Letter from the President

The year of 2020 was an extraordinary year for all of us. What was planned to be yearlong celebration marking our organization’s Centennial Anniversary, turned into something quite different.

The year began with a plan to rebuild our headquarters building in Elizabeth. After a severe fire in 2019, we decided an opportunity had presented itself to rebuild a new and fully accessible building to house our services and our administrative headquarters. We began a capital campaign to raise the needed funds to complete the project.

And then the world changed.

In March, we confronted one of the greatest challenges we ever have – the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to relearn everything we did, client services, communications, and even how to hold events all in a digital world.

The pandemic had serious implications for victims of domestic violence, especially those sheltering in place with their abuser. Violence became more severe and more frequent, and under the watchful eye of their abuser, victims were unable to reach out for help. But once the world began opening up at the end of the summer, we were overwhelmed with calls to our hotline, more than doubling our usual call volume. Once victims could reach out, their calls for help were answered.

We implemented remote services for all our programs, teaching ourselves and our clients how to use them. We worked with the court system and police departments to ensure clients had access to our services. Our staff learned to work remotely facing challenges with childcare and other issues.

We learned new ways to communicate with each other, our partners, and our donors to coordinate services, manage our day-to-day operations, and continue our capital campaign without interruption. We all became Zoom experts.

And you came through for us! We completed our capital campaign in December 2020 above our planned goal. You helped us break ground and begin the building of our new headquarters. And we found ways to celebrate our milestone of serving the community for 100 years with a virtual gala celebration! We did all of this with your help.

All of this was possible because of you. Thank you from all of us at the YWCA Union County.

In gratitude,

Tina Earley
Tina Earley
President

2020 Message | 1
2020 Program Impact

24 Hour Hotline
3,015 Calls

Emergency Shelter Program
35 Women, 35 Children

Transitional Housing
3 Women

Supportive Housing
11 Women, 21 Children

Housing Navigator
14 Women, 1 Man

Court Advocacy
195 Clients

Family Justice Center
445 Clients

STEP (Skills Training and Empowerment Program)
59 Clients

Counseling and Case Management
217 Clients

Crisis Response Teams Program
103 Call Outs

Domestic Violence Liaison Program
297 Clients

PALS Program (Peace: A Learned Solution)
40 Children, 27 Parents

Community and Professional Education
33 Presentations; 623 Participants

Total served
5,141

Client Story

I was in a terrible situation. My husband abused me physically for years, sometimes in front of my children. He also kept total control of our money. He was finally out of our home, but he continued to show up and threaten me and my two children. I was terrified, and my children were afraid. I needed a restraining order but had no idea how to do that. I found the YWCA’s hotline number and called to see if they could help me.

I was connected with their Court Advocate, Annie, who helped me with everything. She advised me to set up cameras, and when my husband came back, my neighbor called the police, and he was arrested. Then Annie advised me on what to expect during the virtual court hearing to finalize a restraining order. She got me through it, and I got the final restraining order I needed. Annie also connected me to a YWCA Counselor to help me deal with the abuse and fear I had experienced and how I could help my children.

I still have a long way to go, but the staff of the YWCA helped me and my children get started. And I know they will be there if I need them again.

I’m finally finding my way.

Sarah
Women's History
We held a celebration of International Women’s Day in March for our clients highlighting the many women who have made a difference around the world.

Memorial Reflection Walk
In October, staff of the YWCA Union County attended a Memorial Reflection Walk in Cranford’s Hanson Park. Our team joined the Cranford Unity Project in recognizing victims of racist violence and learning how we can support efforts to bring justice and equity to all. They discussed black lives taken, while leading a candlelight walk.

Our supporters are generous every year, but especially this year they came through in waves. In unprecedented times as COVID happened, these wonderful groups responded going above and beyond to assist our clients.

Anne Marie Bramnick, Beth Balaban, and Karolina Dehnhard and Food Drive Volunteers
Three wonderful volunteers, Anne Marie, Beth, and Karolina, rallied an army of volunteers from Cranford and Westfield to shop and provide food and other necessities to our clients living in the community at the start of the pandemic. Thank you to Alex, An, Beth, Brigid, Gladyhs, Heather, Ish, JoAnn, Kayla, Lacey, Mary, and Nora for being volunteer drivers for this food drive.

In coordination with our Family Justice Center Director, Adela Caceres, and our Case Manager, Pia Lobos, the volunteers delivered food and necessities to 43 families in the first 4 weeks, and eventually helped over 150 families by the end of the drive.

Annette Ferrigno
Annette has been long-time donor to the PALS Program for children. Throughout the pandemic, she donated needed items for the program such as arts and crafts supplies, toys, and food for PALS families.

Brassy Buddha Yoga
In October, Brassy Buddha Yoga Studio led a Women’s Empowerment Yoga event in Cranford’s Hanson Park with all proceeds going to YWCA. We are grateful for their support as well as Chrissa Stulpin and Gina Black for hosting. It was a beautiful event to channel one’s inner zen!

We Love our Volunteers & Partners
Prallsville Mill Painting
Thank you to Bruce Tangowski, who created and donated a beautiful painting of the Prallsville Mill located on the Delaware River and Raritan Canal to our Centennial Gala auction. This painting is a 12” by 16” masterpiece on Arches 140lb fine watercolor paper. The 16” x 20” frame is made from recycled wood from old barns, lending the picture a rustic quality.

Dina and Lara Rosato and K&S Italian Specialties
Thank you to Dina Rosato, her daughter Lara, and K&S Italian Specialties in Bridgewater for donating sandwiches, soups, and more to our clients in need in the community as part of our food drive.

Soup Sisters and Healthy Italia
The Soup Sisters donated over 200 liters of homemade soup from April through August of 2020 for our families. The Soup Sisters included Lisa Berkery, Lisa Gardner, Gina Conti, Suzie MaGuire, Jen Faytas, and Sharon Hapton who cooked up and individually packaged soup so that it could be delivered along with our food drive. Thank you also to Cristina Bossini, the owner of Healthy Italia, an Italian specialty store and cooking school in Madison, for allowing the Soup Sisters to use their kitchen. It was a true team effort!

Food for Thought
Former Board member, Patricia Granda, and family operate Food for Thought to help families in need. Instead of delivering turkeys during the pandemic, they donated ShopRite gift cards so that each family could have a full Thanksgiving Dinner.

Girls Helping Girls. Period, receives and donates feminine hygiene products to women and girls in need. In the midst of the pandemic, they donated a huge supply to the YWCA Union County. Feminine hygiene products are not covered by SNAP, creating a barrier to school and work. Girls Helping Girls. Period, was founded by Elise Joy and her daughter.
Project North Pole

Because we could not hold Project North Pole in person, we are thankful for all our amazing donors that donated gift cards from Target and Walmart so that families could celebrate the holidays.

Lisa and Marc Favata

Thank you to Lisa and Marc Favata who donated a carload of new children’s clothing to our emergency shelter, and also purchased items from our Amazon wishlist to help set up our new temporary shelter.

Union County Commissioners Hair Cut Challenge

The Union County Commissioners, along with County Manager Ed Oatman and Assemblywoman Linda Carter, raised $10,000 for the YWCA with their Hair Cut Challenge event in June. Each male Commissioner and the County Manager got a buzz cut on camera from a family member. Thank you to Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Commissioners Angel Estrada, Christopher Hudak, Sergio Granados, County Manager Ed Oatman and Assemblywoman Linda Carter!

Thank you to our TWIN Sponsors!

Benefactors
Colgate-Palmolive Company
Public Services Enterprise Group (PSEG)
Wakefern Food Corporation

Charter
Infineum USA L.P.

Partners
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey
Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc.
Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery

Patrons
New Jersey American Water
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
The YWCA Union County celebrated 100 years of serving our community. We were honored to have Rachel Louise Snyder, author of *No Visible Bruises: What We Don’t Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us* as our keynote speaker for the evening.
Building for the Future Campaign

The year 2020 marked the start of a new beginning for the headquarters of the YWCA Union County. In the aftermath of a fire in 2019, the leadership of the YWCA decided the time was right to rebuild our headquarters building in Elizabeth to improve and expand our program space and create a fully accessible structure.

Walk Sponsors
Dewberry
Whole Foods
### $100,000 and Above
- Anonymous
- Hyde & Watson Foundation
- Westfield Foundation

### $25,000 to $99,999
- E.J. Grassmann Trust
- Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation
- Anne Estabrook
- Celia Intili
- Union Foundation

### $10,000 to $24,999
- Anne Marie Bramnick
- Mary Gibbon-Wooten
- William & Kerry Hanlon

### $5,000 to $9,999
- Brenda Anderson
- Virginia Biggins
- Maria Elena Bordas
- Sherry Heidary
- John Lachowicz
- Jan Lilien* & Richard Brown
- Rob & Karen Mustard
- Kenneth & Virginia Richuso
- Elisa Santos
- Nancy Sheridan
- Jemima Singleton
- Arthur Winter

### $1,000 to $4,999
- Delaine Bailey
- Elsa Yuriko Tsuji-Balderas & Victor Morales Benitez
- Tina Earley
- Teresa and Angel Estrada
- Aretha Johnson
- Beatriz Hernandez
- Josephine Hernandez & Stephen Dishkiewicz
- Lisa Hiscano
- Kelly Ratliffe
- Daniel and Jennifer Schildge

### Up to $999
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- Virginia Hildebrand
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- Ann Lane
- Linden Presbyterian Church - Safe Haven Initiative
- Celia Anastasia Mantia
- Ana Martinez
- Mary McGtigue
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- Jeanette Shell
- Christina Stoneburner, Esq.
- Thomas Merton Center
- TWIN Management Forum, Inc.
- Jennifer M. Vriens
- Zeida Weekley
- Nancy Wall

*deceased

Thank you to our donors that supported the Building for the Future Capital Campaign.
2020 Contributions

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

Members

Persimmon Friends Circle
Anonymous (2)
Anne Marie Bramnick
Casey Gicel
Michael and Rosannine Graziano
William & Kathy Hanlon
Kim Hiscano
Celia Inlil
Jan Liler*
Kenneth & Virginia Richuso
Lisa Berkery
Tina Earley
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Nicki Montaperto
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Carlin Fortes
Helen French
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Susan Graziano
In memory of my parents Julia and Phil Graziano
Victoria Griswold
Violaleta Guberman
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Josie Salgado
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Abby Zanara

Event Donors
Anonymous
Shonessa Ali
Tasha Allen
Beth Arena
In preparing this report, the YWCA Union County has attempted to recognize all those who contributed so generously during the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. We apologize for any errors or omissions.
Financial Highlights
Fiscal Year 2020

Fiscal Year 2020
(January 1 to December 31)

OPERATING REVENUE
- Government Grants & Contracts $2,788,892 80%
- Donations & Contributions 372,647 11%
- Program Service Fees 52,892 2%
- Contributions In-kind 90,289 3%
- Special Events (net of expense) 130,878 4%
- Realized & Unrealized Gain on Investment/Other 47,997 1%

TOTAL REVENUE: $3,483,595

EXPENSE
- Program Services $2,946,230 93%
- Management & General 44,596 1%
- Fundraising 160,792 6%

TOTAL EXPENSE: $3,151,618

*Pre-audited financials

2020 Management Team
(as of 12/31/20)

Janice C. Lilien
Chief Executive Officer

Adela Caceres
Director, Family Justice Center

Ana Y. Martinez
Director of Finance

Jennifer M. Vriens
Director of Development & Marketing

Program Directors:

Tisheka Allen
Director of Residential Services

Alejandra Londono
Director of PALS

Kathryn Lynch
Director of Community Support Services

Annual Report Editing:
Jennifer M. Vriens
Caroline Schiavo
Celebrate 100 years

eliminating racism empowering women

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