# BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2023-2024 eliminating racism empowering women



**Greater Flint** 

### MISSION STATEMENT

YWCA IS DEDICATED TO ELIMINATING RACISM, EMPOWERING WOMEN AND PROMOTING PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.

# BY THE NUMBERS\*

146

PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS (PPOS) FILED

46
PPOS DENIED

100 PPOS GRANTED

SAFE
(SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS) COMPLETED

CRISIS INTERVENTION SESSIONS

\*October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024

HELPLINE

SAFEHOUSE GUESTS SERVED

WOMEN

131
CHILDREN

CO CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF T

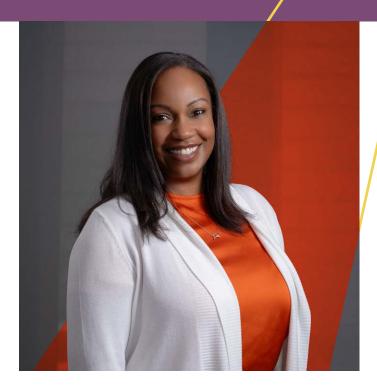
### MEET THE LEADERS

### LETTER FROM THE CEO

As I reflect on the theme of this year's annual report, Building Brighter Futures, I am filled with a sense of excitement and purpose. Every day, I have the privilege of working alongside a deeply compassionate and community-focused team at the YWCA of Greater Flint. Our mission to promote peace, justice and dignity for all is not just a statement; it is the driving force behind everything we do.

At the YWCA, we recognize the layered and complex challenges that women and individuals face. Economic disparities, intimate partner violence, sexual violence and systemic injustices intersect in ways that create unpredictable and often overwhelming barriers. Our work addresses these challenges head-on, providing not only critical services like our SafeHouse but also empowering programs that foster self-efficacy for girls and community-wide education. These services offer more than just immediate support; they lay the foundation for lasting change.

As we reflect on our impact over the past year, we do so with a deep sense of responsibility and urgency. The YWCA has a legacy of 117 years of serving this community, and I am truly humbled to stand at the helm as its new CEO. Our mission has never been more vital. The work we do today – in advocacy,



shelter, education and empowerment – echoes into the future, creating new opportunities and pathways to stability and success.

Building Brighter Futures is not just a theme for this year's report; it is a commitment that we uphold in every interaction and engagement. Together, with the support of our partners, donors and community members, we will continue to uplift, protect and empower those we serve.

The journey ahead is one of hope and transformation. As we walk this path together, I am confident that we are making a lasting impact—one life at a time.

Mudro Larkin

With gratitude,

DeAndra Larkin

CFO

YWCA of Greater Flint



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I became the President of the YWCA Board in October 2023. That month, we celebrated the grand opening of the Women's Empowerment Center and before the year was over, we achieved the Vision 2020 campaign goal of raising one million dollars; another celebration! Many thanks to Kathi Horton and Judy Ebbott – co-chairs of that campaign – for their leadership in making this goal a reality.

In 2024, we strengthened the diversity of our Board and invited our new CEO for the YWCA of Greater Flint, DeAndra Larkin, the first woman of color to fill this role. Over 70 individuals attended DeAndra's welcoming reception at the Women's Empowerment Center. Guests included friends from the C.S. Mott Foundation, the Community Foundation of Greater

Flint, the United Way of Genesee County and the Ruth Mott Foundation, as well as many donors and community partners.

Throughout these past two years I have relied upon the leadership of Board members and the commitment and dedication of the YWCA staff. Each has willingly met every challenge and opportunity with grace, integrity and passion. Additionally, as the Board undertook a search for its new CEO, the YWCA received financial support from Mr. Bill Piper and the United Way of Genesee County. Both stepped up to assist the organization to move forward as a vital service in this community and we are extremely grateful. We are grateful beyond words for our leaders, staff and advocates.

And now that our CEO is in place, we look forward to furthering the work of our mission to eliminate racism and empower women. This year, I learned that the YWCA is a "movement" and that we achieve the intersectionality of empowering women and eliminating racism each time we bring a survivor into the SafeHouse shelter, provide young girls with the opportunities of the Girls Aspire program or advocate for a sexual assault victim.

The Board of Directors understands that we cannot go forth in authenticity to the community until we have completed the work of educating and training our staff and ourselves on equity and racial justice. Therefore, we have approved funding in our 2024-25 budget, from our reserves, to provide this additional essential training to our staff and Board.

We lean into this work, eager to lead the Greater Flint community toward social justice. We want people to ask, in any conversation about racism, "What is the YW doing about this?"

I hope you will join us and support us in this work.

In solidarity,

Sandra Murphy

Board Chair YWCA of Greater Flint

# DEDICATED

### ROIANN GEROW YWCA CO-LEAD ADVOCATE

As Co-Lead Advocate at YWCA Greater Flint, Roiann Gerow plays a crucial role in supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence. She takes on leadership responsibilities, including weekly on-call services and critical decision-making for SafeHouse calls and guests.

#### What Does It Mean to Be an Advocate?

As an advocate, Roiann stands with survivors who have come through the YWCA's doors in search of safety, shelter and support. She helps them navigate complex systems, such as obtaining housing options or securing relocation assistance. For those unable to advocate for themselves, Roiann ensures their voices are heard and their needs are met

### What Advocacy Means to Her

"For me, being an advocate is more than a job, it's a calling," Roiann shares. "I absolutely love what I do. Helping survivors regain control of their lives and equipping them with the tools to build a brighter future is incredibly rewarding. It's like watching a flower bloom."

One of the most powerful aspects of her role is guiding survivors through the court system. Many victims feel overwhelmed by legal proceedings, especially when they face their abuser in court. Roiann stands at their side offering support and encouragement. "Seeing

that moment of empowerment, when they realize their strength, that's why I do this work," she says.



### A Visible Presence in the Courthouse and Community

Roiann spends much of her time at the 67th District Court, where she is a trusted resource for survivors, judges and court staff. "I want every domestic violence and sexual assault survivor to know that we are HERE," she says. "If you need help, my door is always open."

Beyond the courthouse, Roiann is a tireless advocate for the community. She frequently represents YWCA Greater Flint at resource fairs, educating law enforcement, faith-based organizations and other community partners about the critical services we offer.

"I'm making the most of the opportunities to let the greater community know what we do," she says. "Some think we're still a fitness center. We've evolved and provide so much more: lifesaving services for survivors. I want the community to know that we are here, and we are ready to help."

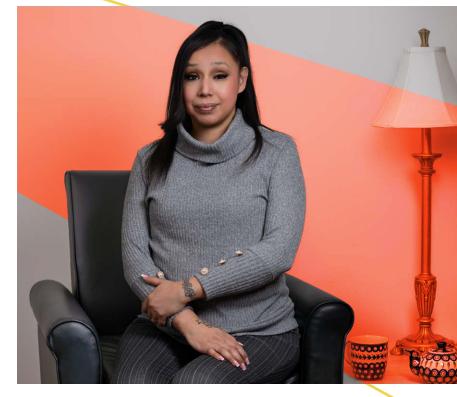
### JESSICA WEATHERSBY SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATE, SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT INITIATIVE (SAKI)

For many years, police departments across the U.S. have lacked the funding to test sexual assault kits, leaving countless survivors without answers or justice. The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant was established to provide law enforcement with the resources to process backlogged kits and pursue justice for survivors.

The YWCA Greater Flint is fortunate to have Jessica Weathersby serving as the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate for the Flint Police Department's SAKI team. Working alongside detectives, a prosecutor, and department team members, Jessica supports survivors through every step of the legal process.

### What Does a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate for SAKI Do?

Because SAKI often revisits cold cases, Jessica's role begins with the identification of a DNA match. She personally visits survivors to notify them of the match and to discuss whether they would like to proceed with charges. From that moment forward, Jessica advocates for survivors, accompanying them to court



proceedings, providing crisis intervention and answering questions about the legal process. Jessica ensures that survivors are informed, supported and empowered to make the best decisions for themselves.

### What Advocacy Means to Her

"This work means everything to me," Jessica says. "From the moment I meet a survivor at their home to standing beside them in court, I see their journey firsthand. The most powerful part is when they realize the power is in their hands — that they can take the leap and reclaim their confidence."

### **Beyond Justice: A Commitment to Healing**

Jessica finds the most rewarding part of her work to be the ability to support survivors beyond the courtroom. "We do more than seek justice — we help with their healing," she explains. "That means assisting with things like clothing, home repairs, and even holiday gifts. We want survivors to know that we are here for them, not just for their case but for their well-being."

Jessica takes immense pride in showing survivors that they have not been forgotten. "Even if it's been years, we are still committed to them. We are here to stand with them, to fight for them and to remind them that their story matters."

Reflecting on her journey, she says, "I love what I do. It's not just a job, it's my passion. I first started working in the SafeHouse at the YWCA, and now I have the privilege of serving survivors in this role. It is truly an honor to watch women grow, heal and reclaim their power."

### ADVANCING OUR MISSION





### SART

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) of Genesee County is a victim-centered effort designed to provide a competent, consistent, sensitive and multidisciplinary response to sexual assaults in our community, to meet the needs of all racial, social, religious or economic groups, ages, genders, disabilities, lifestyles and sexual orientations. Current Members of SART include:

- Genesee County Association of Chiefs of Police
- Genesee County Prosecutor's office
- Genesee County Sheriff's Office
- Henry Ford Genesys Hospital
- Hurley Medical Center
- McLaren Flint
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Michigan State Police
- Mott Community College
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners
- University of Michigan Flint
- Voices for Children
- Wellness Services

SART is currently in a strategic planning phase to attract more community partnerships, increase community knowledge and explore revisions to the SART protocol.

### **HELPLINE**

No matter the time or day, YWCA Greater Flint is just a phone call away. Our Helpline is available 24/7/365, with 1,168 calls received in 2024.

Callers speak to a trained advocate who assesses immediate needs, offers safety planning and provides information and referrals. Survivors are also able to request domestic violence and Sexual Assault Victim Advocates as well as Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFE).

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call the YWCA Greater Flint's Helpline (810) 238-SAFE (7233).

### **SAFECENTER**

Located at the YWCA, the SAFE Center offers free Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations (SAFE) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to all sexual violence survivors. The YWCA completed 183 SAFE examinations in 2024.

With patient consent, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE's) collect and document evidence in a safe and supportive environment. Advocates offer support, information and access to additional resources, such as pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infection treatment and intake assessment for the SafeHouse emergency shelter .

SANE Nurses and Advocates also perform SANE exams at Genesee County's Child Advocacy Center, Voices for Children and local hospitals so that survivor services are readily available.

### **DV/SA ADVOCACY**

The Harriet Kenworthy Crisis and Advocacy Center pairs domestic violence and sexual assault advocates with survivors to assist them on their journey of healing. Advocates completed 6,671 advocacy sessions in 2024.

Advocates provide crisis intervention services to help survivors access tools to devise a safety plan, obtain Personal Protection Orders (PPOs), accompany survivors to court and SAFE exams and lead lives free from violence. To increase accessibility, advocates also work out of satellite offices at the Flint Police Department and courthouse.





### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

YWCA licensed professional led, and advocate-led support groups meet three times weekly with an additional meeting offered specifically for male survivors. On average there are 5-11 individuals participating in group sessions.

Groups discuss both domestic and sexual violence and explore coping skills, role play, goal sharing and active listening. Off-site locations include the Genesee County Jail and The Shelter of Flint.

### **GIRLS ASPIRE**

Girls Aspire is a partnership between YWCA and local schools to provide leadership training to sixth to eighth grade girls. In 2024 Girls Aspire served a total of 41 girls through our summer cohorts and 54 girls through our in-school partnership programing. To foster a safe sharing environment, cohorts are intentionally kept small.

Our partners value this program so much that they allow students to participate in our "Girls Leadership and Empowerment Circle" while attending school. The "Girls Circle" curriculum, from the One Circle Foundation, supports youth, family and community growth and emphasizes healthy relationship models. Programming also includes summer cohorts that extend the reach of the program beyond partner schools, a mother-daughter retreat, and a mid-year weekend retreat for participating summer students.



### WHAT'S TO COME

The YWCA of Greater Flint remains steadfast in our mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. As we evolve to meet the holistic needs of the individuals and communities we serve, we are expanding our wellness initiatives to further empower survivors and support their healing journeys.

This year, we launched a new cardio kickboxing class at the YWCA, an initiative rooted in the belief that physical wellness can be a powerful complement to emotional and psychological recovery. By offering movement-based programming in a trauma-informed environment, we are fostering resilience, strength, and community among women and all survivors who consider the YWCA a safe space. These classes are more than just exercise; they are part of a broader vision to make wellness accessible and healing centered.

Our approach is community-forward. We are actively seeking partnerships with other nonprofit organizations, local businesses, gyms, and wellness practitioners to co-create a menu of offerings at the YWCA of Greater Flint. These collaborations will expand our reach and allow us to deliver services that reflect the diverse needs and interests of the people we serve, especially those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Recognizing that healing isn't one-size-fits-all, we are also reimagining how and where we offer support. This year, we are expanding the reach of our survivor support groups beyond our downtown Flint location. Led by a licensed mental health professional, these trauma-informed groups will now be offered at offsite locations throughout Genesee County. This strategic move is designed to meet survivors where they are, removing transportation barriers, increasing safety, and extending our presence into more neighborhoods.

Whether through movement, conversation, or connection, the YWCA of Greater Flint is committed to the ongoing wellness and empowerment of survivors. By broadening both our physical and emotional support services, we are creating new pathways to healing, resilience, and hope.

### YWCA IN THE COMMUNITY



### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2024, the YWCA Greater Flint proudly partnered with the Flint Area (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated to host a powerful luncheon at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library. More than 85 community members gathered for a dynamic and inspiring conversation focused on financial independence for women.

The event featured a panel of four accomplished women business owners from Genesee County: Dena Craine, Owner of ClearView Building Maintenance Inc.; Ebonie Gibson, CEO of I'm Building Something Consulting LLC; Laurie Shaw, Chief Operating Officer of Coffee Beanery; and Donyale Walton, Founder of Hoop Mobb.

Moderated by Dr. Erin Coney Walker, the panelists captivated the audience with personal stories of resilience, determination and the pursuit of financial freedom. Their insights offered both inspiration and practical wisdom, reinforcing the YWCA's mission to empower women and to promote economic equity.

### **JUNETEENTH**

To honor Juneteenth, YWCA Greater Flint hosted a series of events to engage and educate the staff and community, including a lunch and learn titled "Understanding Juneteenth."

Participants received flyers regarding Uniting and Mobilizing
Opportunities for Justice and Access (UMOJA), an anti-oppression group
within the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. Other
events included a community movie and popcorn screening of "Miss
Juneteenth," a block party spearheaded by YWCA including a resource
table and clothing and food distribution in partnership with the Food
Bank of Eastern Michigan. The Juneteenth Community Block Party was a
vibrant celebration of freedom, culture, and community solidarity.

For the first time in YWCA Greater Flint history, we closed our offices on June 19th in observance of this solemn and joyful holiday.

# ANNUAL FINANCIALS

### FY 2023: OCTOBER 1, 2023 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

### **INCOME**

Restricted Contributions \$201,726

Unrestricted Contributions \$192,645

Trust Revenue \$324,743

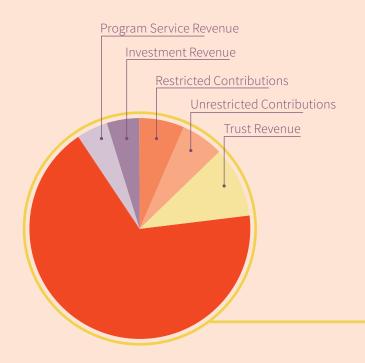
Grant Revenue \$2,099,196

Investment Revenue \$143,550\*

Program Service Revenue \$146,275

Miscellaneous \$2,435

Total \$3,110,570



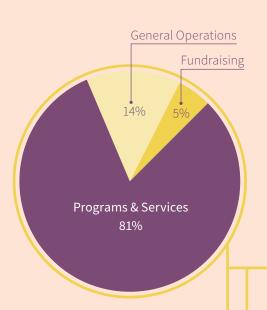
### **EXPENSES**

Programs and Services \$2,262,305

General Operations \$379,037

Fundraising \$143,472

Total \$2,784,814



<sup>\*</sup>Includes Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments

### MEET THE BOARD



#### Front Row - Left to Right

Carrie Edwards-Clemons Sandra Murphy, Chair Natalie Pruett, Vice Chair

#### Back Row - Left to Right

Kristin Prieur Janice Adams

Jill Carr, Treasurer

Eloise Jordan

Maeko McGovern

Latrese Brown

#### **Not Pictured:**

Gloria Chien

Kelly Crystal

Jodie Eckleberry-Hunt

Kamilah Horne

Tarnesa Martin

Lisa Sanchez Metropolous

Teresa Springer

## MEET: THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



#### Front Row - Left to Right

Tia Coles, CPIO

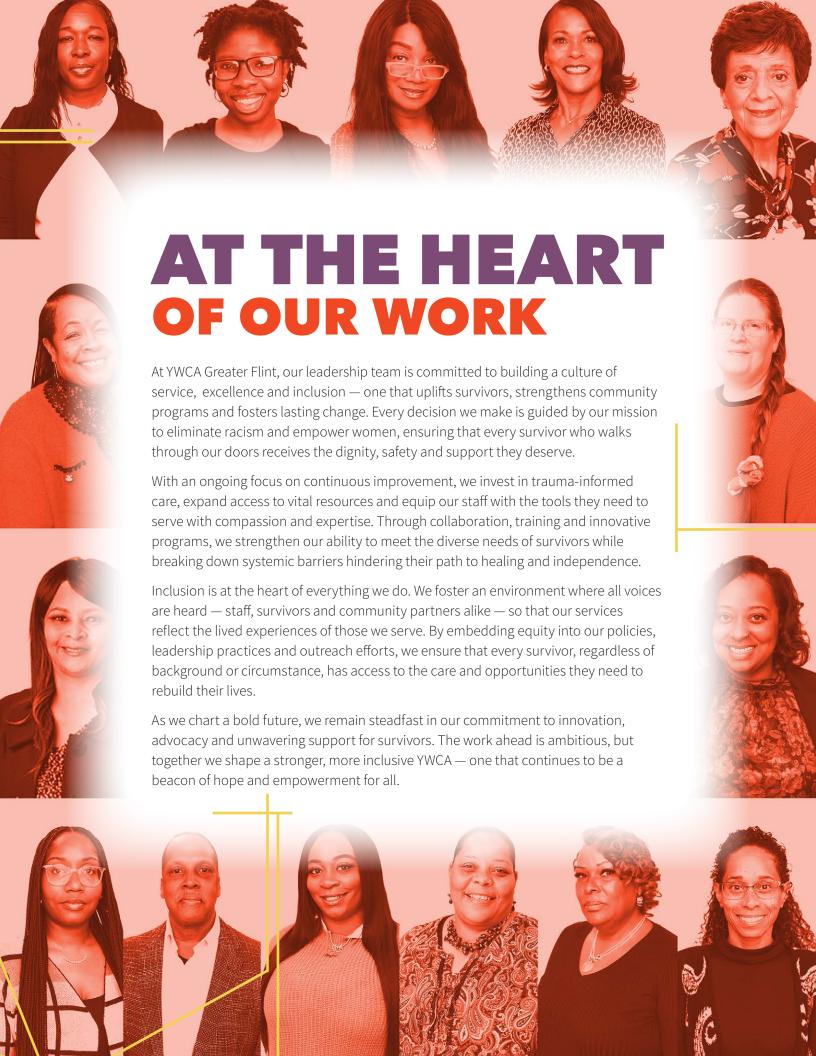
Amy Cuneaz, Grants Manager

#### Back Row - Left to Right

Peggy Cooper, Executive Assistant to CEO

DeAndra Larkin, CEO

Theresa Hurley, Development Director



### DONORS THANKYOU

Thank you to the individuals, organizations and foundations who have so generously supported the YWCA Greater Flint. Your gifts help us each day to continue and grow!

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Jill Carr
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These gifts represent donation from October 1, 2023 through September 30 2024. If we have omitted or misspelled your name, we apologize! Jeanette Keim Gwen Kelley James Kettler Cindy Kirkland Joumana Klanseck Nikki Koliopoulos Katie Kool Amy Krug

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### eliminating racism empowering women

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