

# ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS



## TODAY IS MA PRIMARY DAY: GO VOTE!

Be counted in the Massachusetts primaries today! [Check your polling place](#), put your mask on, and GO VOTE. Cast a mail ballot? [Check its status here](#). If it has not been processed yet, you can still go cast an in-person ballot. If you have any issues casting a ballot, or see clear issues like long lines or closed polling places, call the Election Protection Hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE

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## Summer Programming

YWCA SEMA continues to provide critical, wraparound assistance including youth and family support; meals to children, families, residents, and individuals in need; as well as supportive services and permanent housing for low-income women. Since mid-March, we have served over 100 children and their families. This type of outreach has continued throughout the duration of the pandemic. Each week, YWCA staff:

- Provide and deliver food, grocery gift cards, and cleaning/disinfecting supplies to seniors in our two adult programs, Health & Wellness and Widowed Persons Program.
- Distribute grocery gift cards, cleaning supplies, and fresh produce (courtesy of Round the Bend Farm) to individuals and families served in our programs. We are currently distributing food supplies to 48 families each week.
- Participate in 2020 Federal Census Outreach, including virtual phone banking, a YWCA hotline for census assistance, and Census outreach at food distribution sites and COVID-19 testing sites in New Bedford.



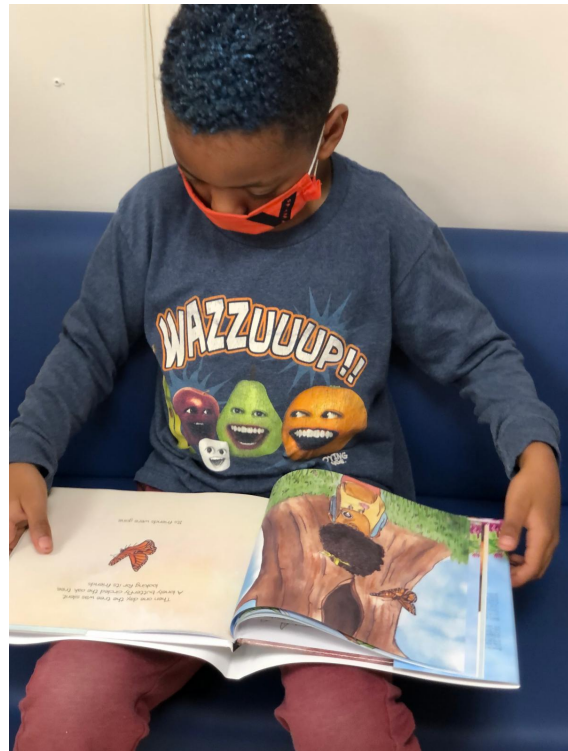
The YWkids School Age Program and Girls Exclusive Summer Program re-opened at the beginning of July, and both are following closely the guidelines issued by the MA Department of Early Education and Care and MA Department of Public Health. Read more about our adjusted Youth Summer Programming below!

### YWkids Summer Program

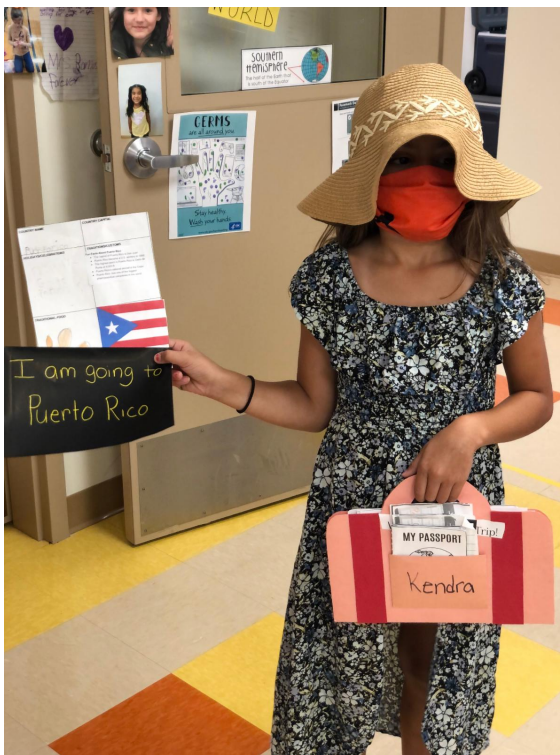
We are so excited to have had the kids back in our program! Things may look a little different but there was still a lot of fun to be had. We have been traveling around the world this summer, learning about different cultures from various countries such as Australia, Venezuela, and Mexico. The kids have been making crafts, listening to their music, and learning traditional dances. We also incorporated new antiracism books into our Book Nook, and together we've discussed kindness, empathy, and understanding during these difficult times. We had child-friendly discussions about race and racism, while also reading about racial injustice to help children identify and talk about things they may have encountered in their own lives.

Although YWkids was unable to go on field trips this year, the children have been exploring downtown New Bedford and learning new ways to be creative outside.

We have also brought the field trips to them via Zoom. Science Tellers taught us about dragons. Storyteller Len Cabral taught us about the beauty of life. We have new tricks up our sleeves after an exciting magic show. We learned about animals and watched them right on the big screen. Overall, we have had an amazing summer at YWkids!







## Girls Exclusive Summer Program

The girls this summer were very artistic and creative! They loved doing activities that involved painting, coloring, designing, or DIY projects! We also explored such topics as self-care, wellness and healthy relationships; racial justice, the movement for Black lives, and the prison industrial complex; nutrition and healthy eating; endangered animals; planting seeds and cooking with fresh produce; internet safety. They built robots using the Lego Mindstorms kits and coded them using iPads to make the robots move. In their last week, the girls LOVED having the



opportunity to watch and discuss Hamilton. They closed camp by making flowers and, on the petals, writing things about themselves they thought were beautiful.

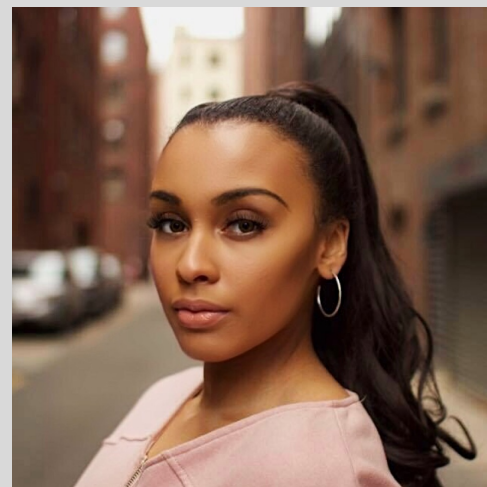
Girls Exclusive is grateful to our community partners who continue to provide programming for adolescent girls. Activities included: "All Aboard the Z" virtual presentations by the Zeiterion; weekly art classes with Alison Wells; outdoor exploration and bike riding with Youth Opportunities Unlimited; free training with Boutique Fitness; Miss New Bedford and Miss New Bedford Outstanding Teen; and Painting At a Splash!



## Meet the Newest Members of the YWCA SEMA Team!

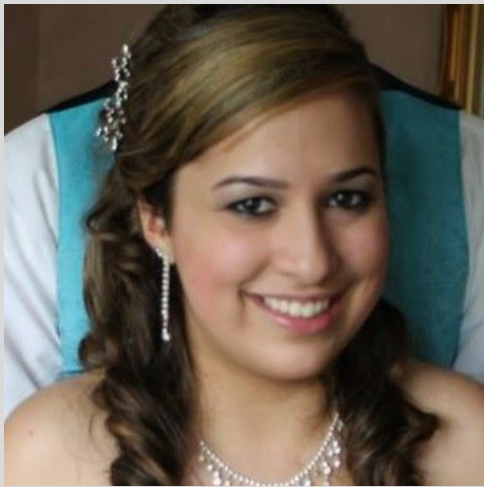


Meet Jane Rocha, the new Director of the Widowed Persons Program! Jane learned about the opening for the Widowed Persons



Meet Laurel Berryman, the new Racial & Gender Equity Program Coordinator! Laurel is a recent graduate from The

Program Director by a dear friend, Bernadette Souza. As a widow, Jane has felt the isolation and emptiness that losing a spouse can bring and she joined the YWCA SEMA family with a new sense of purpose and joy. Together we will work on meeting the needs of the widowed persons in the times of COVID-19. Jane can be reached at [jrocha@ywcasema.org](mailto:jrocha@ywcasema.org)



**Meet Kayla Marshall, the Resource Development Assistant!** During Kayla's time at Bridgewater State University, she had the opportunity to volunteer with those experiencing homelessness. From that point forward, she has dedicated her career to social welfare, ranging from homelessness to gender and racial equity, and can only hope to further her impact in the community. Kayla can be reached at [kmarshall@ywcasema.org](mailto:kmarshall@ywcasema.org)

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Laurel majored in Women's and Gender Studies with a focus in Black Studies. Her thesis was on the ways the education system fails Black women. Laurel has a strong connection to the YW's mission of Eliminating Racism & Empowering Women. Laurel can be reached at [lberryman@ywcasema.org](mailto:lberryman@ywcasema.org)



**Meet Shannon O'Neill, the Girls Exclusive Coordinator!** Originally from Fall River, Shannon recently graduated magna cum laude from Bristol Community College in Social and Behavioral Sciences. She begins at UMass Dartmouth this fall in the Psychology Program. Shannon is excited to continue working with the girls at GE and to begin implementing the Get Real Curriculum, which will empower more women and girls to be comfortable with themselves and their bodies. Shannon can be reached at [soneill@ywcasema.org](mailto:soneill@ywcasema.org) or [ge@ywcasema.org](mailto:ge@ywcasema.org)

## YWCA SEMA Summer 2020 Racial Justice Programming

YWCA has been on the front lines working to empower women and eliminate racism for over 100 years. Following the murder of George Floyd and countless others, the country is facing a reckoning moment when it comes to racial justice. We are now turning YWCA's mission of eliminating racism into a modern-day movement. Our Racial Justice activities provide an actionable way for individuals, organizations, and corporations alike to commit to fighting for racial justice.

- Over 450 individuals attended the five Community Conversations, facilitated by YWCA Executive Director Gail Fortes
- 70 individuals viewed the documentary film "Suppressed: The Fight to Vote" and learned more about voter suppression tactics in this year's Stand Against Racism event, co-hosted by YWCA SEMA and the MA Alliance of YWCAs
- Over 100 individuals are participating in this second Community Reading Circle for Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's "How To Be An Antiracist," facilitated by Andrea Garr-Barnes, co-hosted by YWCA SEMA and the NAACP New Bedford Branch, and sponsored by First Citizens Federal Credit Union



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## "What Is Whiteness?" Exploring White Racial Identity

A Seminar and Reflective Workshop facilitated by Aimee Davidson, YWCA Rhode Island

In conversations about race and racism in the US, too often "whiteness" is a racial category that goes unexamined. This workshop in two parts will explore that history and its impact on our present reality, whereas we see deep disparities in wellness along racial lines, with "white" folks consistently reporting better outcomes than their "non-white" peers. The first 90 minutes of this workshop will be a crash course in the origin of whiteness in the US. The second 90 minutes of this workshop, to be completed a week after the first, will be done in smaller cohorts in which participants will be asked to reflect on their own white racial identity.

90-MINUTE INSTRUCTIONAL WORKSHOP	90-MINUTE REFLECTIVE WORKSHOP
Choose one: Wed. July 1: 10-11:30AM or 1-2:30PM Wed. July 8: 10-11:30AM or 1-2:30PM	Choose one: Wed. July 15: 10-11:30AM, 12-1:30PM, or 2-3:30PM Wed. July 22: 10-11:30AM, 12-1:30PM, or 2-3:30PM

\*15 person max capacity for each session

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED TO THE FIRST 50 REGISTERED

Additional questions, please contact Jordan at jordan@ywcama.org

**YWCA IS ON A MISSION**



165 individuals participated in YWCA SEMA's first 21 Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge. Launched on Juneteenth, this challenge is designed to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership.

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WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT:  
**WHITE FEMINISM**

TUESDAY  
AUGUST 18, 2020  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

TOGETHER WE WILL UNPACK WHITE FEMINISM & DISCUSS STRATEGIES FOR DISMANTLING IT

- readings, videos, and podcast episodes will be shared one week before the workshop

SIGN UP AT THE LINK!  
<https://bit.ly/ywca-whitefeminism>  
REGISTRATION CLOSING MIDNIGHT 8/11/20

30 individuals participated in this pilot-workshop, facilitated by Jordan Latham and Whitney Mooney, and co-hosted by YWCA SEMA and YWCA Cambridge

90 individuals participated in the two-part series, "What Is Whiteness?: Exploring White Racial Identity" facilitated by Aimee Davidson and co-hosted by YWCA SEMA and YWCA Rhode Island

## Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for upcoming Racial Justice workshops this fall!

- A second "What Is Whiteness? Exploring White Racial Identity" series
- Public release of action plans, forums, and workshops created by the YWCA's 10 Racial Justice Working Groups. Topics include: Health, LGBTQ+, Housing, #SayHerName, Education, Youth, Food Justice, Workplace, Criminal Justice, and Civic Leadership/Building Diverse Nonprofit & Public Board of Directors

## REGIONAL TOWN HALL ON EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted just how important child care is to the Massachusetts economy.

Join the Southeastern MA chapter of the Common Start Coalition for a regional town hall to learn more about the importance of affordable, high-quality early education and care.

Thursday  
September 3, 2020  
6:30PM - 8PM



Link to register: <http://bit.ly/townhallsema>



Facilitator, **Jordan Latham**  
Director of Advocacy and Resource Development at YWCA Southeastern MA, and Southeastern MA Coordinator of the Common Start Coalition



Challenges in early education and child care, **Titus DosRemedios**  
Director of Research and Policy at Strategies for Children, Steering Committee Member of the Common Start Coalition



**Jennie Antunes**,  
Center Director,  
NorthStar Learning  
Centers



**Reverend Christa Wille McKnight**,  
Minister, First Parish  
Church in Taunton



**April Rosario**,  
Parent, Director of  
Education, First Parish  
Church in Taunton



**Soraya Dos Santos**,  
Parent, Maternal Advocate  
and Postpartum Provider



**Iva Brito**, Parent, Director  
of the Women's Center,  
Bristol Community College



Join us for "Women of Color Lighting the Way to Equality in New Bedford and Beyond," an online panel discussion showcasing the rich legacy of civic engagement of women, especially women of color and young adults. Headlined by Dr. Premilla Nadasen, Professor of History at Barnard College and OAH Distinguished Lecturer, and featuring local civically engaged female panelists, this discussion will highlight the ways that women of color have historically organized to address inequity for women, and how they continue to address issues of class, race, and other oppressions. Be inspired to exercise your rights to be an informed and engaged community member, citizen, and voter. This event is free but registration is required.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted just how important child care is to the Massachusetts economy. Without safe access to affordable, high-quality early education and child care, parents and other caregivers are either unable to

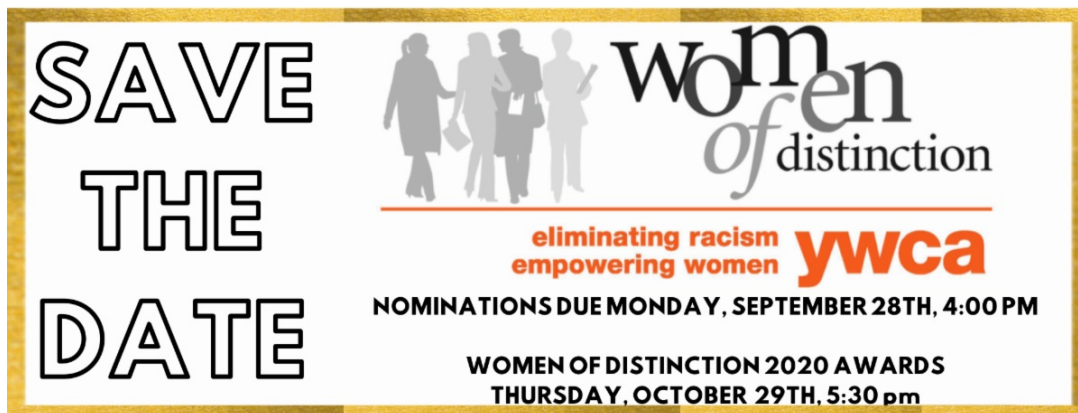
work, or struggle to balance work with caring for their children.

Join the Southeastern MA chapter of the Common Start Coalition for a regional town hall to learn more about the importance of affordable, high-quality early education and care. Hear from parents and guardians, and early education and child care providers about why we need to invest in child care.

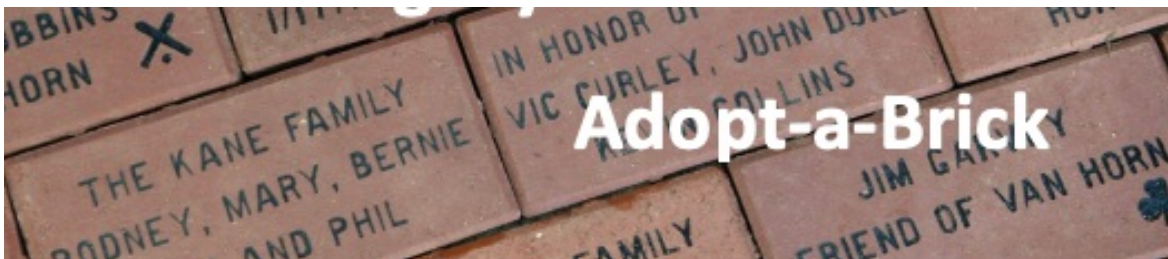
This event is presented by the New Bedford Whaling Museum and YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts. Support comes from "The Vote: A Statewide Conversation on Voting Rights," a special initiative of Mass Humanities.

RSVP

RSVP



Visit the YWCA Website to Learn More



The YWCA's Under One Roof Legacy Walkway is made up of engraved bricks that lead up to the steps of the YWCA's new building addition, bringing our critical programs that serve women, children and families to a state-of-the-art center-city campus. It is truly a place of life and history for the YWCA. Bricks along the walkway are available for adoption by families, friends, participants, volunteers, board, staff and the greater community. This is a beautiful way to honor a loved one or leave your own legacy. You can help us reach our goal by purchasing a brick for just \$100!

Click Here to Adopt a Brick!

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts  
is dedicated to eliminating racism,

**eliminating racism  
empowering women**

**ywca**

**southeastern massachusetts**

**empowering women and promoting  
peace, justice, freedom and dignity  
for all.**

**DONATE TODAY**

