

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

union county

YWCA IS ON A MISSION



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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(as of 12/31/19)

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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
- 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.

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

I'm reminded of a song, *I'm Still Standing*, released in 1983 about overcoming adversity. Well 2019 brought adversity, and thanks to you, we are still standing – stronger than ever. In September of 2019, a fire severely damaged our flagship building that we had occupied for 99 years. Instead of the tragedy it could have been, we recognized the opportunity and began plans to build a new, accessible, state of the art building that will not only continue to meet the need for client services but give us room to grow. We began our “Building for the Future” Capital Campaign in December 2019 and with your help, we are well on our way to completion.

But that was not the end of adversity, this was only the beginning. In the early months of 2020, we all faced a new threat together from the COVID-19 pandemic. In a matter of days, we had to change, and dare I say pivot, to finding new ways to do everything we do, serving our clients, communicating with the public, our partners and donors, and even how we hold events. And you did as well. As new client needs emerged, you responded. When our clients needed the basics such as food and diapers, our food drive helped meet the needs of over 150 clients who reached out to us for help. Businesses and community organizations donated food, sanitary products and more to support the needs of our clients. You made a difference.

Next year, the YWCA Union County will mark 100 years of serving the needs of our community and serving victims of domestic violence for nearly half that time. Our donors play a critical role in making this possible. Thank you for being our partners in our mission and for responding to the need during some of the most challenging times we've known.



Janice C. Lilien

Janice C. Lilien Chief Executive Officer

Advocacy



YWCA USA National Meeting

In June, staff and board members of the YWCA Union County attended the YWCA USA's Capitol Hill Day and National Meeting in Washington DC. Our team joined our sister associations in New Jersey to meet with our NJ Senators and Congresspersons to advocate for issues that affect our constituents such as the renewal of The Violence Against Women Act, affordable childcare, and others. After a day on the Hill, the opening reception of the national meeting was held at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.



New Jersey Annual Attorney General's Conference

Our Family Justice Center Director, Adela Caceres, along with other Family Justice Center Directors in the State of New Jersey presented at the Attorney Generals Conference in May. An overview of New Jersey's Family Justice Centers, the creation of the Family Justice Center model, and more was discussed.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

At the United Nations headquarters in New York City, Board Member, Margot Baruch and Assistant Executive Director, Danika Ali represented YWCA at the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women in March. They made some new friends and participated in activities related to social protection and public services.



Client Headshots

Andrei Jackaments, our TWIN photographer, volunteered to take formal headshots for our STEP clients preparing to enter the workforce. A make-up artist, Ruth Gilchrist, joined him to help clients look and feel wonderful! Pictured here is Andrei, photographing one of our clients.

We Love our Volunteers & Partners



Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield

In March, the Junior League provided sixty tote bags containing activity books, snacks, and toiletries for our Family Justice Center and Crisis Response Teams clients. Mothers and their children use these bags while they are waiting in court.



Moms Demand Action

YWCA teamed up with Union County Moms Demand Action to hold an "In Her Shoes" workshop during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. In Her Shoes is an interactive exercise to give participants a better understanding of the choices and experiences of victims of domestic violence.



Newcomers Club of Westfield

Members of the Newcomers Club of Westfield hosted a yoga event to benefit our domestic violence programs. The event included vendors and Lockey Maisonneuve, the author of A Girl Raised by Wolves, who donated a portion of their proceeds to the YWCA.

6TH ANNUAL
Union County
C.A.R.E.S.

Community, Action, Response, Education, Safety

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
 SYMPOSIUM



**A Lethal Reality: When
 Domestic Violence Turns Deadly**

The YWCA Union County, along with our partners – Kean University, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Iris House, Family and Children’s Services, Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation, Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Union County Prosecutor’s Office, and the Union County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy held the 6th Annual Domestic Violence Symposium, A Lethal Reality: When Domestic Violence Turns Deadly. Our Keynote Speaker was Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Ph.D., RN, FAAN of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, developer of the Danger Assessment, a tool that helps to determine the level of danger an abused woman has of being killed by her intimate partner.



Tribute to
WOMEN
 &
INDUSTRY eliminating racism
 empowering women
 ywca

2019 YWCA Tribute to Women
 and Industry (TWIN) Awards Dinner

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Celebrating Empowerment

99 YEARS ON A MISSION

The YWCA Union County celebrated 99 years of providing services to our community. With our theme - Celebrating Empowerment: 99 Years on a Mission – the YWCA honored our partners serving Union County. This was our signature event celebrating nearly a century of serving our community and empowering survivors of domestic violence.



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Empty Place at the Table

Empty Place at the Table (EPATT) is an opportunity to give a voice to the experience of survivors of domestic violence. The event is part exhibit and part performance. Our Empty Place at the Table art exhibition features dinner place settings representing real victims who have lost their lives at the hands of an intimate partner. The exhibition is meant to increase awareness of the true cost and lethality of domestic violence. The exhibition was followed by “In Her Shoes,” a educational tool for experiential learning about domestic violence. Participants move, act, think, and make choices as a person experiencing an abusive relationship.

Strides4Strength

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2019 Program Impact

24 Hour Hotline
2,161 Calls

Emergency Shelter Program
54 Women, 50 Children

Transitional Housing
7 Women

Supportive Housing
21 Women, 43 Children

Family Justice Center
565 Clients

Court Advocacy
462 Clients

Counseling and Case Management
198 Clients

**STEP (Skills Training and
Empowerment Program)**
92 Clients

PALS Program (Peace, A Learned Solution)
57 Children, 33 Parents

Crisis Response Teams Program
87 Call Outs

Domestic Violence Liaison Program
445 Clients

Community and Professional Education
100 Presentations; 3,875 Participants

TOTAL SERVED: 8,150



Sofia experienced physical, financial, and psychological abuse from her husband over many years. She left the home with her young daughter but needed guidance and help with her domestic violence case against her husband. A local social service agency referred her to our Family Justice Center.

Sofia came to the Center and met with one of our staff. She shared the abuse she had experienced over many years and now that she had left the home, she needed protection through the court system. She found it overwhelming and had no idea where to start. Our staff reviewed her legal options and also worked on a safety plan for her and her child during this time. The FJC staff connected her with one of our legal partners and she was able to obtain a restraining order against her husband.

Because of the long term abuse she had experienced, our staff connected Sofia with our Counseling Program. Counseling helped her understand the ways her husband had abused and controlled her. She focused her counseling sessions on her mental health and ways she could support her daughter through this process.

With the assistance of her counselor, Sofia obtained financial assistance through the Victims Crime Compensation Office and began attending the YWCA's STEP program for help with job readiness.

With the help of YWCA services, Sofia is ready to start the next chapter of her life knowing we are always here to help her.

2019 Contributions

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

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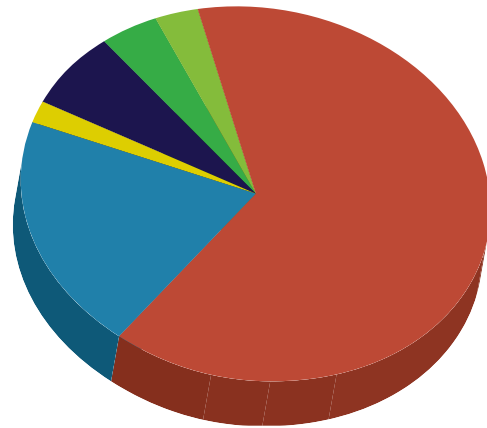
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In preparing this report, the YWCA Union County has attempted to recognize all those who contributed so generously during the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year 2019

Fiscal Year 2019 (January 1 to December 31)



REVENUE

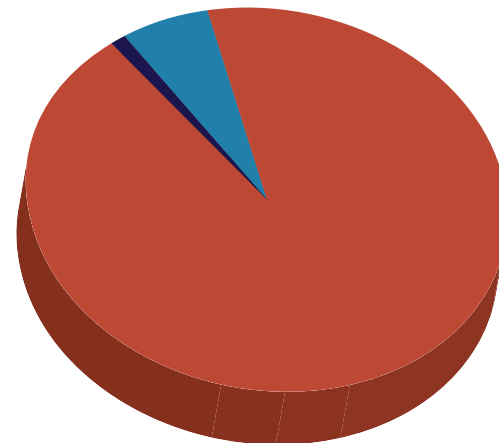
Government Grants & Contracts	\$2,356,605	64%
Donations & Contributions	729,658	20%
Program Service Fees	82,347	2%
Proceeds from Casualty Loss	258,104	7%
Special Events (net of expense)	132,633	4%
Unrealized Gain on Investment/Other	105,511	3%

TOTAL REVENUE: \$3,664,858

EXPENSE

Program Services	\$2,914,877	93%
Management & General	41,370	1%
Fundraising	192,590	6%

TOTAL EXPENSE: \$3,148,837



2019 Management Team

(as of 12/31/19)

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Chief Executive Officer

Danika Ali

Assistant Executive Director for Core Services

Adela Caceres

Director, Family Justice Center

Ana Y. Martinez

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Annual Report Editing:

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