YWCA CENTRAL CAROLINAS IS ON A MISSION TO ELIMINATE RACISM, EMPOWER WOMEN AND PROMOTE PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.
DEAR YWCA FRIENDS & FAMILY,

Our mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all resonates deeply in hearts across this community. It's been two years in a global pandemic. We have learned so much about resilience, trauma, inequities, need for connection to our loved ones and our community, and how little we truly can control. Your partnership and support have been especially priceless gifts.

During our 2020-2021 year, we focused on ensuring our YWCA remained a beacon of hope for equity and transformation in the face of racism and misogyny. The intersectional nature of this mission centers women and girls of color, undergirding our programs and taking the shape of forums, activism and book studies you’ll see in this report.

As summer began, we welcomed our elementary students back into the nurturing spaces of our eight Youth Learning Centers after a year of virtual programming. Both children and staff are absolute pros at wearing masks and elated to be together! Our educators use an equity framework for literacy to help our youngsters develop their own identities and question the world around them. This equity framework cultivates children’s genius and gives our educators a way to help kids not just survive, but thrive.
We rejoiced as women and families overcame homelessness and moved on from YWCA into new places to call home and build lives. This past year, 46 participants in Women In Transition and 5 households in Families Together celebrated those big moves. We remind them as we congratulate them that only their addresses are changing. We are still here, and YWCA means family.

We are excited to break ground on affordable housing on our front lawn, with construction expected to start this spring. While supply chains have suffered and construction costs have soared, our friends at DreamKey Partners are as committed as we are to realizing this vision. A small but phenomenally generous group of YWCA supporters are making these “Grounds for Change” a reality so that we can transform this campus and move closer to welcoming new neighbors in 2024.

This community has embraced our mission, encouraging us at every turn. We are grateful for your support of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

In solidarity,

Shelley G. Smith  
Board President  
YWCA Central Carolinas

Kirsten D. Sikkelee  
Chief Executive Officer  
YWCA Central Carolinas

YWCA’s Families Together Director,  
Kenya Henderson, welcoming you to YWCA’s transitional housing units.
At the center of everything YWCA Central Carolinas does is the call to stand for empowerment, equity and dignity for all people. So YWCA approaches each of our programs and services through a racial equity lens. You can see this at work in our Youth Programs.

YWCA provides free after-school and summer literacy support to K-5th grade students throughout Mecklenburg and Union Counties. Our Youth Learning Centers are located in the very neighborhoods where our students live, enabling staff to stay connected to their families.

Our team of educators makes it a point to teach using a culturally responsive framework – Historically Responsive Literacy, allowing our students, predominantly students of color, to see themselves in the lessons and texts they are studying. It strengthens their sense of identity while improving their literacy skills. Instead of seeing characters that look like them as secondary figures in a story, they see them as the main character.

I’m proud to know that the work our department does directly impacts the youth and families in our communities. Our historically responsive literacy framework not only benefits our students but is valuable to our parents.

- Clinton Reynolds, regional director of youth programs

One of the highlights of 2021 was re-opening YWCA’s Youth Learning Centers after a year of virtual learning. Our Youth Learning Centers ensure all our students have a safe and caring space to focus on their literacy skills and personal development. We are committed to our students having a safe space to learn in YWCA’s centers and in their schools.
In Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Black students are 7.1 times more likely than white classmates to receive short-term suspension — that’s nearly twice the state average of 3.9.

(Source: Charlotte Observer, 3.19.21)

That's why our fall 2021 racial justice work focused on the treatment of Black and Brown girls in the U.S. education system.

On September 9, 2021, YWCA hosted a virtual forum centered on the criminalization of Black and Brown girls in schools from a solutions-based lens. Attendees learned from education and advocacy experts including Dr. Susan McCarter from UNC Charlotte, Kristen McCollum from West Cary Middle School and YWCA USA’s Director of Government Relations, Pam Yuen. Community members then considered the ways they could ensure equity for students within the local school system during our follow-up discussion on October 6 focused on Dr. Monique Morris’ book, “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black and Brown Girls in Schools”.

Through these events, community members were educated and mobilized on issues our students face every day in and out of the classroom.

YWCA is proud to do the work of racial justice and advocacy. We are proud to provide spaces for students to flourish and spaces for adults to learn.

(Source: Charlotte Observer, 3.19.21)
A Safe Place to Thrive

Safe and affordable housing is a right. But many throughout the community and the nation cannot attain it. In Charlotte, we see the lack of affordable housing pushing our neighbors to the limits. The hard workers our community relies on - from child care and health care workers to the staff of our local grocery store - often have long commutes from the outskirts of town with little public transportation available. Some just cannot afford to live in a home and turn to the harsh conditions of the street for shelter.

The present day housing crisis is nothing new. But the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with an almost unattainable housing market, has exacerbated the struggles of thousands of Charlotteans.

YWCA cannot solve the problem of housing insecurity in our community, but we are proud to offer one solution. From July 2020 to June 2021, YWCA’s transitional housing programs provided 158 individuals a safe place to live. The women and families in our programs worked with YWCA’s case managers on short- and long-term goals – including attaining permanent housing and achieving financial stability. They received added support from community volunteers through virtual workshops.

Though the pandemic continues to create uncertainty around the world and in our community, YWCA knows that our transitional housing programs are a constant - for our community and for our women and families. But these programs are just the beginning. In a matter of months, YWCA and DreamKey Partners will be breaking ground on our new affordable housing development - creating 104 units of safe, affordable housing for our neighbors right on YWCA’s front lawn. We can hardly wait for construction to begin! And we can’t wait to keep you updated on our progress.
2020 - 2021 FINANCIALS

SUPPORT & REVENUE

SUPPORT:
- Contributions & Grants: 1,577,376
- Governmental Agencies: 609,098
- United Way of Central Carolinas: 474,751

REVENUE:
- Program Fees: 509,233
- Other Income: 8,350

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE: 3,178,808

EXPENSES

- Program Services:
  - Transitional Housing: 948,322
  - Youth Learning Centers: 710,521
  - Co-Ed Fitness Center: 511,009
  - Racial Justice*: 72,808
- Management & General: 325,079
- Fundraising: 261,226

TOTAL EXPENSES: 2,828,965

NON-OPERATING GAINS & LOSSES

- Investment income**: 1,804,534
- Loss on disposal of assets: (2,544)
- Affordable Housing Capital Campaign**: 7,272,243

NET NON-OPERATING GAIN: 9,074,233

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: 9,424,076

**Not used for operating budget.

YWCA’s Racial Justice expenses primarily include costs associated with racial justice events; however, it is important to note that all of YWCA’s programs operate through a racial equity lens.

Financial information represents the year ended June 30, 2021. Information taken from audited financial statements issued by C. DeWitt Foard & Company, P.A. and dated November 4, 2021. A copy of the complete audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are available.
YWCA LEADERSHIP

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