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# YWCA ALASKA MISSION STATEMENT


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## 2019-2020 Program Year
With your support, the YWCA Alaska has experienced a transformative year. In 2019, we sold our building downtown and moved into a new location, 3400 Spenard Road Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, before the business shutdowns from COVID-19. Our dedicated staff rose to the occasion, transitioning to working at home like many Alaskans, while reinventing how we serve our programs. We reinvigorated our social justice programming and stepped up to provide educational opportunities to help community members empathize with each other and better understand how culture guides us. Integrating and leveraging the cultural diversity of Alaska makes Alaskan communities stronger, more vibrant and equitable for all.

The social, mental and economic impacts of COVID-19 highlighted the needs of vulnerable Alaskans. We created a COVID-19 Emergency Relief and Community Resiliency Fund for vulnerable Alaskans affected by the global pandemic. We awarded 40 individual grants (totaling $25,000) to Alaskans suffering from Bethel to Anchorage, and in-between. The funds of the relief program awarded helped at-risk Alaskans pay for their rent, mortgage, groceries, gas, and utilities.

These are just a couple of the critical programs that the YWCA provided. Your engagement with us and the work we do is critical. Friends like you have been incredibly caring and generous. We could not do this mission critical work without you and your support. For all of you, I am grateful. Thank you! The dedication of our staff, board, advisory council, volunteers and supporters are the heart of all that we do and we are deeply grateful. Thank you! The challenges faced by Alaskan families are increasingly urgent and the continued need for your support is critical. Our mission and work continues because of the dedication of our friends. Thank you for providing us the resources to continue to provide the advocacy, education and programs critical to Alaskan families.

With deepest gratitude,

Angela Astle
What a memorable year...

What began as a year of leadership transition for YWCA Alaska ended with a global pandemic! The 2019-2020 program year challenged us as a community to rise and meet the moment underscored by COVID-19.

This year, YWCA Alaska transitioned to new leadership and a team of all new staff. We were thrilled to be working at an organization that has a long history of embracing our community and lifting it up through service to others. We were focused on hosting our signature event Women of Achievement & Youth Awards, re-establishing robust and relevant programming, and selling our downtown office building. And we did it!

This Gratitude Report highlights our successes during unprecedented times. We were glad to have staff that are fully committed, flexible, and creative. Our Board of Directors were in the trenches with us every step of the way. We were able to draw on the love, history, and wisdom of our Advisory Council. The Academy of Women of Achievers, our thought leaders, offered expertise and guidance. We are blessed!

We appreciated the partnerships and collaborations of other nonprofits and businesses. It takes all of us to build a “beloved community”. It’s a pleasure to work with people of like minds and hearts.

Our grantors, sponsors, and donors funded our work to eliminate racism, empower women, promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. You helped us to be there for the community we love, by being there for us. Thank you!

Life is rich!

Theresa Lyons
WOMEN'S WELLNESS

MISSION
Empowering Women with tools and education to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

The Breast & Cervical Program
Provides outreach and patient navigation for Ladies First and connects medically underserved women to health care for breast and cervical cancer screenings. The program provides access to cervical screening (ages 21-64), clinical breast exams (ages 21-64), and mammograms (ages 40-64).

The Tobacco Cessation Program
Works with individuals who are ready to quit by connecting them to Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line. This outreach educations Alaskan's on the cost of smoking, and the dangers of electronic cigarettes.

Diabetes Prevention
Provides outreach and education regarding prediabetes risks, screenings and prevention.

CORE FUNCTIONS
• Awareness Building
• Health Education
• Community Outreach

BY THE NUMBERS
• 99 Yoga participants
• 491 outreach events
• 60,055 People exposed to educational material
• 12,636 People received individual education about breast and cervical cancer screening
• 374 people received barrier relief through our program (interpreter services, transportation, childcare)
• 256 women completed wellness exams through our program
• 198 women had a mammogram through our program
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

MISSION
Leading individuals to financial freedom and stability through interactive workshops and one-on-one coaching.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Job Lab
Bi-weekly series about job search resources, professionalism, worker's rights.

Financial Literacy
Weekly series that builds capacity for understanding money and managing personal finance.

Econ Equity
Supports and advances efforts to improve women’s economic security. We want women to be safe and valued. Women must have fair wages and equal pay, inclusive workplaces that are free of discrimination and harassment, quality and affordable childcare and early education programs, access to workforce development and STEM opportunities, and decent, affordable, and fair housing.

CORE FUNCTIONS
• Career and Professional Development
• Financial Education
• Advocacy for Economic Equity

BY THE NUMBERS
• 15 Virtual Job Labs that garnered over 782 views
• 10 Virtual Financial Literacy Facebook Lives with a total of 385 views
• $25,150 distributed to 40 Alaskan families and individuals for utilities, gas, groceries, rent, or mortgages
• 14 individuals have accessed their financial literacy counselling in partnership with Alaska Housing Finance Core
SOCIAL JUSTICE

MISSION
YWCA Connect (Social Justice Program) provides opportunities for community members to engage in respectful conversations and trainings that elevate learning and understanding of race, gender equity, and social justice.

CORE FUNCTIONS
• Eliminate Racism
• Promote Dignity for All
• Social Justice Advocacy

YW Connect was designed this year and will launch in FY21.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Training Workshops
To explore one’s own record; to gain an understanding of the issues of racism and its impact on all of society; to develop skills to address racial comments, jokes, and slurs; to connect in our humanity in an effort to ensure dignity for all.

Story Circles
Opportunities to share one’s own story and listen to the stories of others; to learn from the lived experiences of a diverse community. An identified theme centers the conversation.

Affinity Group Meetings
To meet with members of one’s own group to discuss ways the group can dismantle systemic racism.

Book & Film Discussions
To grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding; to read books and view films/documentaries; to explore our thoughts and feelings; to be liberated by truth.

Advocacy
To raise awareness about issues of racism and injustice; to stand up for social justice; to advocate for policies that provide peace, justice, freedom, and dignity all people.
YOUTH

MISSION
My YW (Youth Program) engages youth in productive ways that encourage, motivate, and inspire young people to develop their leadership, teamwork, and service their communities. Alaska’s youth deserve to live their best life!

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

YPOA (Young People of Achievement)
Acknowledges youth who have overcome significant obstacles in their lives, that serve their communities and embodying the mission of YWCA Alaska to eliminate racism, empower women and girls, stand up for social justice by promoting peace, freedom, justice, and dignity for all.

Internships and Mentorship
YWCA Alaska serves as a site for high school and college students to complete internships and practicums. Students can complete productive work, projects, and research. Students practice their leadership and develop professionalism, in a real-life workplace.

CORE FUNCTIONS
- Learning
- Leadership
- Service

BY THE NUMBERS
- 1 College Internship, student from Walla Walla College in Washington State.
- 1 High School Group Internship, 15 students from TRIO Upward Bound Program at the University of Alaska Anchorage

Let’s Talk About It Seminars
Provides opportunities for education and learning to empower young leaders. Youth are encouraged to share their perspectives on issues that matter.
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

MISSION
Empowering women to take space and make space; to lean into their leadership and advocate for the rights of all women.

CORE FUNCTIONS
- Leadership Recognition
- Mentorship
- Advocacy
- Service

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Women of Achievement
Recognition program that acknowledges 10 exceptional women for their leadership and service, which aligns with the mission of YWCA Alaska to eliminate racism, empower women, promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

The Academy of Women Achievers (The Academy)
Comprised of Women of Achievement Award Winners. These women are experts and thought leaders in Alaska, providing a wealth of training, guidance, and leadership that strengthens YWCA Alaska and the greater community.

BY THE NUMBERS
- 10 Women awarded at the 2019 Women of Achievement & Youth Awards
- 450 People attended the 2019 WOA
- 372 Members of The Academy

Empower Her
Inspires and uplifts women through awareness building, knowledge, and relationship. Women rise together!
FY20 BUDGET

**Annual Income**

- Individual Contributions: 10%
- Corporate & Foundation Donations: 23.6%
- Earned Income: 21.3%
- Grants: 39%
- Other: 6.1%

**Annual Expenses**

- Program: 58.6%
- Administration: 37.7%
- Other: 3.7%
Thank you to all of our YWCA Alaska donors, sponsors, and grantors for your generosity. Your support brings the mission to life!

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DONATIONS RECEIVED 2019 & 2020 CALENDAR YEARS

Thank you to all of our YWCA Alaska donors, sponsors, and grantors for your generosity. Your support brings the mission to life!

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