

YWCA NORTHEAST INDIANA

# Annual Report 2021

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, SUPPORTING  
FAMILIES, AND UNITING COMMUNITIES TO  
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Northeast Indiana

# Hopefully You've Heard...

2021 held many similar challenges to 2020 for YWCA Northeast Indiana, but also included some unique successes. Like every other nonprofit organization, we worked to find ways to overcome the plethora of pandemic challenges that continued throughout 2021. With the COVID-19 vaccine available, we began to see our domestic violence shelter census climb back up to and beyond pre-pandemic levels. The challenges survivors were experiencing, however, were a little different than in years past with the ongoing effects of the pandemic. We saw more mental health concerns as people were not only trying to seek out safety and therapeutic help to recover from the trauma of violence or addiction, but were also experiencing increased levels of anxiety and depression exacerbated by the pandemic.

2021 also brought labor shortages. As we strived to meet the additional needs of our clients, we needed to do so with less employees. Our rock star staff worked tirelessly. Our 24/7 facilities require professional and caring staff to provide services around the clock, and our devoted YWCA team got the job done. Our community-based advocates also mastered the challenges of providing domestic violence advocacy in these trying times to survivors throughout our six county service area.

During this time, we also began renovations on our facility, The Hefner Center, named in honor of William and Bonnie Hefner. We mourned the death of Bonnie Hefner this year, but her and her husband's legacy of generosity lives on through their foundation, The William J. and Bonnie L. Hefner Foundation. Additionally, we named our domestic violence shelter "Bonnie's House" in honor of Bonnie Hefner.

The private stage of our capital campaign for the renovations of The Hefner Center was in full swing in 2021, and will continue into 2022 as we continue toward our goal of \$10 million. The forthcoming completion of this building will enable us to expand, allowing us to serve more survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and women seeking residential recovery from substance use disorder.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, towards the end of 2021 YWCA Northeast Indiana received funding to begin a dedicated program for survivors of sexual violence. While we have always included those who have experienced sexual assault in our services, the funding received at the end of 2021 allowed us to begin offering advocacy and support tailored specifically to the needs of survivors of sexual assault through our Sexual Violence Services program. We are excited to continue to build this program throughout 2022 and make a difference in the lives of survivors in our community.

Without our devoted staff and supporters, we would not have been successful in meeting the needs this year brought. We are fortunate to have such passionate and kind-hearted souls supporting YWCA Northeast Indiana.

We simply cannot do what we do without YOU! We are beyond grateful.

All my best,



Paula Hughes-Schuh  
CEO

# Board of Directors

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# Community Engagement



This monthly newsletter keeps you updated on YWCA happenings, as well as introduces you to individuals who are furthering our mission in our six county area of impact.



This video series features leaders in the Northeast Indiana region who are fearless in empowering others. These passionate individuals not only understand the importance of empowerment, but they share insights and suggestions for others who also desire to make a difference.



This initiative honors empowered women who diligently seek to help empower other women through mentorship, networking, and education.



# Income Report

**GOV. GRANTS** \$1,663,048

**GOV. CONTRACTS** \$803,408

**FOUNDATIONS** \$577,618

**MISCELLANEOUS** \$439,324

**INSURANCE & FEES** \$403,612

**INDIVIDUALS** \$149,967

**EVENTS** \$149,424

**UNITED WAY** \$77,625

**INVESTMENTS** \$63,081

**TOTAL:**

**\$4,327,107**

# Dress for Success Fashion Week

We launched a new virtual event raising dollars for our Dress for Success program. Our apparel partner, White House Black Market, donated an outfit to the model who received the most votes. Each vote was a \$20 donation. Thank you to WHBM, our models, our Dress for Success committee, and all those who donated to this program!



TOTAL REVENUE

**\$6,628.36**

# Circle

2021 was our 25th year for our signature fundraising event, Circle. It was a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious great time!! How could it not be a good time when Mary Poppins and Bert were in the house! All proceeds went to our domestic violence programming. We thank all of our corporate sponsors, table captains, our Circle committee and all those who attended and donated!



**TOTAL REVENUE**

**\$145,000**

# 2021 Statistics

- 339 adults and 234 children sheltered at Bonnie's House
- 612 adults living at Bonnie's House or in the community received advocacy services through YWCA Advocates
- 171 survivors of domestic violence attended 930 therapy sessions cumulatively
- 3,050 calls to the domestic violence and sexual assault hotline
- 91 women and 18 children enrolled in Hope & Harriet with 36 graduates in 2021
- 125 YWCA clients and women from the community participated in Dress for Success, including suiting and employment and financial education classes
- 3,384 individuals participated in adult and youth education sessions about domestic violence, diversity, and healthy relationships
- 25,506 bed nights of shelter care provided across YWCA's residential programs

# Program Overview

Addiction Recovery  
Services: Hope & Harriet

Domestic Violence  
Services

Dress for Success

Education Services

Goldstein Family  
Scholarship

Racial Justice

Sexual Violence Services





# Addiction Recovery Services: Hope & Harriet

Hope & Harriet is an intensive, residential treatment program in a sub-acute medical facility tailored to treat adult women living with substance use disorder. Certified by the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction and the Commission for Accreditation of Residential Facilities (CARF), Hope & Harriet provides a high level of support and structured wrap-around services for patients. The program provides 24-hour living support with 38 beds and is structured with professionally trained personnel. Our diverse treatment options include multiple levels of customized programming, including weekly group sessions, personalized individual sessions, daily in-house Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and connection to a variety of community resources. Women living at Hope & Harriet have the opportunity to learn valuable skills, mend relationships, and begin setting personal and financial goals for their lives based on integrity, dignity, and self-respect.



# Domestic Violence Services

YWCA Northeast Indiana helps adults and children experiencing domestic violence to understand the dynamics of domestic violence so that they are empowered to live a life free from abuse. Services for survivors of domestic violence include 24/7 emergency shelter, case management by our Advocates, counseling services, parenting support and children's services, financial assistance, employment assistance, matched savings, support groups, and other resources to assist individuals and families in meeting their needs during and after crisis.

During 2021, Bonnie's House had lower numbers than is typical, due to families facing the pandemic, but at the same time, those families who came to shelter had faced more isolation and adversity. We still served 339 adults and 234 children at Bonnie's House. In 2021, our community-based advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence had a record high with 612 adults served—the highest number of adults ever served with community-based advocacy services at YWCA!



# Dress for Success



**DRESS FOR SUCCESS**<sup>®</sup>  
FORT WAYNE

YWCA's Dress for Success program empowers women with low income to prepare for employment and healthy financial management so they can reach economic independence and exit poverty. The Dress for Success program works with over 50 local referral partners to provide professional suiting services and employment and financial coaching services to women with low income.

Women participating in the Dress for Success program are also offered career development education and financial education. Career services include resume-building, job search assistance, cover letter writing, mock interviews, and more. Financial education classes are offered to YWCA clients and empower women through teaching budgeting, needs vs. wants, savings, improving credit, and planning for the future. A matched savings program is available to participants in financial education classes.





# Education Services

YWCA Northeast Indiana's Community Education program helps youth grades 4-12 understand dating violence, sexual violence, and digital safety so they can make healthy relationship choices. The Community Education program also engages adult professionals in trainings about domestic violence and diversity to empower adults with prevention and intervention knowledge.

Each year, YWCA Community Educators reach thousands of students and hundreds of adults across northeast Indiana through classroom and virtual presentations. YWCA's prevention education strives to break the cycle of domestic violence and spread awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault as well as prevent first-time victimization in youth. Individuals exposed to domestic violence as a child often take these learned behaviors into their own relationships in the future. When children and youth receive prevention education about healthy relationship behaviors and identifying the warning signs of abuse, they are less likely to experience dating violence or domestic violence.



# Goldstein Family Scholarship

The goal of the Goldstein Family Scholarship Program is to help female survivors of domestic violence improve their self-sufficiency and quality of life by completing higher education.

The scholarship fund provides financial support for tuition, books, rent, utilities, and childcare. Support is provided based on the applicant's financial need after using all other available community resources. Financial support and case management services are provided to scholarship recipients for up to four years.



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# Racial Justice

YWCA Northeast Indiana helps adults in the Fort Wayne community to understand the dynamics of racism so that community members are empowered to promote racial justice and value diversity. YWCA's racial justice program will dismantle systems and barriers to equality by offering free services, training, and events to foster an understanding of racial justice priorities and solutions in northeast Indiana.

YWCA has a rich history of racial justice work. For 15 years, YWCA has maintained a Diversity Council, created to be a critical driver in fostering real community change in the areas of diversity and inclusion. YWCA's Diversity Council has both an internal branch and external branch – the internal branch focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion work within the agency and the external branch facilitates community engagement in racial and social justice work.

One of YWCA's signature events facilitated by the Diversity Council has been the Diversity Dialogues, an initiative that started in 2006 to train staff in anti-racism and diversity topics. What began as staff training evolved into community-wide discussions in Fort Wayne on race and diversity. Diversity Dialogues were historically held monthly and invited panelists or speakers to help lead the community in compelling conversations on race.



# Sexual Violence Services

YWCA's Sexual Violence Services program helps adult and child survivors of sexual assault process trauma resulting from recent or past sexual violence so that survivors are empowered to move past barriers and heal from their experience. YWCA offers comprehensive services for survivors of sexual violence that include a 24/7 emergency shelter and hotline, one-on-one advocacy services for those living in the community or at our shelter, emergency financial assistance, support groups, and more.

One-on-one relationships are at the core of YWCA's Survivor Services program for survivors of both sexual assault and domestic violence. Within the legal system and resource community, survivors often feel that they lose their individuality. Their specific needs and safety concerns are lost in the process of accessing resources. YWCA Advocates bridge this gap by developing personalized relationships with survivors and walking alongside them as they pursue healing. Advocates utilize trauma-informed and survivor-centered strategies to promote survivor autonomy.



# Success Story

"Hi, my name is Jessica, and I am a recovering addict. I left an abusive/toxic relationship after 15 years and my life went downhill at that point. I started using drugs to cope with losing that relationship and lifestyle; losing my house and being a homemaker. It was not a bad decision to leave, it was the greatest decision I made, but my whole life changed after that and that change affected me. I didn't know how to deal with it so I turned to drugs.

I had been using drugs for two years when I got pregnant and continued using drugs, unfortunately. I had my son, and he was perfect, but he was taken from me. I was offered the opportunity to go to Hope & Harriet. And that could've been the greatest decision I have made.

When I first arrived, I didn't want to be there, and I wasn't doing the program for the right reasons. I was just doing it to get my son back. During my journey, I discovered I was doing it for myself also, and that made my recovery process much more real. I have discovered a lot about myself in this process, a lot of good things. My strengths, my weaknesses, my triggers. Now that I'm leaving, I have all these skills to help me if anything comes up, whether it is drugs or stress or feeling overwhelmed, I have a lot of tools to work with now."

**"I am super blessed and fortunate I was able to come across the Hope & Harriet program."**





# Looking Ahead...

In 2022, we look forward to expanding our sexual violence programming, launching a new event to raise funds for our racial justice programming, adding another child advocate, and going live with a brand new and client facing website!

We plan to continue our monthly "Empowerment Today for a Stronger Tomorrow" newsletter as well as our "Power of Persimmon" initiative. We are also excited to announce two new initiatives: a video series called "Dash of Persimmon" and an awareness campaign focused on empowering women.



# Get Connected

To learn more about YWCA Northeast Indiana's services and stay up to date with our latest events, campaigns, and happenings, visit our website at [ywcanein.org](http://ywcanein.org) or use the QR code below!

Subscribe to receive our monthly email newsletter "Empowerment Today for a Stronger Tomorrow" [here](#).

Follow us on social media:



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