

2025 Year in Review

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Programming

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Addiction Recovery Program

- Hired a Director of Clinical & Recovery Services, a Certified Recovery Specialist, and a Family Case Manager
- 33 women successfully completed our Addiction Recovery Program
- 17 women participated in the graduation in August
- Completed CARF Survey & DMHA Audit



Therapy Services

- Hired a Clinical Supervisor and Music Therapist
- Added a grief group for clients
- 91 individuals have participated in the program
- In addition to individual therapy, we are currently offering 18 therapy groups



Domestic Violence Services

- Virtual Support Group
- Participation in a variety of community-wide awareness initiatives and conferences around domestic violence awareness
- Have served 649 adult survivors as of November 11th
- Saw increased amounts of violence for survivors and DV deaths go up in the community
- Assisted survivors with emergency financial needs
 - Ring Doorbells
 - Cell Phone
 - Legal Fees
 - Moving Costs
 - Transportation Assistance



Residential Services

- Our Assistant Director of Residential Services transitioned to Director of Residential Services.
- Nutritional Coordinator hosts an annual HEAL cooking class and started a new weekly Cooking and Budgeting group for clients to continue to learn those skills.
- Housing Support Group provides assistance navigating housing resources for individuals and families. Participants are taught strategies for affordable housing plans, maintaining a positive rental history, navigating contracts and strengthening overall housing self-sufficiency.
- Empowerment Boutique is more active than ever and is staffed by volunteers, equipped with Amazon donations and uses a points system to incentive client engagement.
- In just the first six months they provided 9,262 bednights.



Housing Services

- Several transitions in program leadership and structure throughout year
- Operated several housing programs for survivors of DV and SV
 - ESG Homeless Prevention
 - TANF Homeless Prevention
 - CoC Rapid Rehousing
 - ESG Rapid Rehousing
- Assisted many survivors with barriers of rent, utility, and deposits to get housed
- So far this year, we have served 30 families



Children's Services

- Daily Summer Outings - Zoo Trip, Botanical Conservatory, Kreager Park, and Splash Pad
- Our Music Therapist held the first music camp this summer culminating with each child making their own ukulele.
- Several special events like a drive-in movie night where children made their own cars out of boxes, a Chalk It Up event for DV Awareness Month, Mother's Day craft project, a Halloween Party, and many more.
- Fort Wayne Public Schools arranged for a back to school event complete with haircuts, school supplies, and new clothes.



Education Services

- Started tracking feedback from teachers following sessions
- Hired a Community Educator
- Restructured the department to become a part of the Advancement Team
- Partnered with Whitley County Domestic Violence Task Force to facilitate a “Safe Bodies, Safe Communities” presentation
- Expanded CyberSense program now offering two programs
- To-date we have presented educational sessions to 3,392 adults and children



Sexual Violence Services

- Adult Support Group - offered virtually and in person
- Adolescent Support Group (13-18) - challenges in attendance looking for new structure in 2026
- Have served 118 survivors as of November 11th
- Increase in human trafficking cases throughout the year
- Stronger referral partnership with Fort Wayne Sexual Assault Treatment Center



Goldstein Family Scholarship Program

- 5 currently participating in the scholarship program
- Earlier this year a past client who graduated from the program reached out and shared:

“I just wanted to reach out and thank you for all of your help and support! I’m working as an ELL elementary teacher now, and I couldn’t have done it without you and YWCA. You’ve really inspired me to empower those students the same way you empowered me. I’m also proud to say that this year my daughter will be graduating from high school with honors! We’ve applied to some colleges, and she’s been accepted!”



Aisha Pearson, Director of Residential Services

We lost Aisha suddenly on July 12, 2025.

Aisha worked tirelessly as YWCA's Director of Residential Services. In her 10 years at YWCA, she also spent time in the following roles: Case Manager, Lead Case Manager, Crisis Services Coordinator, and Advocate Coordinator. Aisha wasn't just a colleague; she was a vital part of our organization, a dedicated leader, and a friend to many. Her passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our mission touched countless lives, and her absence is deeply felt.



Finance & Operations

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Operational Updates

- Hired a Chief Programming Officer
- Put emphasis on cross-collaboration among departments to ensure alignment of standards, expectations, and practices across all program areas
- Focus groups created to help with strategic planning
- Created cross agency networking gatherings, starting with Charis House in November 2025

Staff Engagement

- Continued to develop #PersimmonPerks website where staff can go to learn about trainings and access independent study types of trainings
- Monthly, in person staff meetings that included StrengthsFinder activities
- Discounted tickets to YWCA fundraising events
- Offered a three part training series to promote community and acceptance through Lead at Any Level
- Hosted 26 interns
- Held monthly supervisor meetings for collaboration, problem solving, and training
- Provided staff with a two day WRAP training to promote wellness and recovery
- Offered a shadowing program so staff can get to know more about other departments
- Free blood work and health screenings through Parkview
- Opportunity to write a free will with Barnes & Thornburg Attorneys
- Numerous meals provided by board members
- Social Committee held numerous fun events, including a movie screening, Valentine's Day party, Snack & Chats, Lunch on the Squares, Lunch Buddies, a staff picnic, Hot Dog Halloween, a Halloween Spirit Week, a Thanksgiving event, a holiday party, lots of potlucks, and various appreciation campaigns!

Development & Marketing

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Advancement Team

- The Development/Marketing department merged with Education, becoming the Advancement Team
- Annual awareness campaign was highlighted weekly featuring community leaders sharing advice they'd give their younger selves
- Monthly “Empowerment Today for a Stronger Tomorrow” external newsletter was updated with a new format
- Planned for the departure of the Grants Manager and Marketing Manager
- Worked with Marketing & Development Committee to evaluate events and plan for the future

Branding Updates

We updated our branding and imagery and ordered new large banners, tabletop banners, brochures, and program specific inserts, including inserts in Burmese and Spanish.

Keep an eye out for us in the community and be sure to stop by and say “hi” if you see us!



Community Partnerships

- Amazon - Weekly donations
- Fort Wayne Cinema Center - Donation drive
- Summit City Climbing Co. - Women's Climbs
- Target - Circle Community Giving Program
- Kroger - Community Rewards
- Papa Johns - Discount & Fundraiser
- TinCaps - Featured charity
- Texas Roadhouse - Car show donations
- Chick-fil-A - Meal donation
- Amani - Welcome Week
- Barnes & Thornburg - Write a Will
- Parkview Health - Free Health Screenings
- Positive Resource Connection - Free testing
- Mary Kay - Client makeovers
- Fort Wayne Dance Collective - Belly dancing
- Francine's Friends Mobile Mammography
- Lincoln Financial - Christmas decorations
- Easterseals - Amazon donation unloading
- Zeigler Subaru - Operation Warm

Fundraising Events

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Race for Equality 5K Walk/Run

- Theme: Until Justice Just Is
- 10-Week Training Plan and materials provided
- Over 224 Registrants
- 11 Corporate Sponsors
- 13 Community Partners



Circle Luncheon

- Theme: Reflecting Back to Move Forward
- Over 300 Attendees
- 23 Corporate Sponsors
- 9 Table Hosts





Community Engagement

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Coffee & Conversations

Women can connect, learn, and empower one another by sharing experiences and insights. Our 2025 series focused on empowering women in the workforce. Topics included:

- Empower Your Journey: Work-Life Balance Tips for Moms
- Empower & Engage: How to Have Courageous Conversations
- Empower to Change: Breaking Patterns & Building New Habits
- Empower to Empathize: Understanding the Survivor's Journey
- Empower Your Spark: Reigniting Strength in the Face of Burnout



Thank you to our sponsor,
Ash Brokerage!

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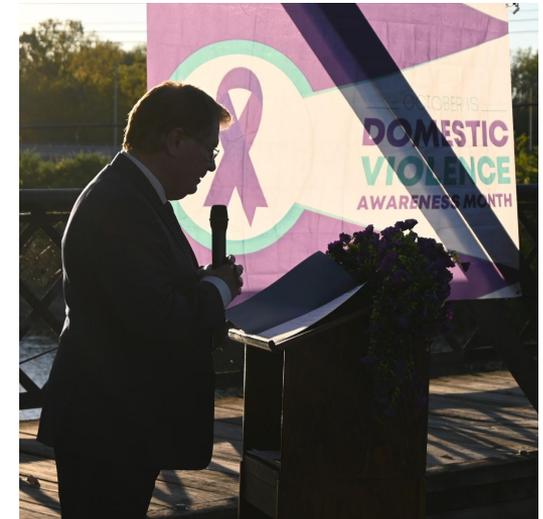
Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Speak Your Truth

- FREE public mic night for survivors of sexual violence to share their survivorship and strength through any art medium of their choosing; music, poetry, visual art, etc.
- This event at the Tall Rabbit Cafe included resource tables from local organizations that offer SV services and various activities like painting, bracelet making, shirt decorating, and coloring.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Flowers on the River

- This free event provided an opportunity to show support for those whose lives have been affected by domestic violence and raise awareness in the community.
- There was a flower procession, proclamation reading, poetry, empowering activity, and special performance.



Noon Rest

At the turn of the century, YWCA offered a lunch time tea and sandwich service for young women called Noon Rest. The money raised was used to purchase the first building.

This year, members of the Sustaining Circle were invited to tour the building and enjoy tea while receiving an update on YWCA programs and services.



Volunteers

We've had over 215
volunteers so far this year!

We are so grateful!



Awareness Initiatives

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“I wish you knew...” Empowerment Campaign

Reflecting back empowers us to move forward. Community leaders share advice they would give their younger selves with the hope of inspiring someone facing similar challenges.



The Hefner Center

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We've come a long way!

YW Lofts

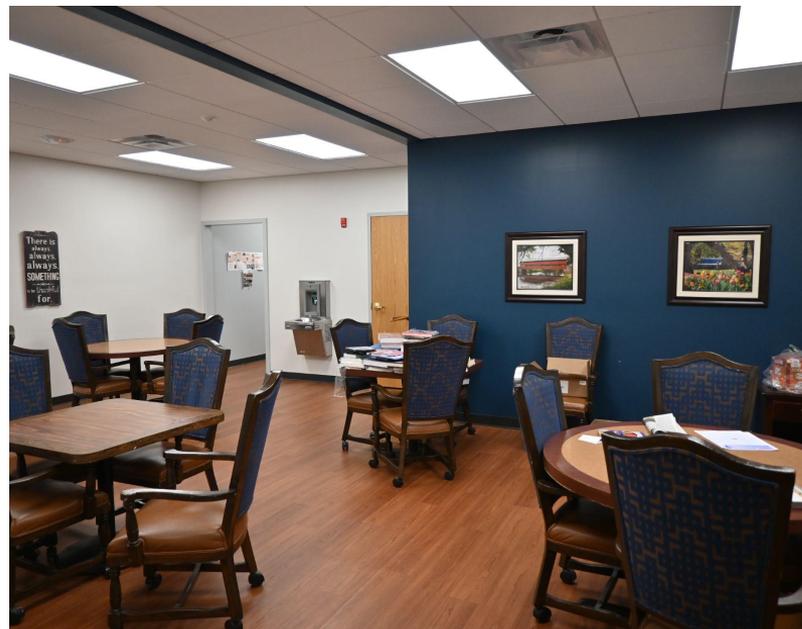
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Lobby



Breakroom



Chapel



Recovery Lounge



Dining Room



Empowerment Lounge



Teen Room



Empowerment Boutique



Kitchen



Persimmon Lounge



Hallways



Boardroom



Staff Offices



Client Rooms



Outdoor Playground



Front Sign





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Thank you!

We can only do what we do because of you.

We can't wait for 2026!

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