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April 20, 2020

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## **Under New Leadership, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh Steps Up to the COVID Challenge**

**PITTSBURGH** – YWCA Greater Pittsburgh has emerged as a key member of a partnership of local organizations that has stepped up to answer the crisis that COVID-19 has brought to Pittsburgh’s most vulnerable communities.

While many families that lost jobs and income are able to collect food and resources from designated sites across the county, those who cannot leave their homes lacked access to vital services until YWCA and its partners stepped in. When the stay-at-home order was issued, YWCA reached out to Allegheny County Department of Human Services and United Way of Southwestern PA to help fill this critical need. YWCA was the inaugural agency in a collaborative of Pittsburgh organizations helping vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities or compromised immune systems, those with viral symptoms, and struggling families access emergency food and household supplies.

YWCA has also taken on a critical role disbursing financial assistance – much of it in support of housing expenses – to the many Pittsburgher’s who have suddenly lost their jobs. With the assistance of United Way’s Emergency Basic Needs Fund and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, YWCA joins other local organizations preventing homelessness and ensuring that the hardest hit have the supports that they need.

An organization with a long-standing history serving marginalized communities, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh is under the leadership of a new CEO, Angela Reynolds, Ph.D. Dr. Reynolds has over 25 years of experience working in the areas of housing disparities, public policy, and family supports, and most recently served as Senior Director of United Way’s United for Families and 2-1-1. She joins YWCA at a time when existing racial disparities are magnified by the crisis, and recovery planning is critical for the well-being of Pittsburgh’s underserved populations.

“For many communities, especially for women and people of color, the economic losses resulting from this current crisis will likely be great and long-lasting,” says Dr. Reynolds. “YWCA is both responding to the immediate emergency and ramping up our programs and partnerships to support our community through its recovery. We will remain on the frontlines with relief assistance and as advocates for humane policies.”

For more information about YWCA Greater Pittsburgh’s emergency response, shift to online operations, and recovery planning, please refer to its website at [www.ywcapgh.org](http://www.ywcapgh.org).

**About YWCA Greater Pittsburgh:** *YWCA Greater Pittsburgh is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. YWCA understands that racial and economic equity are inseparable from women’s empowerment, and works to serve and empower women and girls, especially women and girls of color, through we offer accessible child care, after school STEM education for girls, the YWCA Resource Center, supportive housing, and advocacy.*