



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Metro St. Louis



Dear Friend,

YWCA is on a mission and YWCA Metro St. Louis is making it our own!

To empower women and eliminate racism, we must meet our clients where they are most vulnerable, and provide a continuum of care that places them on a path to self-sufficiency and prosperity.

This requires a focus on the future, anticipating the needs of our clients, and creating innovative solutions to the problems they most often face – poverty, unsafe living conditions, lack of reliable and affordable childcare, unstable housing, and under- or unemployment.

We are reimagining and rebuilding our processes, and rethinking and improving our services to meet the changing needs of our clients today and in the future. We remain rooted in rich history, but our approach to the future is strategic and innovative.

We are changing lives and restoring hope for women, their families, and our community.

Thank you for your support,



Dr. Cheryl Watkins, MBA
President and CEO





DID YOU KNOW?

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Metro St. Louis

We were **founded in 1904** to provide safe housing for women who came to work at the World's Fair.

We are the **largest provider of direct Head Start services in Missouri**, concentrated in St. Louis City and County.

We are the only program in the state to receive a **National Program of Excellence accreditation** from the National Head Start Association.

We receive more Head Start funding than any other agency that provides direct service in St. Louis City and County, and we are the **second largest recipient of funding in a four-state region**.

We're partnering with St. Louis Innovation Districts to build new early education centers and to enhance curriculum with ag-tech and bioscience at all YWCA centers, **helping to support the community and prepare the workforce of the future**.

We are the **largest provider of sexual and domestic violence services** for women in the region.

We are the **only dual services agency** (serving victims of sexual and domestic violence) in the St. Louis region, offering a 24/7 Crisis Help Line and a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) that works with area hospitals and police departments.

We are the **only YWCA** in the United States with a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).

We are the **largest provider of Rapid Rehousing** for victims of sexual and domestic violence in St. Louis City and County. **We hold the largest HUD contract from city of St. Louis.**

We are a **trailblazer in economic empowerment**: WESP, our Women's Economic Stability Partnership, is a consortium of partners and service providers that lends support and technical assistance needed to create economic stability for women and their families.

DELIVERING
ON OUR YWCA
MISSION TODAY

Our agency has supported women and children for nearly 120 years, in areas such as housing, childcare, job training, women's rights, racial justice, violence prevention and crisis support. We are proud of our history - and our track record of being ahead of our time.

Today, our services work together holistically to support and improve the lives of women and their families:

Women's Services

- Crisis support services for victims of sexual and domestic violence
- Rapid Rehousing and permanent supportive housing
- Sexual Assault Response Team (often the first call made by hospitals and first responders)

Early Education

- Accredited National Program of Excellence by National Head Start Association
- Early Head Start and Head Start grantee since 1991
- All teachers have at least a Bachelor's degree
- Enhanced STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Math) curriculum in all centers
- Employment opportunities for parents

Economic Empowerment

- Employment and training
- Entrepreneurship and business development opportunities
- Empowerment services (financial literacy, asset building)
- Promotes racial justice by closing the wealth gap
- Support services (food, childcare, transportation) available to sustain all YWCA clients while in our programs

**OUR INNOVATIVE
SOLUTIONS ARE
OVERCOMING
OBSTACLES TODAY
AND SOLVING
FOR THE CHALLENGES
OF TOMORROW**



Challenge

Lack of training for first responders and nurses on treatment for domestic violence and sexual assault often causes victims to opt out of reporting the crime and/or seeking treatment

Solution

SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Training teams YWCA professional staff, first responders and nurses to administer victim-centered, trauma-informed care. This crucial approach increases the likelihood that a woman will complete treatment to support physical and emotional healing.

Challenge

Lack of high-quality childcare and early education, and shortage of early childhood teachers

Solution

We have partnered with Innovation Districts (39 North, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Cortex and others) to build new Early Education Excellence Centers to serve those communities and to provide enhanced STREAM curriculum at all YWCA Early Education Centers to help train the future workforce.

This new revenue model for YWCA will support other agency programs and will always include children from families with lower income who receive Head Start funding.

Further, we are training parents to assist teachers in the classroom, creating pathways for them to become teachers themselves. This two-generation (2Gen) approach builds family well-being by intentionally working with children and the adults in their lives together. We're adding to the workforce now and preparing the workforce of the future.

Challenge

Despite significant opportunity in our market, the length of time it takes to place women in small business is a barrier.

Solution

We are identifying opportunities to train and place women in entrepreneurship in an expedited timeframe - and we provide wraparound services to sustain her through the process: grocery assistance, childcare, transportation, business coaching and more. Her success becomes her community's success as her business creates jobs and adds to the tax base.

YWCA BY THE NUMBERS

2021 RESULTS

10,517
women and
families served

36,000 hours
donated by dedicated
volunteers

17,500 hours
of service by YWCA
professional staff

100 community
education presentations

90% Crisis Intervention
clients reported gaining healthy coping
and stress management skills

**100% Permanent
Supportive Housing**
clients remained in or transitioned
to improved/stable living situations
at the exit of our program

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling broadly. She is wearing a dark green tank top. Her right hand is raised, with fingers slightly spread, against a bright, hazy background of a sunset or sunrise. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting her face and the texture of her hair. The overall mood is positive and hopeful.

**OUR IMPACT NUMBERS
ARE IMPRESSIVE, BUT
THE DETAILS OF EACH
WOMAN'S STORY ARE
WHY WE CONTINUE
TO DO THIS WORK**

When Vicky arrived at the hospital, staff immediately called the YWCA Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). With our SART advocate's help, Vicky was connected to a YWCA therapist and subsequently was identified as a victim of human trafficking. YWCA immediately provided safe housing for her and began treatment.

Over the next year, she received intensive treatment for her trauma, assistance with outstanding medical bills through VOCA (Victims of Crime Act), and help purchasing a car so she would have reliable transportation to and from work. YWCA also connected her with resources where she obtained assistance finding an apartment, plus financial assistance for her deposit and three month's rent.

Today, Vicky lives in stable housing, has a good job and has returned to college. She believes YWCA changed her life. We agree. Our holistic approach to supporting victims of sexual assault indeed changes lives and leads to inspiring success stories like this one.

Read more Life Changing Stories at ywcastl.org

“I could not have done it alone. The fact that there's a place where we can all come together and face our monsters is pure magic. I love the YWCA.”

— Vicky, YWCA Women's Services client

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Continuum
of Care