

equity report

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How We Evolve

YWCA Kalamazoo

is a thread that is woven into the history of our community.

YWCA Kalamazoo may look different today than we did in 1885, but liberation - the freedom from oppression - has always been our through line.

For 140 years, YWCA Kalamazoo has served as a lifeline and safety net for, with, and by oppressed, marginalized, and minoritized community members. As the community's refuge, we see violence every day in its many forms.

However, we know we must all recognize violence as a symptom of oppression. Victimization is not an individual issue; it is a public health issue. At YWCA, we treat the symptoms of violence while we also treat the underlying oppressive systems and beliefs that make violence possible.

Since our founding, YWCA Kalamazoo has been a continuous thread within the fabric of this community, trailblazing new pathways to liberation. Today, we are leaders in early childhood education, reproductive justice and family health, violence interruption, and systems transformation. These are the pillars from which we seek to eliminate racism and empower women.

Liberation is the through line, because every one of us deserves peace, justice, freedom, and dignity.



Creating a Movement

Racial and gender equity work have been at the core of our mission for 140 years at YWCA Kalamazoo and more than 165 years nationally with YWCA USA.

The Tapestry of Our Growth

In New York City, YWCA is created by women of all means and social conscience to organize and create better working conditions, assist with housing and aid in the safe travel of working women.

YWCA Kalamazoo has a long history of trail-blazing social change, including efforts for suffrage, desegregation, labor rights, reproductive rights, and more.



1908

YWCA is the first industrial federation of clubs to train girls in selfgovernment.

1909 YWCA

begins offering bilingual instruction to help immigrant women.

1920s

YWCA Kalamazoo's cafeteria provides food for women.

1920s

YWCA Kalamazoo works with local companies to enforce a 10 hour workday and provide restrooms for women employees.

1930s YWCA USA

encourages members to speak out against lynching and mob violence, and for interracial cooperation and efforts to protect Black people's basic civil rights.



1945 YWCA USA provides services for Japanese American women placed in internment camps.

1949 YWCA USA pledges

to work for integration and full participation of minority groups in all phases of American life.

YWCA USA is a sponsoring agency for

1963

Washington

Throughout the 1960s, during the height of the

for racial justice and equality, fully supporting

secure equal rights under the law.

Civil Rights Movement, we continued to advocate

local and national efforts to end segregation and

1970 "Eliminating Racism" is added to YWCA the March on USA's mission and placed above for Jobs and "Empowering Freedom where Dr. Martin Luther Women" under our King, Jr. delivers first Black national president Helen his "I Have A . Claytor. Dream" speech.

1974



1985

YWCA Kalamazoo's Children's Center opens in our new building to meet the pressing need for quality and affordable childcare.



1988

YWCA Kalamazoo's Take Back The Night March for prevention of domestic violence at Bronson Park, which would evolve into our Day of Purple event.



1988

YWCA Kalamazoo's display at the DAP Homeless Rally in Bronson Park.

November, 1885

YWCA Kalamazoo is founded by Ida Stearns with 29 charter members; the first YWCA in Michigan.

1890

The first YWCA branch of a student chapter for indigenous women opens in Oklahoma.

1889

The first African American YWCA branch opens in Dayton Ohio.

1893

YWCA Kalamazoo purchases it's first building. The cost of a room and board for one week was \$3.50. One room was alwavs reserved for a young woman experiencing homelessness.

1898

YWCA branches

open at seven

Black Colleges

and Universities

Historically

(HBCU).

1906 YWCA USA

became

incorporated to centralize the work and organize the movement.

1906

YWCA USA is the first organization to introduce the positive health concept and sex education in all health programming

1910

Fifty seven YWCA branches open to assist immigrant women.

1910s

YWCA Kalamazoo volunteers would meet 17 trains a day to assist women, children. and older adults.

1934

YWCA USA delegates support birth control and work to make it more widely available.

1940-50s

YWCA Kalamazoo begins programs to aid foreign national women married to American military service members. Meals on Wheels begins operations.

1946

YWCA USA passes a desegregation charter, and under the leadership of Dorothy Irene Height, begins racial justice education. This is approximately 20 vears before the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

1966

There is a global YWCA movement to divest our dollars in the South African Consortium.

1965

YWCA USA opens the National Office of Racial Justice to lead our civil rights effort.

YWCA YWCA Kalamazoo's Sexual Assault Program is launched.

1976

Kalamazoo's Domestic Assault Program is launched.

YWCA Kalamazoo's Transitional Supportive Housing (TSH), a type of post-crisis-shelter housing, is established to expand longer-term housing options for survivors of domestic violence and their dependent children.

1980-90s

1989

YWCA Kalamazoo advocates for Federal protections of reproductive rights at the Pro Choice March in Washington D.C.



Two decades ahead of national desegregation efforts, we advocated for civil rights and fair treatment in all phases of American life.



At a time when racial discrimination was rampant, our association made the historic and significant decision to allow Black women to become full members. This challenged the systemic racism of the era and ensured our commitment that all women had equal access.



In 1970, YWCAs nationwide added "Eliminating Racism" to the beginning of the mission statement, emphasizing that the mission of empowering women is met only by meeting the needs of the women most oppressed. ywcakalamazoo.org



YWCA Kalamazoo's annual Women of Achievement Awards celebration continues to grow, honoring women working to further social justice and change in our community.

1992

YWCA's National Day of Commitment to End Racism begins in response to the beating of Rodney King and the subsequent national unrest. This will evolve into our annual Stand Against Racism campaign.



YWCA Kalamazoo closes our Fitness Center to focus on services for vulnerable populations and system change work.

2009

YWCA Kalamazoo launches an annual Summit on Racism to address housing, education and employment initiatives designed to disrupt institutional racism in our community via team action plans.

2009

YWCA Kalamazoo expands housing options for survivors and their children including the launch of our Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program. Our housing programs were the first of their kind to support unhoused children who may

not have otherwise

been served.

marginalized groups.

2015 Cradle Kalamazoo

was launched to bring together community leaders and organizations to implement research-informed and holistic interventions to reduce Black infant mortality.

During the 1990s and early 2000s, YWCA Kalamazoo

leaned into advocacy to support the national mission,

craple

expanding to address disparities that affected

2016

YWCA Kalamazoo launches the only comprehensive human trafficking program in Michigan serving 10 counties.

2016 YWCA

Kalamazoo launches our Women and Infant Supportive Health (WISH) program, the only home visitation program in Kalamazoo County that has no eligibility restrictions.

2017

YWCA

Kalamazoo

opens Koru

House - the

first shelter for

men survivors

sex trafficking

of labor and

in Michigan.

women and

2017-2023

2018

YWCA

Men's

Kalamazoo

Launches

Breakfast,

engaging

men in the

masculinity

Awareness

Assault

Month.

community to

as prevention

during Sexual

discuss healthy

A time of major growth and expansion of YWCA Kalamazoo and its programs, growing from 40 to nearly 200 employees.

2020 YWCA

Kalamazoo is selected as one of three organizations to lead YWCA USA's efforts to end school pushout for youth of color through the Strong Attendance For **Every Student** (S.A.F.E) Act.

2022 Reproductive affirming care, and doula care.

2021

YWCA

Kalamazoo

childcare center

- The Dreamery

at Edison - the

first, and only,

center offering

scheduled care

drop-in services

2nd/3rd shift

and 24-hour

in Michigan.

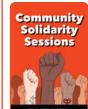
childcare

opens our

second

YWCA Kalamazoo launches the only comprehensive Health Fund in the nation that provides support for gender abortion services

YWCA Kalamazoo welcomes Susan Rosas as CEO, a second generation American and survivor. Under her leadership, sweeping changes are implemented to internal operations to increase employee benefits and provide equitable pay.



2024

In response to a period of renewed oppression, YWCA Kalamazoo launches a series of Community Solidarity Sessions to collaborate and strategize with fellow organizations around needs in the community.



Q2025

YWCA Kalamazoo celebrates our 140th Anniversary of service to our community.

SINCE 1885

2000

YWCA USA creates the Racial Justice and Economic Empowerment Hallmark Initiative.

YWCA Kalamazoo leads the creation of the Women's Education Coalition. a scholarship program for non-traditional students that is still in place through the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

> eliminating racism empowering women

2004

YWCA Kalamazoo begins Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner services in the former fitness facility space.

2004

YWCA USA launches a new logo to include the statement of Eliminating Racism and Empowering Women.

2014

YWCA Kalamazoo hires its first Black CEO, Dr. Grace Lubwama.

YWCA formally changes their corporate name from the "Young Women's Christian Association" to "YWCA USA" reflecting our commitment to social justice, no

2015

YWCA USA's Stand Against Racism becomes a national signature campaign reaching over 700 locations across the nation.



matter the religion.

2015



2019

YWCA Kalamazoo details new strategic Focus Areas to advance racial and gender equity: Improving The Lives of Children, Advocacy and Systems Change, Promoting Maternal and Child Health, and Caring for Victims of Abuse.





2022 YWCA Kalamazoo successfully champions the passage of Proposal 3 amending Michigan's constitution to explicitly affirm Michigander's fundamental rights to abortion, birth control, prenatal care and childbirth.

Today, we continue to address the intersections of

needs of our community members.

2023

YWCA

Kalamazoo

hosts Gov.

Whitmer as

she signs three

bills expanding

gun restrictions

for domestic

abusers.

discrimination and oppression, advocating for the rights of all.

We remain at the forefront of social justice and

will continue to evolve our values to meet the

Attorney General with YWCA Kalamazoo's Antiprosecutes the first successful labor trafficking conviction in



YWCA Kalamazoo ioins the ACLU in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Michigan's ban on Medicaid coverage for abortion care.

2024

Nessel, partnering trafficking program, Michigan.





Our Foundation

At YWCA Kalamazoo, our values and beliefs guide our actions. Through our work, we commit to transforming these principles into our behaviors, choices, and strategies. It is from this foundation that we honor our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

our behaviors, choices, and strategies. It is from this foundation that we honor our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Mission Statement

is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Core Values

Anti-racism Feminism

Trauma Responsiveness

Beliefs

At YWCA Kalamazoo, we honor the inherent value in every individual.

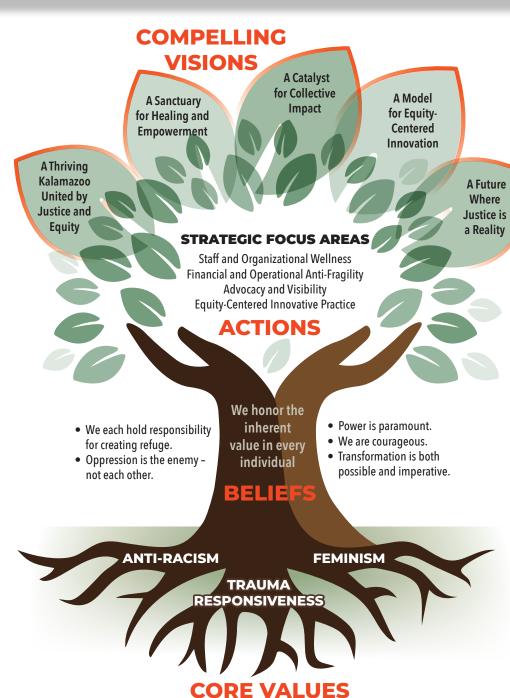
We each hold responsibility for creating refuge. YWCA is a place of holistic healing and safety. We resist the urge to oppress others and ourselves. We alleviate fear in one another with transparency, consistency, compassionate honesty, humility, and a prioritization of personal and communal wellness.

Oppression is the enemy - not each other. We must examine systems and embrace the people. We actively work to dismantle oppressive structures and practices while nurturing one another's growth. People are at their best within equitable systems.

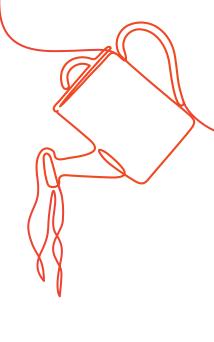
Power is paramount. We continuously assess and acknowledge the power we each hold, and our own relationship to power. We use and share our power with intentionality, uplifting voices, reducing power imbalances, and prioritizing the collective.

We are courageous. We share and listen to difficult truths. We appreciate healthy conflict. We encourage authenticity, and we do not confuse cruelty for honesty. We are bold, innovative, and see failure as an opportunity to learn. We challenge binary thinking and embrace many truths. We take accountability for the role we play in all dynamics, even through discomfort.

Transformation is both possible and imperative. We believe in everyone's capacity to realize positive change, including within ourselves. We understand that paths to personal growth are continuous and life-long. The change we strive to enact must center the people most impacted. Our efforts are intentional, data-informed, and designed for mission-driven impact.



Growing a Value-Driven Community



What We Do

YWCA Kalamazoo offers three interconnected focus areas of direct service:

- Reproductive Justice
- Early Childhood Education
- Interrupting Violence

We underpin each service area with a systems change strategy. In so doing, we treat both the symptom of oppression and the systemic root causes for lasting change.

> Reproductive Justice

Early Childhood Education

Interrupting Violence



Advocacy and Systems Change

Each focus area is intentionally designed to counter systemic oppression, interrupting intergenerational social, economic, and health disparities experienced by Kalamazoo's marginalized and minoritized community members.

YWCA Kalamazoo was founded 140 years ago in support of women experiencing oppression. Today, our programs are designed to target key root contributors to oppression in today's world.

No one is free until we are all free.

- Fannie Lou Hamer





Why Reproductive Justice and Maternal/Child Health?



YWCA Kalamazoo has furthered reproductive justice in Kalamazoo since 2015, in recognition that systemic racism and sexism within healthcare have life threatening impact on women and the LGBTQIA+ community, with a particular impact for Black birthing people and Black babies.

Why it Matters

- Poverty and poor health are mutual feedback loops. Poverty leads to poor health, and poor health leads to poverty, and this repeats intergenerationally as more babies are born premature/with health complications in poverty.
- When economic stability increases, so do positive birth outcomes.
- When maternal and child health improve, so does economic mobility. Bodily autonomy is a key indicator for a developed society. Women forced to carry pregnancy to term are four times more likely to experience severe poverty than their peers.



YWCA Kalamazoo

Reproductive Justice in Action



YWCA Kalamazoo operates Cradle Kalamazoo, a 26-partner collective action consortium designed to interrupt key systemic failures that contribute to racial disparities in infant mortality.



Within Cradle, YWCA Kalamazoo also operates WISH (Women and Infant Supportive Health), a home visiting program for pregnant and newly parenting families who are otherwise ineligible for other local home visiting services.

REPRODUCTIVE **HEALTH FUND**

YWCA Kalamazoo operates the country's first comprehensive reproductive health fund designed to ensure all community members can access doula care, abortion care, and gender affirming care.



YWCA Kalamazoo, along with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, helped to secure and is the local operating partner for Rx Kids, a cash assistance program for pregnant moms and babies.

The Impact



In the last 3 years, Cradle Kalamazoo has supported Kalamazoo to reduce its infant mortality rate by 12%, even as the country saw a 4% increase in infant mortality during the same time period.

To counter systemic racism

in access to home visitation,

YWCA Kalamazoo's WISH

program serves families who fall through the

cracks of existing home

visiting program eligibility

182

families connected to Cradle partner

241

families received WISH home visiting services through YWCA Kalamazoo

116

high risk babies celebrated their first birthdays



85% of families served identify as a person of color.



healthy babies were born in 2024 to high-risk families who previously experienced poor birth outcomes.

requirements.

17% of families served have previously experienced poor birth outcomes.



YWCA Kalamazoo supported the securing of State and County appropriations for Rx Kids Kalamazoo. YWCA will be the local operating partner for the program, launching February 17, 2025.





received services through our Reproductive Health Fund.

92 community members were assisted with gender affirming care and products in 2024.



YWCA Kalamazoo and ACLU partnered to sue the State of Michigan to eliminate discriminatory barriers to abortion care in Medicaid insurance coverage.



Why Early Childhood **Education?**



YWCA Kalamazoo has provided early childhood education since 1985, in recognition that high quality, accessible, affordable childcare is one of the greatest investments a community can make in interrupting racist and sexist systemic barriers and breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty.

Why it Matters

- Families who access **affordable** childcare are more likely to secure and sustain gainful employment. Childcare is the #1 barrier to employment for parenting workers, disproportionately impacting women.
- Children who receive high quality early childhood education are more likely than their peers to graduate high school, sustain healthy relationships, and have economic stability. These children's children sustain the same outcomes.
- Communities of color experiencing poverty have highly disparate access to high quality, affordable early childcare, and are more likely to work second and third shifts, when childcare is unavailable.
- Childcare work across the country is high stress, low pay, and degreedependent, creating sexist and racist barriers to professional growth and economic stability.



YWCA Kalamazoo

Early Childhood Education in Action



YWCA Kalamazoo operates two high quality early child education ("the Dreamery") sites, each located in low-income communities in Kalamazoo.

YWCA is the largest community provider of early childhood education for children ages **0-3 years.** Our childcare model is explicitly anti-racist in design and implementation.

We specialize in:

- 24 hour care, offering full-time early childhood education for second and third-shift workers, as well as 24 hour drop-in care.
- Trauma-responsive early childhood education for very young children exposed to violence, operated in a secure setting.
- Respite care for single parents without a support system.
- High quality child nutrition programs, serving all farmfresh meals and providing food education for children and families.

The Impact

Equity means high quality early childhood education is within reach for all families, regardless of income, identity, or geography.

185 children from these neighborhoods

\$33,883

the average salary for families of four served by YWCA's early childhood programs.

*As measured by the ASQ.





As measured by the State, YWCA educator quality outperforms national benchmarks in all measures.

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CLASS		BENCHMARK	YWCA
Infant	Responsive Caring	4.39	6.4
Toddler	Emotional Behavioral Support	5.43	6.6
Toddler	Engaged Support for Learning	1.73	3.1
PreK-3	Emotional Support	5.54	6.9
PreK-3	Classroom Organization	5.23	6.8
PreK-3	Instructional Support	2.46	3.8



After 1 year in class, children served by YWCA accelerate beyond benchmark developmental milestones faster than they did at enrollment.



*As measured by the ASQ.



266 Associates (CDA)



YWCA Kalamazoo is recognized statewide and nationally for its high quality food programs for young children.



using only farmfresh ingredients. Our community's littlest bodies deserve nutrientrich food to be at their best!



Why Services for **Survivors of Violence?**



YWCA Kalamazoo has served survivors of violence since 1975, in recognition that gender-based violence is endemic and a primary form of oppression.

We provide systems of support to interrupt violence and help survivors regain their power to lead safe, healthy lives.



YWCA Kalamazoo uplifts survivors of

Sexual Domestic and Human **Intimate Partner Violence** Trafficking Assault

Crisis Response

Case Management and Advocacy

Shelter and Housing

Legal Services **Therapeutic** Services

Children's Services

designed to interrupt intergenerational cycles of violence

Violence Prevention Education and Systems Change

Why it Matters

- Oppressive societal norms create the context for violence. Violence and exploitation thrive in the imbalance of power. Inequity results in violence.
- People with intersectionally oppressed identities are more likely to experience poverty and related violence, and less likely to receive help.

They (staff) were able to feel all of my feelings. They were able to put on my shoes and see everything from my perspective.

- 2024 Survivor of Human Trafficking

The Impact



716 survivors served

258 children of survivors served



178

sexual assault nurse exams (SANEs) facilitated

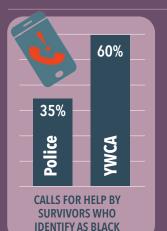
49 pediatric SANEs facilitated



16,901 bed nights at our

emergency shelter

bed nights for children



Although 35% of Kalamazoo survivors who call the police for help identify as Black, more than 60% of survivors who call the YWCA for help identify as Black.

This tells us that in Kalamazoo, Black survivors of violence feel significantly safer contacting YWCA Kalamazoo when in crisis than they do calling law enforcement. YWCA Kalamazoo is meeting an otherwise unmet systems need for Black survivors of violence.



YWCA Kalamazoo's legal team supports Michigan's first survivor of labor trafficking to see their trafficker prosecuted by the AGs office.



number of clients served in our housing programs

Emergency Shelter Temporary Supportive Housing Permanent Supportive Housing

DV HOMICIDES 83%

YWCA's collaboration with local law enforcement reduced domestic violence homicides in Kalamazoo by 83% in 3 years.

After receiving YWCA Kalamazoo advocacy, survivors show

57%

reduction in survivor risk for housing instability

reduction in survivor psychological distress symptoms

87%

reduction in risk for revictimization

Who We Are

YWCA is proud to represent the communities we serve.

YWCA Kalamazoo is a 200 employee strong agency.

We welcomed and engaged three new senior leaders to the YWCA team.



Susan Rosas, MSW
Chief Executive Officer



Andre Carr, M.Ed
Vice President of
Improving the Lives of children



Jameca Patrick-Singleton, MSW Vice President of Community Health, Executive Director of Cradle Kalamazoo

Dear Friends of YWCA Kalamazoo,

In early 2024, I had the honor of joining YWCA Kalamazoo as the organization's new CEO. And truly, it has been an honor. YWCA Kalamazoo has a 140-year legacy of social justice, firmly aligning with community members experiencing oppression in its many forms. 2024 marked a year of bold initiatives to enhance our internal commitments to equitable practice - equitable pay, equitable policies, equitable strategy. Accordingly, we have decided to shift our traditional annual

report to our Annual Equity Report, explicitly naming the ways in which we are advancing social justice and reporting the data which demonstrates our equity impact. We are proud to share how we've been living our mission to eliminate racism and empower women in 2024. Thank you for uplifting YWCA Kalamazoo as we carry forward 140 years of anti-racist, feminist, and trauma responsive tradition. Your partnership creates a more just Kalamazoo.

In Solidarity,

Susan Rosas

We were fueled by volunteers!



Kathy Balik was awarded the Governor's Service Award for serving over 15,000 hours as a YWCA emergency response volunteer. She was an invaluable part of the team and gave support to many clients in crisis.



Author and artist Vashti Harrington stopped by to read her books and give a drawing demonstartion to our kids at the Dreamery. Each student was able to take home a personalized and signed book.

Our 15-person board remained all-woman and majority people of color, chaired by long-serving board member and community leader Dr. Regena Nelson.



Dr. Regena Nelson Board Chair, YWCA Kalamazoo

Board of Directors

OfficersDr. Regena Nelson
Chair

Artrella Cohn Vice Chair Elisabeth Von Eitzen

Secretary
Susan Springgate

Treasurer

Demarra West Past Chair

Members

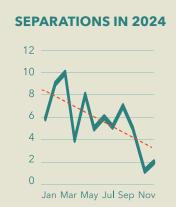
Dr. Nakia Baylis
Kim Brinkman
Dr. Deveta Gardner
Lakeysha Ivy
Katie Paauwe
Margaret Patton
Kimberly Peterson
Samantha Phillips
Leigh Ann Sayen
Cathy Wortham

Living Into Our Mission

In 2024, YWCA Kalamazoo began several initiatives to strengthen our organization's demonstration of its anti-racist, feminist, and trauma-responsive identity.

Stabilization

YWCA
Kalamazoo has
seen significant
workforce
stabilization in the
last year, following
previous upward
trends in turnover
related to the
pandemic and to
rapid expansion.



Transparency

YWCA began several transparent processes, including:

- Town Hall meetings with the CEO
- Monthly Key Performance Indicators reports, shared with the Board of Directors and staff
- Open office hours with Leadership staff
- Collaborative budget design



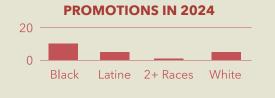
Fully Paid Parental Leave

YWCA Kalamazoo implemented fully paid 12 weeks of parental leave for all new parents and caregivers of all genders.



Promotions

YWCA internally promoted 21 employees in 2024. Demographics of new supervisors roughly approximated the workforce's non-supervisory composition, demonstrating equitable opportunity for upward mobility.





Pay Equity

There is a profound history of racism and sexism imbedded in our society's valuation of education and social work jobs. The women and people of color who predominantly and historically comprise the nonprofit workforce are paid less not because their work requires any less skill, but because of wide-reaching systemic oppression.

YWCA is fiercely committed to walking the talk, and equitable practice starts right here at work.

In 2024, YWCA raised employee salaries to match the compensation afforded to equivalently qualified positions in other departments with historically higher pay. This most dramatically impacted entrylevel and direct-service positions, particularly within

early childhood education. As YWCA Kalamazoo's workforce is comprised of the very communities it serves, the resulting impact was a powerful community investment for families fighting to break

.

an adjustment reported having lived in poverty.

intergenerational poverty.

82% reported that they believe their pay adjustment will prevent them from future experiences of poverty.

\$8,071
The average pay equity

adjustment per person.

of the staff who received an adjustment were in non-leadership positions.



ADJUSTMENT ALLOWED ME TO...

MY PAY EQUITY

10% Stop working a second job

15% Avoid eviction

18% Improve quality of childcare

18% Enroll in higher ed or class

21% Move into a better home

53% Improve nutrition for my family

56% Practice more self-care

60% Reduce debt

MORALE IMPACT OF PAY EQUITY ADJUSTMENTS

Reported Increases in:

Sense of Belonging at Work

78%

Trust in the Agency

80%

Commitment to Stay and Grow with YWCA

89%



A heartfelt thank you to our Human Resources team for their months of dedication and tireless commitment to complete this project.

Staff Comments

My children are now seeing what it looks like to dig our way out of poverty and attain a better life, one they have not seen the likes from any of their family before them. I can finally give to my children what my mom was not able to give to me or her mother to her. I finally feel like, with careful planning and budgeting, I can create a better life for my children and leave an inheritance for my children's children.

It allowed me to be in a financial position to buy my first home.

This pay adjustment has literally changed the trajectory of my family's future.

The biggest positive outcome for me is the motivation to go back to school.

I no longer have to go to the food bank to feed my family.

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How We Evolve

YWCA Kalamazoo builds and improves our programs in partnership with people we serve.

57 Surveys2981 responses

23 Evaluation Interviews

3 Advisory Councils

- Survivor Advisory Council
- Parent Advisory Council (ILC)
- Parent Advisory Council (Cradle)

Our Community Engagement and Outreach efforts foster meaningful connections and empower our community to actively create positive change.

YWCA leads discussions with community members to identify needs, share resources, and develop strategies for effective solutions. We foster a collective effort to address those results in discussions that provide a deeper understanding of the local issues and create opportunities to form equitable and actionable plans that drive lasting change.



YWCA Kalamazoo values the strategic guidance, expertise, and justice-forward consultation from anti-racist collaborators across the country.



Ruchi Warrier and amalia deloney Strategy and Seva

Ruchi founded Strategy and Seva as a social justice-centered strategic planning consulting firm.

Ruchi leads YWCA Kalamazoo's 2025-2028 strategic planning, using power-sharing and widely inclusive strategies to shape organizational direction. The plan is anchored in YWCA's core values of anti-racism, feminism, and traumaresponsiveness.



Dr. Durryle Brooks

Love and Justice Counseling

Dr. Brooks founded Love and Justice Consulting to "help Progressive Leaders Build Inclusive and Resilient Teams, Organizations, & Cultures."

Dr. Brooks provides culture strengthening consultation and leadership coaching to teams and leaders across YWCA Kalamazoo. He trains YWCA's HR department in Non-Violent Communication and in team healing practices.



Brava

3rava

Brava Leadership Institute (BLI)'s mission is to connect leaders of multicultural institutions with the care and resources they need; in the form of coaching, training, facilitation, and strategic support; to achieve their vision of a more just and inclusive world.

BLI provides leadership training and coaching to YWCA Kalamazoo's program executives, to enhance our leader's execution of leadership through a pro-Black, pro-immigrant, pro-LGBTQIA+, pro-working class, pro-disability justice lens.



YWCA IS ON A MISSION

and we will not waver.



353 E. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (269) 345-5595 ywcakalamazoo.org 24-Hour Crisis Line: (269) 385-3587









