

2021

YWCA IS ON A MISSION



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Empowerment Updates*

Our Partners and Supporters

Dear Friends,

At YWCA Northeast Kansas, we envision a world free from racism, where women are empowered, and survivors are free from abuse and harm. This will not happen on its own – with supporters like you, we have been answering the greater Topeka community’s call for safety, support, healing, and empowerment for over 130 years.

Thanks to your help, our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women reached a record-breaking 13,999 individuals in Northeast Kansas in the last year.

In this report, you will find updates on our core programs as well as some new and exciting partnerships and projects that we look forward to continuing in 2022. We hope you will continue to join us on our mission to build a stronger community, together!!

In Solidarity,

Kathleen Marker, CEO, YWCA Northeast Kansas

Kaitlyn Sester, President, Board of Directors

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YWCA EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Through our Youth Services Programs, YWCA Northeast Kansas supports working families, allowing parents and caregivers to meet the challenge of 2021 and the ongoing pandemic.

Providing safe and affordable care for children is crucial for working women and families. Our **Early Learning Center** staff teach children from 1 year-old and walking to Pre-Kindergarten their alphabet, numbers, writing, emotional regulation, and even now work on potty-training over the age of 2 ½, which is something that many day care centers do not provide. We are one of very few preschools in Shawnee County to accept DCF payments. On average, 36% of the families in our Early Learning Center use DCF subsidies to help pay for their childcare.

We believe that all families regardless of income should have access to systems of early care and education. We work with early childhood educators and families directly to ensure that this happens.



Meet Nevaeh Edwards: Lead Toddler Teacher

Winner of the 2021 YWCA Empowered Leader Award

Nevaeh says she loves to teach because she wants to be a positive influence on young minds and wants the children to feel that she will always be there for them, even once they've grown out of her classroom. Her positivity is infectious, and her dedication to the children in her classroom is an inspiration to YWCA staff and ELC families alike. Her passion for the toddlers and families she serves has led her to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education at Allen County Community College.

Congratulations, Nevaeh!

Over 350 children and youth participated in high-quality educational programs throughout the 501 school district and in our Early Learning Center, including:

86 Toddlers and preschoolers in the ELC

35 USD 501 students at Kids Quest Summer Camp

81 Rising kindergarteners in the summer-time Kindergarten Academic Preparedness Program (KAPP)

70 USD 501 students in the Families Empowered by the Additional Teaching of Students program (FEATS)

VISIT [YWCANEKS.ORG/ELC](https://www.ywcaneks.org/ELC) TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY FOR ENROLLMENT

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LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Women in the workforce are being called to lead through new and unique challenges. YWCA Northeast Kansas supports them in meeting these challenges through the two programs in our Leadership Academy. With some creativity and added precautions, both programs met safely throughout 2021.

Leadership Momentum is a six month program designed for established work leaders to accelerate professional growth, enhance self-awareness, improve personal and team performance.

Emerging Leaders is a five-week program supports women new to a leadership role, or preparing to step into a leadership role. Participants gain tools to communicate effectively, understand leadership styles, manage diversity, and handle conflict confidently. In 2021, we completed three cohorts of the Emerging Leaders program.

In 2021, YWCA Northeast Kansas instated an **Emerging Leaders scholarship for Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color** participants, acknowledging the additional challenges and barriers that BIWOC leaders face in the workplace.

2022 EMERGING LEADERS DATES

MEETS WEEKLY FOR FIVE WEEKS

Cohort 1: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (Wed)

Cohort 2: June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Wed)

Cohort 3: Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (Tues)

REGISTRATION AT

WWW.YWCANEKS.ORG/LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Academy is an essential program in our mission to empower women and support their economic advancement, building up the foundation of our community.

Visit www.ywcaneks.org/leadership to learn more.

FROM 2021 EMERGING LEADERS GRADUATES:

"MY FAVORITE PART OF EMERGING LEADERS WAS THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR REAL WORLD DISCUSSION, AND THE FREEDOM TO BE HONEST AND VULNERABLE."

"THIS IS A GREAT PROGRAM TO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF AND LEADERSHIP, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY HOW YOU CAN BECOME A BETTER LEADER."

"THE MOST INSIGHTFUL TOOL I GAINED FROM THIS PROGRAM IS HOW TO MANAGE CONFLICT. FOCUSING ON THE BEHAVIOR AND EVENTS RATHER THAN THE PERSONALITY."

CENTER FOR SAFETY AND EMPOWERMENT



Our Center for Safety and Empowerment is a place where survivors can find physical and emotional safety, where they are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve, perhaps for the first time in years. While some may be driven to see “success” as one particular moment, we celebrate the success of the survivors we serve every step of the way as we bear witness to their strength and resilience in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles and struggles.

Advocates at the Center for Safety and Empowerment show up every day to support survivors, and to walk with them on their journeys toward healing and empowerment.

“I was really nervous about coming in to talk to someone about my situation, but when I noticed the various pride flags posted throughout the building, I felt safe and welcome here!”

CELEBRATING TWO YEARS AT THE DAY CENTER

November marks two years since YWCA Northeast Kansas opened Topeka’s first daytime drop-in center for victim-survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The Day Center remains a crucial

part of the services provided by the Center for Safety and Empowerment, serving over ## individuals so far in 2021.



2019 GRAND OPENING

“After receiving counseling services, I felt unconditional, positive support which has made it easier for me to reach out during a difficult and scary time.”

“I feel very safe here, and given everything I have been through that means more to me than you will ever know!”

NEW ADDRESS

This fall, the rural office moved into a new building in Holton. The space, shared with Jana's Campaign, is a part of our commitment to increase services to rural clients.

Center for Safety and Empowerment Rural Office

215 E 5th St
Holton, KS 66436



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RACIAL JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY

2021 PARTICIPANTS MET THE CHALLENGE



Over **800** members of the Greater Topeka community (and beyond!) signed up to participate in this year’s 21 Day Challenge for Racial Equity and Social Justice in March. In addition to participating in the Challenge, our generous allies and supporters raised \$6,500 for the Advocacy and Racial Justice work. This amount is almost 1/3 of our total goal for racial justice designated funding this year!

Help us welcome Regina Platt, our new Racial Justice and Advocacy Director!

In October, Regina Platt joined our team through a collaboration with **Community Action, Inc.**

In her role, she will be coordinating the 2022 Stand Against Racism Challenge for YWCA Northeast Kansas participants.



The Challenge offered participants an opportunity to read, listen, reflect, and discuss a variety of topics related to race and gender based violence. The results of past Challenges and the feedback we have received in our 2021 surveys proves that creating dedicated time and space to build a social justice habit and dive deeper into issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership can have a real impact.

For 2022, the challenge will be held in April and hosted by YWCA USA as the Stand Against Racism Challenge.



Sign up for the 2022 Stand Against Racism Challenge at [URL](#)
Begins **DATE**

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



2021 YWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Evergy

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO JUSTICE



VISIT [YWCANEKS.ORG/SPONSORS-PARTNERS](https://www.ywcaneks.org/sponsors-partners) TO LEARN HOW TO BECOME A SPONSOR.

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(785) 235-1750
24/7 CRISIS HOTLINE (888) 822-2983
YWCANEKS.ORG

MOVING THE MISSION FORWARD

DONATE TODAY

At YWCA Northeast Kansas, we are committed to using every donation, both financial and in kind, in advancement of our mission. We put your dollars to work supporting survivors, empowering working families, and advocating for racial justice.

Donate at [ywcaneks.org/donate](https://www.ywcaneks.org/donate)



UPCOMING EVENTS

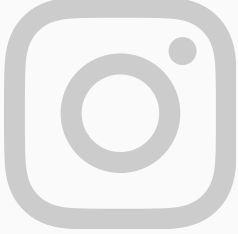
Mark your calendars for our 2022 events! Knowing the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and racial and economic injustices in our community, we look forward to a 2022 full of safe and joy-filled events that uplift survivors, women leaders, and people of color in our community.

View the list of annual events at [ywcaneks.org/events](https://www.ywcaneks.org/events)

STAY TUNED ON OUR BLOG

Have you read our blog? We post timely information on program updates, current events, YWCA stories, and upcoming events and promotions.

To get the latest, bookmark [ywcaneks.org/news](https://www.ywcaneks.org/news)



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