurtz
Dr. Patricia Andrade
Royal Hartigan
James & Julianne Kelly
Diane Jones
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
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Webster Bank
Ann Marie Lopes
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Sharon Canto
Coastline Elderly Services
Sophia Romero Trust
Coastline Elderly Services
GNB Allies for Health & Wellness

residential services donors
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Health & Wellness

grantors/foundations

YWkids School Age Program donors

D O N O R S
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.

**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
- 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
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.

**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 McSweeny
- Scott Dubois
- Jill Beckwith
- Bridget Flynn
- Lee Blake
- Donna Wirzburger
- Jane Gonsalves
- Julia Spencer
- Julie Duggan
- Leanne Fisher-Ross
- Lisa Rogers

**Women of Distinction**

**volunteers - committee**
- Rita Braga
- Yolanda Dennis
- Rayana Grace
- Sharon Jones
- Donna Wirzburger

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**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
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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
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.

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.
3. Implemented Youth/Police Dialogue Program.
4. Revamped Leading Ladies Program.
5. Provided Cultural Competency training to area schools and businesses.
**Programs and Services**

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.

**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 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.

**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.

"I just love this place"  
- YWkids Participant

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