

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

columbus ohio

IMPACT report

2021 MID-YEAR REPORT

January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021



YOUR SUPPORT CREATES LASTING CHANGE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

At YWCA Columbus, we continue to take the lead and give a voice to the voiceless. The unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have caused us to reimagine how we do our work. But we remain committed to serving our community and creating lasting change.

In the first half of 2021, we made a lot of progress thanks to support from our generous donors and volunteers. We remain committed to:

- Supporting those in need by creating a community of safety, support, and stability through emergency shelter and long-term supportive housing.
- Educating and empowering, so that with each new generation, we are braver, wiser, and kinder.
- Igniting the community by confronting uncomfortable truths about prejudice and poverty.

Please take some time to view our progress since January 2021. This is a reflection not only of the work we have accomplished in that period, but of the work we have left to do – because our work is never finished.



We will continue to stand alongside community members joining their voices for a better, more equitable Columbus. We will continue to advocate for women, families, and children in our community. And we will continue to build relationships and partners across Columbus, because we know the challenges that we face require us to work together for innovative solutions.

Reflecting on YWCA Columbus's impact since January 2021 fills me with pride – and motivates all of us at YWCA Columbus to work even harder toward creating a Columbus of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

We remain ready to take bold action, and we ask you to do the same. Please show your support of YWCA Columbus - your generosity makes all the difference. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christie Angel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christie Angel
President & CEO
YWCA Columbus

10

WAYS OUR SUPPORTERS FUELED OUR IMPACT SO FAR THIS YEAR

112

Thanks to 112 groups of volunteers, we had YWCA Family Center meal hosts for 182 dinners, 20 lunches, and 20 breakfasts between January and June 2021.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

We hosted **15** Diversity, Equity & Inclusion discussion sessions and trainings with **400+** participants. And **328** community members purchased Racial Equity 101 video passes.

"I learned ways to apologize for hurtful and harmful actions in meaningful ways while taking accountability and committing to do better."

- 2021 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training participant

600+ donors supported our mission.

\$1 MILLION

\$59,000+

591 MATERIAL ITEMS WERE
DONATED, TOTALING \$59,000
IN VALUE.



214

children participated in our YWCA Kids Place summer day camps.

58

Out of **58** other providers in Franklin County, our Safe & Sound preschool classroom, located at our Family Center, scored the highest in an observation measuring interactions and relationships between teachers and students.

Our **Bright Futures Program** provided confidence building and empowerment training to **2 cohorts of middle-school-aged girls** in some of the most under-resourced **Columbus** neighborhoods.



26

26 young women at the beginning of their careers are now armed with insight and better prepared to speak up and act out on behalf of themselves and others thanks to our Leadership for Social Change program.

We received 36 grants, including a **\$1 million transformational grant** from the American Electric Power Foundation's Delivering on the Dream: Social and Racial Justice grant program to support the expansion of YWCA Columbus's leadership and social justice programs focused on racial equity.

SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED

The YWCA Family Center and Women's Residency Program continue to provide support and services for women and families in our community. We are so grateful for all the volunteers who helped us continue to serve three healthy meals each day at the Family Center.

- **182 dinners, 20 lunches, and 20 breakfasts** were hosted thanks to **112 groups** dropping off meals between January and June 2021
- **4 successful Community Night meals** since the program launched in 2021
- **\$46,039 raised toward the [Family Center Meal Program](#)** so far this year, with 11 meal dates open for the remainder of 2021



THE WATERS FAMILY

Pay it Forward: Inspiring Generosity, Compassion, and Triumph for Others

When faced with the prospect of becoming homeless, decisions are not easy. Mrs. Waters was in an emotionally abusive relationship with her husband in California, and she made the hard choice to leave and start over with her two daughters. While she briefly stayed with a friend in Columbus, her journey eventually led her to the YWCA Family Center. There, the Rapid Rehousing team quickly provided support, including workforce development resources.

Thanks to the Employment Resource Center at the Family Center, Mrs. Waters developed a resumé and applied for jobs. And she was able to apply for and begin receiving food and medical benefits through Ohio Job and Family Services. She organized her schedule around meeting the needs of her household and began a nonstop search for housing.

The YWCA team connected Mrs. Waters with a local apartment complex, where she was able to secure employment as a property assistant and move into a two-bedroom apartment at an affordable living cost. The YWCA team helped her establish utilities in her name and provided community resources to help her move forward. And now, Mrs. Waters lives in a three-bedroom townhome and has a new job as a career coach for a nonprofit working with at-risk youth in Franklin County.

Mrs. Waters's story shows just how important the YWCA Family Center is and why we must continue to advocate for equitable housing access in our community. She wants to pay it forward and volunteer to share her time, coaching, and testimony to motivate others who face the challenges she went through. We owe it to Mrs. Waters and all those who have experienced homelessness to continue our fight. That's why YWCA Columbus works every day to help families move from homelessness to a home.

YWCA Family Center: A Call to Action

Since 2005, the YWCA Family Center has provided shelter and services for families without homes. The 50-room center offers safety and support, a place where families can get three healthy meals a day and a warm, secure place to sleep.

After years of serving families in need and weathering the COVID-19 crisis, the Family Center now requires modernizing. Every update we make now allows us to provide emergency shelter and services for years to come.

Please support this important work. [Make a donation](#) to YWCA Columbus today.

EDUCATE & EMPOWER

Our [YWCA Kids Place](#) program remains a source of support and consistency for Central Ohio families who need it the most. We work with schools and community partners to better address the needs of women and families in our community, so children can flourish and grow into well-balanced, empowered, and aware adults. As we reflect on our accomplishments to date:

- Youth education programs in 23 locations
- 244 children enrolled in our before-and after-school programs in the first half of 2021
- 214 children participated in our summer day camps, where they had a chance to connect with nature, engage in hands-on learning, and make new friends
- 112 children were cared for through our Safe & Sound Child Care program, which is offered at our Family Center

- Out of 58 other providers in Franklin County, our Safe & Sound preschool classroom scored the highest in an observation measuring interactions and relationships between teachers and students

Our [Bright Futures](#)

Program provided confidence building and empowerment training to

middle-school-aged girls in some of the most under-resourced Columbus neighborhoods.

Some of our mid-year successes include:

- 2 cohorts since January 2021
- 17 girls built critical-thinking skills and confidence to advocate for themselves and create change in their communities



- 100% OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTED HAVING MORE AWARENESS OF OPPRESSION
- 71% OF PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCED AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR SENSE OF AGENCY

Young women at the beginning of their careers are now armed with insight and better prepared to speak up and act out on behalf of themselves and others thanks to our [Leadership for Social Change](#) program. Specifically, our program has achieved the following:

- 26 participants enrolled in 2021
- 2 new trainings added that enhance the outcomes of participants
- 2 cohort connection events: a book club discussion on Ibram X Kendi's book, *How to be an Anti-Racist*, and an educational workshop on self-advocacy and career management

100% of participants reported:

- AN INCREASE IN THEIR RACIAL LITERACY AND KNOWLEDGE OF SYSTEMIC RACISM
- A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES COLUMBUS IS FACING TODAY AND HOW IT CAN BECOME A MORE EQUITABLE PLACE
- FEELING MORE EQUIPPED WITH TOOLS AND TACTICS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY ORGANIZING



IGNITE THE COMM UNITY

Our advocacy efforts reach community members across our region. We join our voices with those rallying for equity, and we believe YWCA Columbus can serve as a catalyst for social change by changing hearts, minds, and the systems that uphold white supremacy.

WE HOSTED 15 DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION DISCUSSION SESSIONS AND TRAININGS

- 408 participants
- 94% of Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission participant respondents reported having more awareness of how racism functions on individual, institutional, and structural levels
- 98% of Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission participant respondents reported having a better understanding of the importance of analyzing the impact of current policies and practices on marginalized communities
- “I learned that justice is the ultimate goal, but you need equity to get there.” - May 2021 participant



COMMUNITY MEMBERS PURCHASED 328 RACIAL EQUITY 101 TRAINING VIDEO PASSES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2021

- 94% of respondents reported that after watching the training video, they have a greater awareness of the ways in which white supremacy is embedded into our culture

IN MARCH 2021, WE SUPPORTED THE 21-DAY RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGE AS PART OF THE NATIONAL YWCA MOVEMENT TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES IN ANTI-RACIST WORK

- 2300+ registrations from the Columbus community

We joined YWCAs across the country for the Stand Against Racism campaign and hosted a series of educational videos on moving from declaring racism a public health crisis into action.



ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE SUPPORT



As the new state budget was drafted, YWCA Columbus worked with our community partners and elected officials to advocate for high-quality, accessible childcare in our community and closing the digital gap in Franklin County. We also opposed language that would have increased property tax liability on many types of federally assisted housing developments.

We signed letters with the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition, Ohio Housing Council, and the Human Services Chamber to support our advocacy agenda. And we supported

Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and funding for services for those communities.

We joined the Ohio Council of YWCAs in lobbying our federal elected officials to sign on to and pass the resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. And we met with City Council members, the Mayor's Office, and the Columbus Safety Collective to push for a non-police response mechanism.

Learn more about our advocacy agenda at ywacolumbus.org/advocacy.

WE REMAIN READY TO TAKE BOLD ACTION, AND WE ASK YOU TO DO THE SAME

Our volunteers and donors help us reach more people and expand our impact in the Columbus community. As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic and attacks on racial equity, our supporters continue to show up and step up. We appreciate all those who have supported our work so far this year. This is only a snapshot of the generosity we have seen since January 2021.

- **600+ donors**
- 591 material items donated, totaling **\$59,000 in value**
- **1,000+ viewed** our [Women of Achievement Celebration](#). The virtual and in-person celebration helped us raise over **\$600,000**
- In the past **6 months**, we received **36 grants**, including a [\\$1M transformational grant](#) from the American Electric Power Foundation's Delivering on the Dream: Social and Racial Justice grant program to support the expansion of YWCA Columbus's leadership and social justice programs focused on racial equity

SUPPORT LASTING CHANGE

From monthly gifts to transformational investments, our community is coming together to give a voice to the voiceless. We are grateful, and we are committed to using your financial support to drive real change in Columbus. You can help us amplify our work and serve even more people in our community. There are many ways to support the impact we're making.

- When you donate to our leadership and social justice work, you help expand our efforts to achieve racial equity, and you fund more Diversity, Equity & Inclusion trainings so more community members can grow into better advocates and activists for equity
- Your support of our education programs helps us empower even more children in Central Ohio, so they can flourish and grow into well-balanced and aware adults
- Giving toward our Family Center and Women's Residency enables us to continue to create a community of safety, support, and stability



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND BUSINESSES CONTRIBUTING TO LASTING CHANGE AND A MORE EQUITABLE COLUMBUS. YOUR DONATION WILL SUPPORT OUR WORK AS WE CONTINUE TO INITIATE SYSTEMATIC SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THAT WILL CREATE A COLUMBUS OF PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND DIGNITY FOR US ALL.

[**YWCA COLUMBUS.ORG/DONATE**](https://www.ywcaohio.org/donate)