

Dear YWCA Partners,

We hope that you had a Thanksgiving full of the best of family, friends, food, and, frankly, gratitude. That is my starting point today—gratitude. The YWCA Hamilton is so grateful for you and your support for our programs and our mission. You have given dollars, flowers, meals, gingerbread houses, time, energy, talent, and the list goes on. All of it is appreciated by the staff, the board, the girls in our Girls Inc. program, and the residents. Your gifts empower us to deliver on our mission. Let me share a few bright spots from 2017.

Success at Girls Inc. is apparent when we see girls blossom from shyness to engaged activity, when they return for a third year, when they begin to mentor younger girls. It is also apparent when we see girls having healthy snacks after school and when they can look to a consistent mentor as an additional reliable adult in their lives. Your gifts are working here.

In May, we welcomed the return of the May Morning Breakfast as a kickoff for a campaign for Girls Inc. support, and thanks to your generosity, more than doubled our goal of \$3000. That helped us increase the number of schools we serve from one to three this fall!

Success in Goodman Place, our residence program for women under treatment for mental illness, occurs with every day of good health for our residents. In FY17, 95% of our residents acquired three or more new coping skills to help with their symptoms; and 88% reported increased personal well-being and avoided intervention. Roughly a third of our residents are employed, so these successes affect not just those who live here, but all the people with whom they interact. Since April, when I began, the number of residents has increased from 13 to 19, thanks to our diligent staff. That may not seem like much of an increase (although the mathematician in me could say that it is almost a 50% increase!), but we have also had people move out in this time period. We also consider it a success when we see them move into independent apartments, taking the next steps in their journeys. Your gifts are working here!

Dove House, the only domestic violence shelter in Butler County, also sees its successes. When a client gets the help she needs to return to work, or when she is able to move herself and her family into safe affordable housing, as 90% of this year's clients have, we are grateful. This year, we even had one client move from Dove House into Goodman Place. We see success when a woman is able to bring her pet into the shelter to protect it from the abuser, because national data has shown that pets that are left behind are often abused or killed by the abuser. (Did you know that we were the first domestic violence shelter in the state to rescue pets?) And did you know that we have had women in the shelter from as far away as New York and Florida? Transportation is usually the problem, even locally. Did you know that we also serve men who are victims of domestic violence? Men call far less often, but our services are for all who are in danger. Again, your gifts are working here.

For the last year or so, we have held Friday Forums on the second Friday of each month. We provide a light lunch and a safe place to discuss difficult issues. We invite anyone in the area to take a lunch break with us and talk about women's issues, racial issues, or just issues that affect us all. Topics have ranged from resiliency after a trauma to work/life balance to how we get to know people who are different from ourselves. There are sometimes tears but often laughter and always an enrichment. We have suspended our forums for the hectic holiday season, but will return on January 12 at noon, this time at the City Building—details can be found on Facebook soon. Your gifts are working here.

In spite of the flood that occurred the night before the May Morning Breakfast and all the repair and reconstruction that has been going on since then (the sidewalk is now open for business!), we have rejoiced in our situation. To be in the midst of this active, engaged, generous community is perhaps our greatest asset. And our work to respond to the needs of the community continues, with your partnership.

Attached you will find our FY17 Annual Report. We have seen some tough times in past years, but thanks to a diligent and highly competent board and what must be the best staff ever, we have made a U-turn and are poised for sustainability and growth. I would add one peek at what lies ahead. We have always loved our kitchen. It provided lunches for many Butler County citizens for years, including for the Hamilton Rotary Club. We would like for it to once again serve the area. We are planning renovations to bring it up to commercial standards so that we can rent out its use to area small businesses. We have already received a grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation, partner to so many in this region, to start the process. The potential for how we can use it to benefit the neighborhood and county is limited only by our collective imaginations, and hours in the day, of course!

It has been an honor for me to serve as the Interim Executive Director this year. The search is going well, and we hope to have an announcement for you soon about a "permanent" director.

As you consider the holiday season and your end of the year giving, we hope that you will continue your partnership with us and include the YWCA in your plans. Your holiday gift will be used for general operating expenses so that we can continue to deliver on our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women, in the ways mentioned above but not limited by past activities. The history of the YWCA Hamilton is that it has adapted to the needs of the times and has responded to them. Please consider giving a gift that will help us continue to serve the girls of the area and the women who would otherwise suffer from situations beyond their control.

With gratitude, and best wishes for a joyful holiday,

Lee Sanders
Interim Executive Director

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

The YWCA is dedicated eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

OUR VISION

The YWCA Hamilton, Ohio, is a thriving and innovative century-old organization and the recognized leader in Butler County in eliminating racism and empowering women, with programs that heal individuals and enhance community life

As the Fiscal Year 2017 began, the board and the staff began an in depth analysis of the programs and budget of the YWCA Hamilton. Countless hours were spent evaluating budget and programs. How could we continue to serve the women and men of Butler County, but do it more efficiently? That work has reaped rewards and continues, thanks to excellent staff and a committed board. A difficult financial situation has turned around and we are grateful to be headed in a positive direction.

In the midst of this analysis, we unexpectedly lost our leader, our friend, and our sister in the efforts to eliminate racism and empower women, Sherrie Bluester. We are grateful for her leadership, 2010-2016, and grateful that we had the opportunity to work alongside her to make Butler County an even better place. The YWCA Hamilton will forever appreciate both her passion for its mission and her compassion toward everyone.

We are grateful to all who support us with gifts of time and talent and treasure. You are our partners in the journey defined by our mission. Together we give shelter to the homeless, protection to the abused; together we support girls as they grow into strong, smart, and bold women; together we provide a safe place to discuss difficult issues so that our community and nation can build on those things that tie us together rather than tear us apart. As FY17 ended, there were still challenges, but the map is clear and you, our fellow travelers, lighten the load and bring joy to the journey.

IT TAKES COMPASSION

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Hamilton

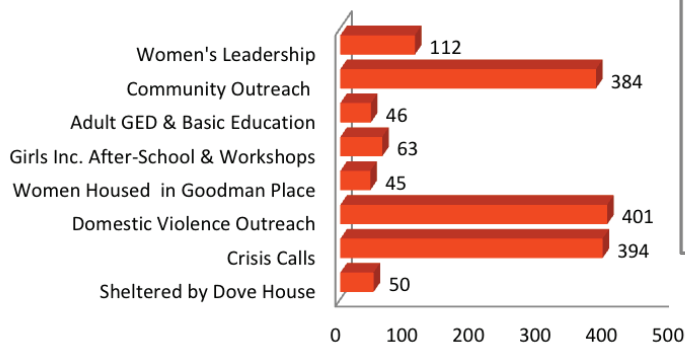
SUCCESS STORY

Girls Inc. 2017

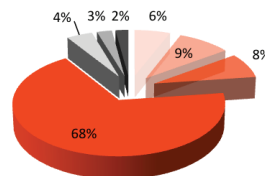
Destiny started Girls Inc. at Bridgeport Elementary. Her shyness was the most extreme; at first, she would only talk to the program's intern and never above a soft whisper. By the time she was in her second year of Girls Inc. programming, she had taken a leadership position in the group. Girls Inc. has provided a safe space for Destiny, and she will tell anyone who asks how much she loves Girls Inc. She is excited to continue the program next year, and she is well on her way to becoming a Strong, Smart, and Bold young woman.

THE NUMBERS

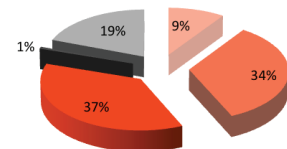
Numbers Served



Income by Source



Expense by Program



IT TAKES COMMITMENT

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eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Hamilton

FUNDERS & DONORS (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017)

United Way

Butler County United Way
Greater Cincinnati United Way
United Way of Oxford & Vicinity
United Way – Campaign Designations

Foundations

Hamilton Community Foundation
Healthpath Foundation of Ohio
Mercy Health Foundation
Ms. Molly Foundation
Quaker Chemical Foundation

Government

Emergency Food & Shelter
Ohio Attorney General – Crime Victims
Assistance (VOCA, SVAA)
Ohio Criminal Justice Services (FVP)
Ohio Dept. of Medicaid
Butler County Marriage License Fees
Butler County Mental Health & Addiction
Recovery Services
City of Hamilton (CDBG)

Churches

Beth Israel Congregation
First United Methodist Women
Reily Presbyterian Church
St. Anne Episcopal Church
St. Julie Billiart Church
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
St. Maximilian Kolbe Church
Venice Presbyterian Women

Corporate/Organizational

Alpha Chi Omega
Barclays Bank
Brooksource
Brown Dawson Flick Funeral Home
Butler County Development Roundtable
Butler County Health Consortium
Christian Women Connection
Community Design Alliance
Community First Solutions
Fairfield Women
First Financial Bank
Gorman Supply
Hamilton Flea
Hamilton Rotary Club
Jeff Pohlman Tire & Auto Service
Lang Financial Group
LEVAJO Inc.
Neal's BBQ
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing
Oxford Magazine
Oxford Visitors Bureau
Premier Health
Rose Hill Funeral Home
ScarletKatS LLC
Sparks Eye Care
Startek
State Farm Insurance
Tedia Company
United Heartland Insurance Agency
US Bank
Vora Corporate Services
Weigel Funeral Home

IT TAKES YOU

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Hamilton

FUNDERS & DONORS

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