Our Impact is Generational

We are so proud of how generous the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh community is. Your donations provide programming that offers women and families real, wraparound support. From early childhood development to basic needs and financial empowerment services: we meet families where they are so they can be successful for the long-term. Recently, we were contacted by Simone, who has received services from YWCA at critical points in her life. She wanted to share her story of how YWCA Greater Pittsburgh has been there for her.

“I am a single mother of three who has utilized YWCA’s programs since my now grown daughters were babies. I feel like the organization provided resources where there were none in my community. My children would not be where they are today had I not provided a solid foundation for them, and YWCA Greater Pittsburgh allowed for me to strengthen that foundation, so my daughters could grow to be successful Black women. You helped defray the cost of my daycare expenses when I was in need at a time that I was raising them alone. Now my three daughters are graduates. This past year I was unable to work due to COVID-19. I had also gone back to school and was pursuing a Social Work degree as an older, non-traditional student—YWCA was able to remove financial barriers and help me pay for my college courses so I could continue my studies. I recommend YWCA to any woman who is looking for a strong, supportive, and resourceful organization that will see you from start to finish like they did with myself and my family. Thank you so much.”

- Simone Denise Jones

2021 EQUITY AWARDS
Honoring and celebrating change makers

The Equity Awards seek to honor women, especially women of color, who advocate for and advance our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. We hope you will join us in celebrating this year’s award recipients!

Friday, November 5th, 2021 | 12-1:30pm
Luncheon at Fairmont Pittsburgh
510 Market Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Second Lady of Pennsylvania, Gisele Barreto Fetterman

Learn more and purchase tickets at ywcapgh.org/2021EquityAwards
Meeting the Immediate Needs of Our Community

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the YWCA Resource Center has seen an unprecedented number of requests for assistance with meeting basic needs. Over the last year, the 6 financial assistance programs our center once managed increased to 15 programs, and our small team of service and housing coordinators stepped up to meet the increased need without missing a beat. In partnership with United Way, DHS, and the wider Greater Pittsburgh community, our staff provided homeless housing support, rental and utility assistance, eviction prevention, transportation assistance, emergency food delivery, and more to help mitigate the effect of the COVID-19 crisis on our region's most vulnerable. As I reflect on the last year and its challenges, I am grateful for the way in which our team increased their efforts and worked together to ensure that excellent and equitable services were delivered to our community.”

Sarah Dittoe, Director of Resource Center & Housing Programs

**LIZ PRINE FUND**

The late Liz Prine believed that empowering women required direct action; this fund was created to honor her hands-on approach to helping others. Today, the Liz Prine Fund helps women who are striving to improve their circumstances, and often provides the assistance they need to achieve safety and stability.

Recently, the Liz Prine Fund was able to help Monique, a single mother who was forced to find new housing. After her landlord ignored repeated requests to address a caved-in ceiling and a mice and termite infestation, she urgently sought an alternative living situation to keep her family safe. Monique reached out to YWCA Greater Pittsburgh’s Resource Center in search of assistance to cover the costs of a deposit for a safe apartment with immediate availability. With funds from the Liz Prine Fund, we were able to step in and help. Within a month, Monique and her young child were safely rehoused.

*Make a difference in the lives of women in need at ywcapgh.org/LizPrineFund*

**Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**

*We’re helping get assistance to those who need it most.*

We are proud to be a part of a coalition connecting Allegheny County community members who were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to life-changing rent and utility assistance. The ERAP program was designed to help families dig themselves out of impossible levels of debt accrued during the pandemic, leaving them with a clean slate and a fighting chance at financial stability.

“My husband and I are seniors living on a fixed-income. He’s kept a part-time job as a waiter to help make ends meet, but he was laid-off during the pandemic. When things opened back up, no one would give him work. We fell behind and didn’t know how we would catch up. The ERAP program helped us start new. YWCA connected us to the county too, for help with in-home care, and to PA Career Link to help my husband find work. Now we’re back on our feet.”

-Nancy*, ERAP Recipient

*Name changed to protect privacy

**SINCE MARCH 15TH...**

- **4,600** households funded
- **$26 million** in funds for back rent & utility payments distributed
- **12,000** applicants assisted
- **71%** of applicant households are female headed

To learn more and get help, visit covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us
Virtual Capitol Hill Day

On June 17, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh proudly took part in YWCA 2021 Capitol Hill Day. The Center for Race and Gender Equity met with the Offices of Senator Robert Casey, Senator Pat Toomey, and Congressman Mike Doyle. The goal: **urge co-sponsorship and passage of S. Res. 172/H. Res. 344 – a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis.**

As part of this interactive national virtual campaign, YWCAs engaged nearly 1,000 stakeholders through a Virtual Briefing, meeting with 147 Members of Congress and staff, mobilizing 233 YWCA advocates on this critical resolution.

**ADD YOUR VOICE:** it's not too late to take action and lend your support! Urge elected officials to declare racism a threat to public health. [https://ywca.quorum.us/campaign/32462/](https://ywca.quorum.us/campaign/32462/)

Upcoming Topics

- **Censoring Racism in American History**  
  September 15th, 2021
- **Male Allies and White Accomplices**  
  October 20th, 2021
- **Black Trans Lives Matter**  
  November 17th, 2021
- **Women of Color and Mental Health**  
  December 15th, 2021

**21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge**

The YWCA Greater Pittsburgh 21-Day Challenge took place March 1-March 29, 2021. It created dedicated time and space for participants to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership.

**726 individuals** in the Greater Pittsburgh area participated in the 21-Day Challenge this year!

“I learned how much my white privilege protects me…and that being uncomfortable is a good place to be as I strive to break down barriers.” – 21 Day Challenge Participant

**Be on the lookout in Spring 2022 for next year’s 21-Day Challenge content!**

**YWCA USA WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE**

Gender-based violence impacts the lives of countless women and their families across the United States: women and girls of all ages, income levels, racial and ethnic communities, sexual orientations. Join us October 18 – 23, 2021 for Week Without Violence, as we hold events, share information and stories, and advocate with a common goal in mind: **together, we can end gender-based violence.**