### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO RISE UP.

ise

eliminating racism empowering women

Greater Flint



## Dear friends,

Rise Up.

You're broken down and tired Of living life on the merry-go-round And you can't find the fighter But I see it in you, so we gonna walk it out

> And move mountains We gonna walk it out And move mountains

And I'll rise up I'll rise like the day I'll rise up I'll rise unafraid I'll rise up And I'll do it a thousand times again

And I'll rise up High like the waves I'll rise up In spite of the ache I'll rise up And I'll do it a thousands times again

> Excerpt from the song Rise Up

Songwriters: Andra Dav Batie Cassandra Monique. 2021 was an exciting one at the YWCA Greater Flint as we made great strides to fulfilling our vision of establishing the Women's Empowerment Center (WEC)!

Our Vision 2020 Campaign committee headed by Kathi Horton and Judy Ebbott worked tirelessly to share the exciting prospect of new programming with potential donors, raising close to \$170,000 in individual contributions. We also secured grants from the Child Welfare Society, Huntington Bank, AG Bishop Trust, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to support the development of the new WEC!

As we planned for the Women's Empowerment Center, we quickly came to the realization that in order to effectively expand our work and focus on the empowerment of women and girls in our community, we needed to reengage with racial justice work since the intersectionality of race and gender plays such a significant role in women's lived experiences. As you read through this report, you will notice that we dedicated new efforts to implementing racial justice programming for community members and leaders to continue fulfilling our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women!

Our comprehensive Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program continued to assist victims of abuse and sexual violence to RISE OUT of violent and oppressive relationships. Serving almost 2,600 clients, we provided individuals with the tools and support to find their inner strength and determination for healing, re-define life goals, and understand the dynamics healthy relationships.

In response to surges of COVID-19, we quickly pivoted to offer virtual advocacy-crisis intervention and support group sessions as staff worked from home to ensure everyone's health and safety.

Warm regards,

CEO



Below is a breakdown of services provided from October 2020 through September 2021:

• Personal Protection Order Requests: 451 • Crisis Line Calls received: 1731 • Rape Kit Examinations Completed: 109 • Safehouse Residents served: **372** • Number of Crisis Intervention Sessions: 974 • Number of Victim Advocacy Sessions: **1292** 

The achievement of 2021 would not be possible without a dedicated staff, board of directors, donors and community partners...we are thankful for all of their contributions and commitment to our mission. It is our hope that through the services and programs offered at the YWCA Greater Flint, women and girls will continue to RISE UP to achieve their goals and dreams! On behalf of all the women that are served and those to come at the YWCA Greater Flint, we thank you for your unwavering support!

Michelee OKosyng

Michelle O. Rosynsky, Ed. D.



## **YWCA Services**

### THE HARRIET KENWORTHY **CRISIS AND ADVOCACY CENTER**

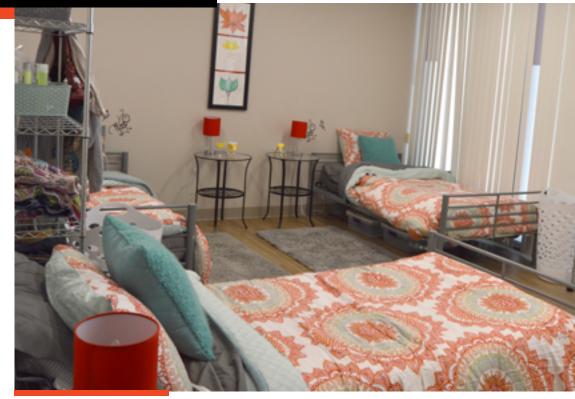
YWCA Advocates help each client by offering safety planning and basic needs through a wide-range of crisis intervention support services.



Advocates are available on-call 24 hours/day and 7 days/ week to assist survivors throughout the continuum of the crisis - starting with the most basic needs for housing, clothing, food, toiletries, children's supplies and safety. They assist with obtaining Personal Protection Orders (PPO) as well as accompanying a victim to court. Advocates respond to the victim's concerns in a confidential manner without interfering with the medical, reporting, investigative or court processes. They take the time to clearly explain the victim's rights and responsibilities and the choices available to them.

In addition to providing immediate intervention services, advocates use a trauma informed approach in their work to create a safe, supportive and nonjudgmental environment to help victims of domestic violence or sexual assault begin to rebuild trust, to develop a sense of security, and to reduce feelings of isolation and self-blame.

To help reduce the feeling of isolation, the YWCA offers a 12-session weekly program for victims of domestic violence, DV Encouragement Circle. These sessions are facilitated by a YWCA Case Manager and include interactive exercises and group discussion. The topics covered include: defining domestic violence and the cycle of violence, the power and control wheel, how to establish boundaries and be a self-advocate, as well as the long-term effects of violence on the victim and children. The group also focuses on self-esteem and the dynamics of healthy relationships in a safe and trauma-informed space.



The Safehouse offers private bedrooms for families and individuals. Residents share a communal kitchen, dining and lounge space.

### SAFEHOUSE SHELTER

The Safehouse is a 32-bed emergency shelter with supportive services for survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault and their minor children. The YWCA conducts an assessment with each potential resident to ensure the needs of the survivor match the services provided at the Safehouse. For individuals with needs requiring other supportive housing services, referrals are made. Residents are encouraged to engage with the resources and services designed to assist them with planning for the future.



The SAFE Center is available 24 hours/day and 7 days/ week to provide comprehensive medical forensic examinations to survivors of sexual assault.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT **RESPONSE TEAM (SART)**



### SAFE CENTER

With patient consent, evidence is collected and documented by specially trained, forensic nurse examiners in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Advocates are available to offer support, information and connection to additional resources. They will take time to clearly explain the victim's rights and responsibilities and the choices available to them.

### **CRISIS LINE (810) 238-SAFE**

The YWCA 24/7 crisis line offers trained staff who are available to respond to victims, answer questions, provide information and referrals, and assist with the intake process for Safehouse for those in need of shelter.

SART is a multidisciplinary group representing law enforcement, hospitals, and service providers who work collaboratively to ensure coordinated response and support for sexual assault victims in Genesee County.

## The YWCA Saved My Life

**TIFFANI'S STORY:** Hopelessness and fear can be overwhelming and debilitating, when trying to navigate a new life, after leaving an abusive partner who controlled the money and all aspects of life. With a child, no money and only a few items of clothing, Tiffani found the world is very frightening without support.

Housing, food, health care, and clothing—the basic items of necessity were no longer available without money. The YWCA Greater Flint Safehouse provided Tiffani with a safe place to stay and some of these basic needs along with additional resources including: a case manager within the Genesee Health System; mental health counseling; a connection to DHHS and approval for Medicaid and food stamps; a domestic violence support group; school clothes, school supplies, hygiene products, and ultimately a new pathway to an apartment and safe, independent living.

"When I came into the Safehouse I was hurt, abused, lost and depressed. I felt like giving up. Coming to the shelter helped me find myself again. I got help with my depression and anxiety and I'm no longer an emotional wreck. Everything I thought I wouldn't have, if I left, I got—plus some. My son and I are happy and safe!"

**LEESA'S STORY:** Leesa's husband was controlling. He limited her access to finances and resources, dictated who she could talk to (and not), denied her any decisionmaking opportunities, and regulated all activities. What she didn't realize was this was not normal—all are forms of abuse—even in a marriage.

By participating in the individual and group counseling sessions at the YWCA Greater Flint, Leesa was able to establish confidence, and develop strategies for a new path towards independence and self-determination. After years of marriage, Leesa is learning to live a life without being told what to do, how to spend money, who to talk to and where she can go. She is discovering confidence in her own abilities to make decisions, be independent and self-reliant.



Rise Up.

"THANK GOD FOR THE YWCA SAVING MY LIFE...WHEN I CAME INTO THE SAFEHOUSE I WAS HURT, ABUSED, LOST AND DEPRESSED. I FELT LIKE GIVING UP. COMING TO THE SHELTER HELPED ME FIND MYSELF AGAIN..."

# Kindness of others.

My two brothers and I were raised during the depression and World War II years, by a mother who had been widowed at the age of 29. It was through the kindness and caring of others that we survived those early years. Supporting an organization like the YWCA Greater Flint that provides that same caring and kindness, along with a safe environment for women and children, is a way of returning some of the blessings of my own life. This is "Y" I served as the co-chair of the YWCA Directions 80 Campaign Committee which raised 2.5 million dollars in the early 1980s and continue to support this wonderful organization today!

**WILLIAM PIPER** Long-time supporter and donor Co-Chair of the YWCA Directions 80 Campaign Committee



Rise UP.

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR TOWN, OUR STATE, WAS NOT SAFE.

eliminating racism empowering women

vwca **Greater Flint** 

**BRANDI'S STORY:** It is not a headline about another country. It is reality for more than 16,658 individuals in the United States each year, and it became a reality for Brandi, who lived right here, in our own community.

The YWCA Greater Flint, learned about Brandi after receiving a call from the Genesee County Human Oppression Strike Team (GHOST). They indicated that a human trafficking survivor had presented at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, MI. A Sexual Assault Victim Advocate responded to the call, and offered-what they do best-a listening ear and reassurances that the survivor was safe.

Often, reassurances of safety are hard to hear and process for someone enduring a life of commercial sex by means of coercion, fraud, or force, and the advocate understands this. Utilizing a needs assessment, the advocate assisted Brandi by arranging for safe housing, clothing, food, and phone.

The option to have a sexual assault exam, completed by one of the YWCA's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), was offered to Brandi but she found it to be too much at this stage, and declined. The hierarchy of need was fully operational...the basics... safe housing, food, and clothes. Once these were in place, connections to community resources were introduced for mental health care and drug use rehabilitation.

Over the next few weeks, the advocate and Brandi developed a plan for safe relocation out of Michigan. Our community, our town, our state, was no longer safe for Brandi. The next stage in relocating Brandi was integration into a survivor community to help reduce isolation. The YWCA Safehouse Shelter provided this community. Shortly after the introduction to Safehouse, Brandi was now ready to see the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). Timing matters. Trust matters.

With more trust came more sharing. The advocate and Brandi continued to strategize about relocation plans, support options, and safety resources. The advocate facilitated a connection with a Human Sex Trafficking shelter in another state. Additional resources in that community were also identified-food banks, advocacy centers, hospitals, and shelters-as secondary steps to follow the primary safety plan. Brandi was accompanied to the airport and provided with safe transportation to the shelter upon arrival in the new state. Brandi was successfully relocated out of Michigan, and the advocate is ready to respond again.

## Sex Trafficking



## **YWCA** and racial justice.

### Advisory Team

**Kenneth Frierson Ruth Mott Foundation** 

Lauren Holaly **Crim Fitness Foundation** 

**Regina Laurie** YWCA Racial and Gender Equity Coordinator

Carma Lewis Flint Neighborhoods United

**David Luke** University of Michigan-Flint

Lvnn Willams Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Juan Zuniga Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

**Artina Carter** Consultant

Traci Kim Consultant

## **History**

Nearly 20 years ago the YWCA Greater Flint developed a curriculum focusing on racial justice entitled "Challenging Racism". The approach was recognized as a model for trainings and was used across the Greater Flint area. Over the years, however, with changes in leadership and program restructuring, the sessions were discontinued, leaving a part of the YWCA mission unaddressed. In the planning process for the Women's Empowerment Center, we guickly came to the realization that in order to effectively expand our work and focus on the empowerment of women and girls in our community, we needed to re-engage with racial justice work since the intersectionality of race and gender play such a significant role in women's lived experiences.

### **Racial Justice** Initiatives

We are grateful to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint for the financial support from the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Program Fund. In May of 2021, two focus groups, led by consultants Artina Carter and Traci Kim, brought together community representatives from education, health care, housing, higher education, and non-profits to engage in a critical conversation about racial justice. The groups discussed the effects of racism and gender inequity, current issues and initiatives in Flint, and the type of programming that would be most effective to bring transformational change to our community.

Through these honest discussions, it became evident that a new approach was needed. In order to be responsive to our community needs, the group identified the importance of offering more in-depth sessions for leaders to learn about racism and how to make organizational changes as well as stand-alone workshops for relationship building, active listening, and storytelling to better understand others' lived experiences. In order to develop a curriculum responsive to our community needs, an advisory team was assembled, and, together with the consultants and YWCA Racial and Gender Equity Coordinator, Regina Laurie, the following programs were developed:

- Racial Justice Transformational Leadership **Academy:** a six-part module series with community leaders to raise awareness around racial inequities and their impact as well as to develop new systems and policies to facilitate equitable outcomes within organizations.
- Racial Justice Workshops: introductory and advanced sessions (Challenging Racism **101 and 102)** focused on creating a shared language, developing strategies for effective listening and the skills for engaging in, and facilitating, difficult conversations. The series also includes Facilitators Training for individuals who have completed workshops 101 and 102 and would like to learn how to facilitate trainings.

### To learn more, contact us at info@ywcaflint.org.

### **Women's Empowerment Center (WEC) UPDATE**

We are excited to share that we made the following progress on the development of the WEC and its programs during FY 2021. Stay tuned for the official grand opening of the center in fall 2022.

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- Raised 75% of the 1 million and grants
- Finalized design and renovation plans for the center • Obtained evidenced-based educational curriculum for women's and girls' empowerment from YWCA USA and the One Circle
- Foundation • Developed preliminary strategies for program
- Began renovation of the Women's Empowerment Center space (2nd floor of current YWCA location) • Outlined future programmatic
- components offered through the WEC:
- Life Coaching: individual sessions to discuss needs, goals, and develop actions plans. Believing in You Mentoring

**Program:** one-on-one discuss life issues and network of support.

Empower Workshops: sessions for two generation family

dollar capacity building goal through individual donations

- relationship with a mentor to decisions, educational and career options, and create a

members (mother/caregiver/ pre-teen or teen) focusing on understanding selfefficacy and self-esteem, leadership styles, teamwork, healthy relationships, etc.

- Financial Literacy Workshops: hands-on activities to introduce participants to everyday financial and budgeting decisions.
- Girls ASPIRE Leadership Program: intensive weeklong summer program series for girls entering 6th, 7th and 8th grade.
- Hired Coordinator for Race and Gender Equity Programs
- YWCA Staff and Board of Directors completed the Michigan Non-Profit Association's Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Assessment; results will be used to inform staff and board training, as well as the YWCA's strategic plan
- YWCA Staff completed two workshops focusing on racial justice and social identities in fall 2021 as part of a training series on race and gender equity that will continue into

# Hope and self worth.

I believe it is necessary to give back to the community for those who seek support and assistance to restore life, mend broken pieces, and identify a sense of value, hope, and selfworth for themselves and their families. This is my "Y" for supporting the YWCA Greater Flint. Through mentorship, leadership and a sound organizational structure, women and children are able to find a sense of safety, security, and peace within the structure of the YWCA. The staff genuinely cares, and works to make a difference. The Board serves and gives back because they understand the struggle and impact abuse and trauma has on individuals and the family system. I support the YWCA because it is organizations like the Y that improves and saves lives each and every day.

**KENYETTA DOTSON** 

YWCA Board President 2017-2018 YWCA Board Member 2013 - 2019



When I first became a board member of the YWCA Greater Flint in 1998, my primary motivation was to be involved with an organization that impacted women's lives in a transformative way while maintaining sustainable outcomes. Twenty-four years later, that remains at the forefront of my support. The YWCA has proven itself as a missiondriven organization on the front lines, changing lives everyday by doing the crucial work of helping women and families when they need it the most. I appreciate that the YWCA has kept its focus on its core programming, while still having the foresight to collaborate, add or adjust programs to keep pace with changing needs of women and girls

in our region. Yes, there have been challenges, but the YWCA has always faced these issues head on and used them as opportunities to strategically evaluate and fortify programs and services to best serve the mission of empowering women and eliminating racism. I once read that every investment that empowers a woman sparks a ripple effect that influences not only her life but that of her family and community as well. The privilege of being part of that ripple effect is my "Y."

LAURIE PROCHAZKA (granted "lifetime" status in 2017)



## **YWCA leaders**





### YWCA GREATER FLINT **FINANCIALS**

FY 2021: October 1, 202

Restricted Contributions

Programs and Services

General Operations

Unrestricted Contributions

Income

Total

Trust Revenue

Grant Revenue

Expenses

Fund-raising

Total

0 – September 30, 2021	

\$12,191

\$288,648

\$93,618

\$1,699,633

\$1,758,628

\$246,274

\$15,000

\$2,019,902

\$2,094,090

### Income

Expenses

### YWCA GREATER FLINT board of directors

Kenyatta Bates+\* Jill Carr+\* Meagan Cooke + Alexandra Dawson+\* Daphne Epps+\* Nicole Gubanscik + Tarnesa Martin\* Candice Montie+\* Sandra Murphy\* Natalie Pruett+\* Anupa Shantaram+\* **Teresa Springer\*** Amari Steward+\* Qiana Towns Williams +\* Ashnee Young\*

+served fiscal year 2020-2021 \*serving fiscal year 2021-2022

### YWCA GREATER FLINT **Leadership Team**

Shelby Brejnak Director, Sexual Assault Program

Melissa Caldwell Co-Director, Domestic Violence Program

Kanisha Clemons Program Coordinator, Women's Empowerment Center

**Peggy Cooper** Executive Assistant to CEO

Amv Cuneaz Grants Manager

**Regina Laurie** Racial and Gender Equity Coordinator

Michelle Rosynsky CEO

**Trina Sanders** Co-Director, Domestic Violence Program

**Katrina** Taylor Accountant

### **VISION 2020 CAMPAIGN** WOMEN'S **EMPOWERMENT** CENTER

### FY 2021: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

Contributions and Grants

614.325

Program Expenses

193,902



Thank you to the

organizations and

foundations who

supported the

each day to

Center

have so generously

YWCA Greater Flint.

\* indicates donation to the

Women's Empowerment

Vision 2020 Campaign

supporting the NEW

Your gifts help us

individuals.

## **Thank you Donors!**

### \$25000 and Up

William Piper \*

### \$10.000-24.999

Anna Paulina Foundation **Charles Stewart Harding** Foundation Kim and Dick Skaff\* Lila Esfahani\* Alan Kenworthv\* Harriet Kenworthy\* Linda and Guy Moxam\* continue and grow! Shannon White\* Judy Ebbott\* Kathi Horton\*

### \$5000-9999

AG Bishop Irrevocable CharitableTrust\* Grace Emmanuel **Baptist Church** Skaff Furniture First Presbyterian Church of Flint Elizabeth Wise\*

### \$2500-4999

Ascension Genesys Hospital Cory Black Eleanor Brownell\* Hurley Medical Center Jennings Memorial Foundation Audrev Lattie Jill Norwood

### <u>\$1000-2499</u>

Genesee Health System

Advance Contracting and **Electrical Services** These gifts represent donation **Burroughs Memorial Trust** from October 1, 2020 through Thrive Collective September 30, 2021. If we have **Dort Federal Credit Union** omitted or misspelled your Judy Ebbott Raghad Farah\* Donna Fry Genesee County Medical Society Alliance, Inc.

Kathi Horton\* Denise Keipert Christine Landaal\* Junior League\* Jim Mirolli Mott Community College Liz Murphy David Petro William Piper Nicholas Rademacher Michelle Rosynsky\* Janice Sova\* Gloria Van Duyne Charles Viera Joan Wade Zeta Beta Chapter-Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Zonta Club of Fenton

### \$500-999

Alpha Sigma Alpha Veronica Artis Bath and Body Works-Genesee Valley Mall Brian Boike Angela Castro Lorraine Conaway Betsy Conley\* Helen DeMorrow Joanne Fuller\* Genesee Intermediate School District Nicole Gubancsik\* Emylee Judo Wavne Knecht Scott Larion Candice Montie\* Jill Phillips\* Natalie Pruett\* April Rudoni\* Shervl Stephens Theresa Stephens-Lock\* Karen Wilkinson

### \$250-499

Ascension Genesys OBGYN **Residency Program** Janice Blough Monica Cole CSL Plasma **Renee Dikos** Flint Children's Museum

General Motors Customer Care and Aftersales Barbara and Philip Goldman\* Great Lakes District Women's Convention Lois Mengel Sandra Murphy Jill Norwood DeQuane and Quiana Powell Elisabeth Saab Phyllis Schroeder **Rose Topps Towne Center Family Dental** Janis Werschkv\* Michele Wildman

### \$100-249

1st Care Club of Flint Sandy Applegate **Carroll Baker** Maureen Ballesteros Jan Barlow Kenyatta Bates\* Joyce Beardslee Kelly Beardslee Erica Beavers Amy Begola\* Jane Bingham Elizabeth Bishop Sandy Bograkos Pam Boike\* Susan Booth Laura Bowers Ginny Bueche Tatiana Bustos **Brenda Caldwell** Jennifer Callison\* Penny Canada John Carol Jill Carr Lennetta Conev Meagan Cooke Brandee Cooke-Brown Erin Craft Marianne Daliege\* Daughters of Penelope Iris Janet Dean Barbara DeClercq Andrea DeJong Kenyetta Dotson Sharon Eisen\* Sherlynn Everly

Sharon Ewles\*

Flushing Women's Club

**Brenda Fortunate** Nasienka Francis Jill Gadola Rebecca Gale-Gonzalez Kathleen Garbulinski Genesee Evening Star Quilters **GFWC Swartz Creek** Women's Club Denise Ghattas Linda Gibson\* Amv Golombeski\* Harry and Teresa Gregory Nicole Gubancsik Kia Hagens Nina Haffajee\* Maggie Hart Nelda Hebert **Ranae Hendricks** Shelly Hoffman Claudnyse Holloman Carol Hurand\* Lynne Hurand Jacqueline Johnson Patricia Johnson\* Shirley Johnson Sally Kagerer Gwen Kelley Harriet Kenworthy David and Sandra King\* Linda Klungle Kelly Landaal\*

Brian Larkin Dellisa Lewis Jaime Love Sharonda Love-Wilson Mass Transportation Authority Randy McDonald Marcia Faye McGee Helen Millhouse Kitty Moeller Dan Moilanen Chia Morgan Linda Moxam Sharon Muston Heather Nassar\* Elizabeth O'Dell LaToya Oglesby Colleen Pace Becky Pettengill Janice Pike **TreLan Pounds** Jennifer Ream\* Sandy Regiani Janeen Reigle Sara Reno\* Sana Reynolds\* Mary Jane Richardson Larry Ridge Marcie Roberts\* Mary Ann Roe Lisa Rogers **Bonnie Roman** 



name, we apologize!

**Deborah Rudolph** Ann Saab Tammy Schultz **Deirdre Scott-Jones** Polly Sheppard Gerald Sparling Shelley Spivack Reta Stanlev Susan Stravato\* **JoyceThewalt** Qiana Towns-Williams **Kiana** Trabue Kathy Trobaugh United Methodist Women Nancey Verran Eve Vitale Devonna Wallace Tamika Webb William Webber Barbara Wesley Brian and Lynda Wiltse **Bruce Wiltse** Cheryl Woodyard Lindsey Younger

### \$25-99

Hannah Collins Katherine Cox Sharon Eisen Barbara Hamilton-Welch Dawn Hemingway Christine Hernandez Shelley Hufton Bleu Imonivwerha Samantha Imonivwerha Sandra Johnson Kathy Maiuri Jeannette Nassif Jane O'Dell Juanita Richardson Toyonna Robbins Beverlee Smaka Frank and Sally Walker\* Mary Will

If you would like to donate to the YWCA Greater Flint, please complete the enclosed envelope or go to our website at:

### ywcaflint.org/donate



### **CONTACT US**

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