

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

**YWCA IS ON A MISSION**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**



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(as of 12/31/15)

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## YWCA Union County Mission

The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. In this context, YWCA Union County is on a mission to empower survivors of domestic violence to become safe and free from abuse, and to promote social justice and eliminate violence against women and girls. We accomplish this mission through the provision of comprehensive, client-centered services, and through education, collaboration and advocacy that builds safe, informed and supportive communities.

## YWCA Union County Core Values

**Commitment** to the mission and working together for the well-being of the community

**Integrity** in relationships, practices, and decisions.

**Respect** for each one's roles, diversity, and viewpoints.

**Compassion** in understanding, attitude, and action.

**Empowerment** to create positive choices, recognize potential, and reach goals.

**Excellence** in practice and expectation.

*Cover photo courtesy of Dan Ubinski.*

# Message from the President and the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

We are honored to present to you the 2015 Annual Report for YWCA Union County.

Our services for survivors of domestic violence continued to grow and strengthen with the leadership and support of our staff, board of directors, supporters, and community partners. Residential programs continued to serve families in crisis as well as those moving toward independence and self-sufficiency with a continuum that includes emergency shelter, transitional and supportive housing, and permanent housing. Hotline, counseling, case management, STEP (workforce development), PALS, Domestic Violence/DCP&P Liaisons, court advocacy and legal representation programs continued to provide critical services that help survivors and their children increase their safety, skills, and self-knowledge. Our Crisis Response Team volunteers were available to assist victims at police stations throughout the county, and we continued to provide training, education and outreach to build awareness and strengthen our community safety net. With your help, we have continued to make a difference in the lives of thousands of people right here in our community!

In late 2015, the Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan, the culmination of 18 months of needs analysis, review of our services, community discussions, and future planning. Moving forward, the YWCA Union County will focus on the following four strategic priorities.

## **YWCA Union County will:**

*Increase our scope of services provided and the numbers of people served in the community through utilization of best practices in governance and operations.*

*Increase and strengthen our financial resources in order to carry out the mission of the association.*

*Offer a full range of client-centered services utilizing best practices that meet the evolving needs of the people in our communities, with a focus on*

*safety and security for survivors of domestic violence, implementing successful community partnerships, and mobilizing a caring community through education, prevention and advocacy.*

*Expand access to additional safe and secure facilities, offering a range of services that are readily available to all residents of Union County.*

These priorities, each with its own set of objectives, will guide our work over the next five years. As part of this strategic plan we have updated our mission statement and are pleased to share it with you.

*The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. In this context, YWCA Union County is on a mission to empower survivors of domestic violence to become safe and free from abuse, and to promote social justice and eliminate violence against women and girls. We accomplish this mission through the provision of comprehensive, client-centered services, and through education, collaboration and advocacy that builds safe, informed and supportive communities.*

We thank you for your commitment to this mission we all embrace. Thank you for your partnership now and in the future, as we work together to end violence against women!



*Jeseñia Brown*

**Jeseñia Brown** President, Board of Directors



*Janice C. Lilien*

**Janice C. Lilien** Chief Executive Officer

# Second Annual Domestic Violence Symposium

The YWCA Union County, along with our partners, the Union County Prosecutor's Office, Kean University, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Family and Children's Services, and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, held the County's Second Annual Domestic Violence Symposium at Kean University's STEM Building. This year's symposium focused on "Youth, Family Trauma, and Community Interventions." Our Keynote Speakers, Mitch Abrams, Psy.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, discussed Teen Dating Violence, and Esther Deblinger, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Child Abuse Research Education and Service Institute, spoke on the Impact of Trauma and Domestic Violence on Children.





# Empty Place at the Table

The YWCA Union County held its most successful Empty Place at the Table at Kean University in October. Over 200 students and community members attended.

The event featured an art exhibition of dinner place settings representing real victims of domestic violence who lost their lives at the hands of their abusers. Their stories are told and remembered through this exhibit.

Monologues written by survivors served by the YWCA Union County were performed by YWCA Staff and community actors.



# Thank You Volunteers!



## Project North Pole

The community came out in force again in 2015 to donate holiday gifts for children and moms participating in our programs.

## Adopt-A-Room Program

The community helped us continue our Adopt-A-Room Program making our Emergency Shelter Rooms more welcoming for women and children.

- Newcomer's Club of Cranford
- The Tuesday Club of Westfield
- Sherin Glover
- April's Angels and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 102 of Linden
- Urban Inspiration

## Cranford Night on the Town

The Cranford Business Community came out in solidarity to host its first Cranford Night on the Town to raise awareness of domestic violence and funds for our programs.

## Backpack Drive

Many individuals, organizations, and businesses, such as Infineum USA L.P. and ConnectOne Bank, hosted backpack drives for the children in our domestic violence programs in preparation for the school year.

## Cookies and Hot Cocoa Party

The William J. Dowdy Foundation held a Cookies and Hot Cocoa Party for the children in our Residential Programs.

## April's Angels and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 102 of Linden

April's Angels held a fundraising event in honor and remembrance of April Wyckoff. The evening included dinner, a bake sale and tricky tray.

## Annual Golf Outing Proceeds

The NJ Chapter of the National Association of Health Underwriters donated the proceeds of their Annual Golf Outing to our domestic violence programs.



BACKPACK DRIVE



COOKIES AND HOT COCOA PARTY



APRIL'S ANGELS



CRANFORD NIGHT ON THE TOWN



NJNAHU GOLF OUTING



ADOPT-A-ROOM



# 2015 Empowering Women Cocktail Reception: A Voice for Every Woman



## Honorees

### Corporate Partner:

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery

### Community Partner:

Mayor J. Christian Bollwage &  
The City of Elizabeth

### Individual Honoree:

Mary Phillips

### Legacy Board Honorees:

Virginia Bodden  
Maria Bordas  
Teresa Iturralde Estrada  
Janice Gossman  
Josephine Hernandez  
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Anne Russell  
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## Sponsors

### Haven Level

Allstate New Jersey  
KPMG  
Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery

### Activist Level

Infineum USA L.P.  
Investors Bank  
Northfield Bank

### Advocate Level

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# 2015 YWCA Union County Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) Awards Dinner



## Thank you to our Sponsors

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Brighter Living™

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Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery  
Lowenstein Sandler LLP



# 2015 Program Statistics

## Emergency Shelter Program

For victims who are in imminent danger, our Emergency Shelter is available to provide a secure environment for women and children. With eleven rooms and a capacity of 38 women and children, advocates are on-site 24 hours a day. Advocates work closely with women to address each family's unique needs and connect them with the services they need to achieve stability.

In 2015, we sheltered  
**79 WOMEN and 87 CHILDREN**  
with an average stay of 34 days.

## Counseling/Case Management

Counseling is provided to victims to help them become safe, to process the trauma they have experienced, and to break the cycle of domestic violence. Both individual and group counseling are available according to the needs of each survivor. Abuse often isolates victims and leaves them feeling alone and worthless. Group counseling provides an opportunity to connect with other survivors and to see they are not alone.

Case Management helps victims create and reach goals for themselves and their children by connecting them with community resources. Staff advocates on behalf of clients to ensure they are receiving the services they need.

In 2015, **194 VICTIMS**  
received counseling and  
case management services.

## Transitional/Supportive Housing

Because many victims have experienced financial abuse in addition to physical abuse, one to three months in Emergency Shelter is not enough time to become financial self-sufficient. Our transitional and supportive housing programs provide up to two years of housing while victims continue to receive supportive services and prepare for and secure employment. Supportive Housing serves women with children and Transitional Housing serves women without children. Many women return to school to earn a degree or learn a trade. They can access other YWCA services while residing in these programs.

In 2015, **16 WOMEN and  
21 CHILDREN** were housed in  
transitional and supportive housing.

## 24 Hour Domestic Violence Hotline

Our hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to connect victims with the services they need. This is the first point of contact for most of the people we serve. Bilingual advocates assess each caller's situation and safety needs. Advocates provide information, referrals to our programs and safety planning.

In 2015, our hotline  
received **1,627 CALLS.**



## Legal Representation and Court Advocacy

Effective legal remedies are critical to a survivor's path out of abuse. Court advocates assist victims to navigate the court system, and be fully prepared and supported when seeking final restraining orders and other legal remedies. For more complex cases, our staff attorney assists survivors with not only restraining orders, but also divorce, child custody, and support.

In 2015, our Court Advocates served **468 VICTIMS** and our Attorney served **100 VICTIMS**.

## STEP (Skills Training and Empowerment Program)

Almost all victims of domestic violence also experience financial abuse. This is the primary reason victims are unable to leave the abuser. STEP provides financial and economic empowerment from the basics of managing a budget and bank account, to creating a resume and preparing for job interviews. Services are provided both one on one and in workshop settings. Survivors can also attend computer labs to learn computer basics and apply for employment. Scholarships are also available for ESL, computer classes and other training.

In 2015, STEP served **58 SURVIVORS**.

## PALS (Peace: A Learned Solution)

Children who witness domestic violence in their homes experience trauma that affects them at all ages and levels of development. Many are unable to verbalize how they feel. Our PALS Program provides trauma informed creative arts therapy to help children from ages 3 to 17, express and work through their feelings and trauma. The program uses art, music and movement, drama, and play to help children express their emotions, reduce their fear and anxiety, teach them how to cope with stress, rebuild a sense of safety, and encourage non-violent problem solving skills. By addressing the trauma as children, they are less likely to recreate abuse in their adult relationships, as victim or as abuser. Counseling (both individual and group) and Case Management are provided to the non-offending parent.

In 2015, the PALS Program served **61 CHILDREN** and **YOUTH**, and **27 WOMEN**.

## Crisis Response Teams (CRT)

Crisis Response Teams, comprised entirely of volunteers, respond to victims when an arrest is made. The volunteers meet with the victim at the police station providing safety planning and referrals for needed services such as shelter, counseling and legal assistance. CRT volunteers provide emotional support and ensure that the victims knows their rights and resources.

In 2015, volunteers responded to **61 CALLOUTS**.

# 2015 Contributions

Thank you to the following individuals, foundations, corporations and community organizations for your support!

## Haven Circle (\$25,000 and above)

DSM  
United Way of Greater Union County

## Defenders (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Allstate Foundation  
Margaret and Peter Chang Foundation  
Colgate-Palmolive Company  
Elberon Development Co.  
Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation  
ExxonMobil Corporation  
GlaxoSmithKline  
E.J. Grassmann Trust  
Infineum USA L.P.  
IOLTA Fund of the Bar of NJ  
Mary Kay Foundation  
Northfield Bank Foundation  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery  
Plainfield Foundation  
PSEG  
Turrell Fund  
Tyler Foundation  
Wakefern Food Corporation  
Westfield United Fund

## Partners (\$1,000 to \$9,999)

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April's Angels/American Legion Auxiliary  
Unit 102 of Linden  
Brent and Anne Marie Bramnick  
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Diana Gil  
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Hazel Gomez  
Marge Grimmer  
Victoria Griswold  
Suzanne Grocholski



Thank you to the following individuals, foundations,  
corporations and community organizations for your support!

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Natalie Guy  
Jane Halsted  
Pam Hartkopf  
Andrea Hawking  
Camille Hayden  
Evelyn Hecker  
Mary Heller  
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Jennifer Hipolito  
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National Association of University Women  
New Jersey State Police  
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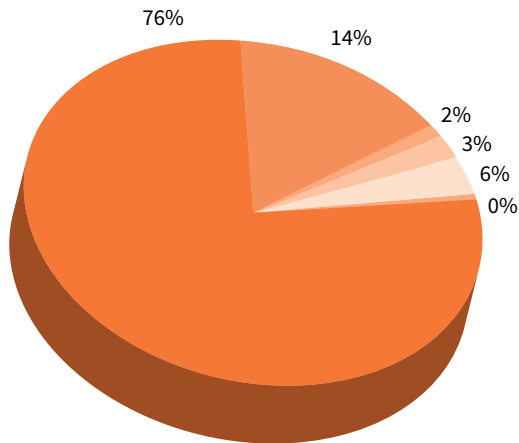
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Ashley Wyckoff  
ZOKU Salon

In preparing this report, the YWCA Union  
County has attempted to recognize all those  
who contributed so generously during the  
period January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.  
We apologize for any errors or omissions.

# Financial Highlights

## Fiscal Year 2015

### Fiscal Year 2015 (January 1 to December 31)

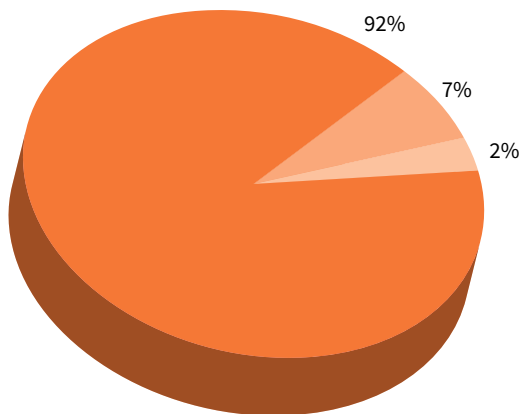


#### REVENUE

Government Grants & Contracts	\$1,778,064	76%
Donations & Contributions	333,728	14%
United Way	36,393	2%
Program Service Fees	74,903	3%
Special Events (net of expense)	129,526	6%
Unrealized Gain on Investment/Other	1,081	0%

**TOTAL REVENUE:**

**\$2,353,695**



#### EXPENSE

Program Services	\$2,094,682	90%
Management & General	56,038	2%
Fundraising	168,138	7%

**TOTAL EXPENSE:**

**\$2,318,858**

# 2015 Management Team

(as of 12/31/15)

**Janice C. Lilien**

*Chief Executive Officer*

**Yesenia Beutel**

*Assistant Executive Director for Core Services*

**Jennifer M. Vriens**

*Director of Development & Marketing*

**Hector Lopez-Ballesteros, Esq.**

*Staff Attorney*

**Ana Martinez**

*Director of Finance*

**Candyce Mayers**

*Director of Residential Services*

**Alka Kamath**

*Director of Community Support Services*

**Carmen Hernandez**

*Director of PALS*

---

**Annual Report Editing:**

Jennifer M. Vriens & Tara M. Packard





**YWCA Union County**

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