



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

2015
ANNUAL
REPORT

**2015 VICTIM
ADVOCACY
HIGHLIGHTS**

295

Survivors provided with PPO assistance

849

Survivors provided criminal justice advocacy

1,557

Survivors provided civil justice advocacy

Victim Advocacy

Often as a result of situations out of their control, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault may become involved with the criminal justice system, divorce and custody matters, child protection proceedings or personal protection order cases. Our legal system can be difficult to understand and can often feel threatening and unfriendly. The Victim Advocates of the YWCA of Greater Flint strive to build relationships with prosecutors, judges and law enforcement to effectively advocate for our client survivors. The following services are offered by Victim Advocates:

- Advocacy and communication on behalf of survivors;
- Accompaniment and support at court;
- Assistance with applying for Crime Victim Compensation;
- Assistance with preparing, filing, serving and maintaining Personal Protection Orders;
- Do-it-yourself divorce workshops for survivors; and
- Referrals to attorneys for direct legal representation.

Counseling Services

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program of the YWCA delivers all services with an empowerment based philosophy as its foundation. Empowerment focuses on a survivor's strengths and allows them to set their path through and gain control through their own choices. Crisis counseling and support groups are designed to provide survivors with the tools to empower themselves, to increase their safety and lead lives free from violence. Counselors assist with safety planning, connecting survivors to resources and other support based on individual needs. Support groups provide safe space for survivors to learn and grow with others who have gone through similar situations.

**2015
COUNSELING
SERVICES
HIGHLIGHTS**

1,279

Survivors provided with individual counseling

324

Survivors provided with domestic violence support groups

Safe House

The YWCA Safe House the only emergency housing facility in Genesee County to provide safe, temporary shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their minor children. Safe House is located in a secure site, with easy access to public transportation and community resources. In addition to basic need provision, services available while at Safe House include:

- Victim Advocacy;
- Crisis Counseling and support groups;
- Referrals to community resources;
- Personal advocacy and positive support;
- Children's activities; and
- Empowering educational opportunities.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) provides 24-hour immediate crisis response area hospitals and to local law enforcement. Services include support during sexual assault examination, explanation of evidence collection, support to family and friends, and assisting the survivor in accessing services after an assault has taken place.

Prevention Education

Knowledge is power! The YWCA actively works to inform and educate the community about domestic violence and sexual assault with the belief that the more awareness and education we spread, the closer we get to eliminate it. Trained staff facilitates informational sessions and discussions with community partners including law enforcement, hospital staff, other services providers, local colleges and community schools.

**2015 SAFE HOUSE
HIGHLIGHTS**

215

Adult Survivors Sheltered

222

Children Sheltered

4,205

Shelter Nights – WOMEN

5,318

Shelter Nights – CHILDREN

1,198

Crisis Line Calls

**2015 ERT
HIGHLIGHTS**

13

Emergency response to violent incidences

**2015
PREVENTION
EDUCATION
HIGHLIGHT**

49

Community education presentations

587

Individuals attended presentations

POSITIVE COMMENTS

“I have attended counseling at previous centers and have found in my short time here at the YWCA, I have learned more and grown in leaps for exceeding what I ever did at those places. I am finally finding peace with my past.”

“I would strongly recommend because the staff are caring and makes you feel you are somebody! Thanks for allowing my children and I to be a part of the YWCA program.”

“Please! Keep up the exceptional work, because for me the YWCA were right on time helping me find peace tremendously.”

“I am grateful for all the help and understanding, I have received.”

“Very helpful staff. Held my hand the entire time. Amazing service.”

“The YWCA has helped numerous times when there was no one else anywhere that would help me!”

“This place is more than just therapy, it is a beacon of hope that a brighter future is possible regardless of the baggage we all carry each day.”

“It has been a great opportunity to be here and thanks for everything that the shelter has provided for me and my kids.”

“Very helpful, understanding and do their best to help.”

“This is a very helpful place.”

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FROM THE CEO

Accepting the leadership role of an organization so rooted and beloved in our community, yet very fragile in its present state was a challenge I willingly accepted in the fall of 2014. I have never been so grateful for an opportunity and terrified at the work to be done.

In 2015, the YWCA recognized it was at a tipping point. As we have done so elegantly and competently in the past, the organization had to be nimble and find its relevancy in our community while balancing the reality of its obligations. Led by a strong Board of Directors, we have streamlined our programming to reflect our dedication to our mission. Likewise, the YWCA has moved to align our resources, financial and otherwise, with our mission, leading to our decision to relocate.

Anyone presented with an unsustainable status quo knows that change brings fear, pain, uncertainty, anger and hopefully, eventual success. All of these emotions have been felt by staff and Board of Directors alike in the past year. Yet, despite this internal turmoil, the staff of YWCA continued to provide the compassionate and outstanding services outlined below; a feat to be commended and not to be overshadowed. For this reason, we offer you this program information and our sincere gratitude. The continued support of our agency for well over 100 years, throughout recession, public health crisis and beyond, is a testament to the community and a resilient voice against violence.

I remain each day grateful for the chance to work with a dedicated and passionate staff and Board. I can't wait to share 2016 with you.

Circle of Women

Circle of Women remains the signature event for the YWCA. This day annually brings community leaders together in an intimate luncheon setting to reconnect with friends and network with others who share the common goal of assisting women and their families. Together with a keynote speaker, Circle of Women event features inspiring stories from women impacted by YWCA programs and services.

In 2015, over 500 women enjoyed the fellowship of the day to as well as an address by Rachel Lloyd. Rachel Lloyd is the founder of Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), the nation's largest provider of services to young women to combat commercial sexual exploitation. Rachel authored Girls Like Us, co-produced the documentary Very Young Girls and was chosen as one of the "20 Women Changing the World" in 2014 by Marie Claire Magazine for her tireless advocating for trafficking survivors and the needed legislation to afford them protection.



Walk A Mile

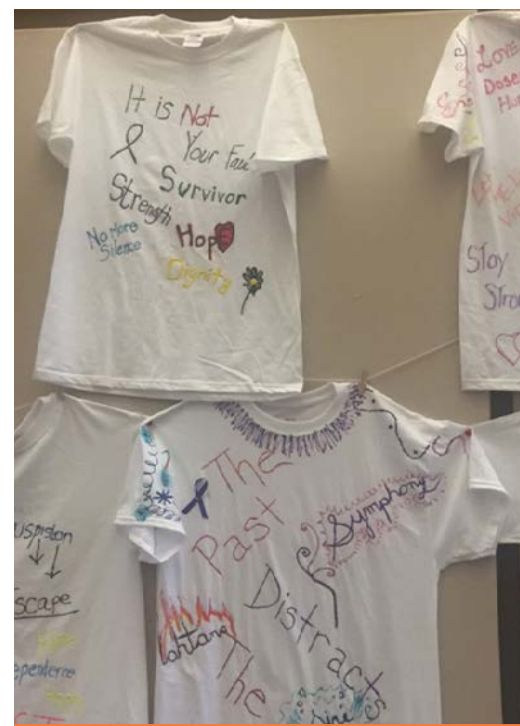
On May 28, 2015, men from throughout Genesee County came together at the YWCA to "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes". Over 75 men met the challenge of walking in high heels to raise awareness and support the services provided to sexual assault survivors in our community.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The YWCA takes the opportunity to honor survivors of domestic violence by increasing awareness and hosting events during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In October 2015, the YWCA invited survivors and their families, staff, volunteers and community partners to join us for our Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk where we joined up with the Annual Peace Day Celebration. This event was well attended and provided a deeper level of empowerment and support to our survivors and those affected by domestic violence.

The Clothesline Project was on display for the entire month of October in the lobby of the YWCA. This initiative started nationally in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women. Survivors at the YWCA participate by expressing their emotions on a t-shirt that is then hung to be viewed by others as a testimony to the direct impact that violence against women has had on them individually and on our community as a whole.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! The YWCA partnered with numerous organizations to raise awareness of sexual violence and the impact it has on our community including "Take Back the Night" hosted by University of Michigan- Flint. This annual event empowered survivors of sexual assault to take control of the conversation and speak out about their experiences.

In addition, the YWCA joined forces with Mott Community College as they hosted Theresa Flores, a trafficking survivor and founder of Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution initiative. The YWCA's collaborations with our community partners continue create opportunities to spread awareness and educate a broader population in the community.

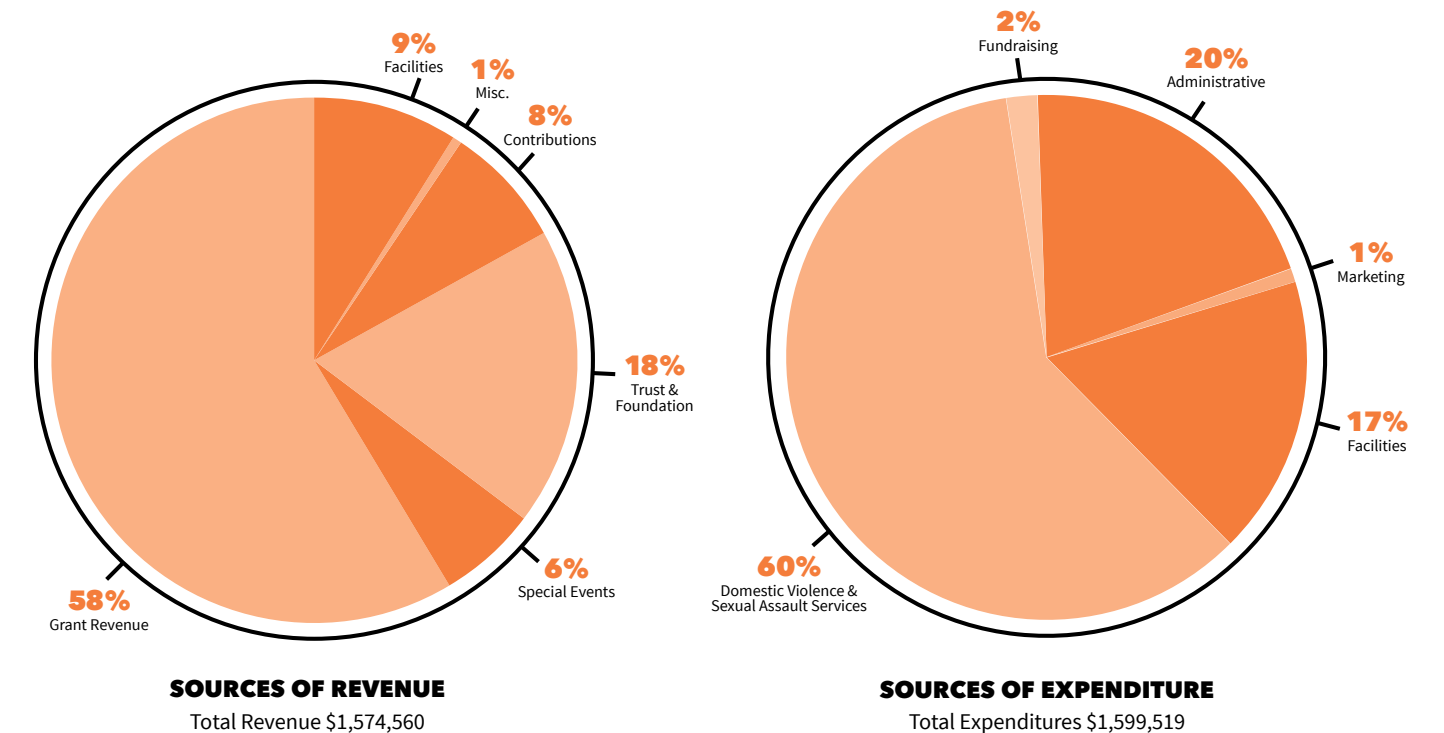


Golf Outing

The annual Golf Outing brings together people who may not otherwise be linked to the YWCA. Each year, corporations and individuals from across the community come together for an enjoyable day of golf in support of the YWCA's mission and programs. The 2015 Annual Golf Outing hosted over 100 women and men and 50 organizations at Atlas Valley Country Club in Grand Blanc, Michigan.



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