BOLD MISSION, BRIGHT FUTURE
The YWCA Northeast Kansas 2017 Annual Report

A Letter from Leadership

Kathleen Marker, CEO
Glenda Washington, President

“Bold Mission, Bright Future” - we had the honor of joining fellow leaders from YWCAs across the country to share, discuss, advocate, and collaborate together at the YWCA USA national conference in June where this slogan was introduced.

The energy was high and the intention clear. From workshops to powerhouse keynote speakers, the YWCA held up the significance of embracing the intersectionality of our work. And this slogan has been clearly carried out by our staff, volunteers, community partners, and members like you throughout this year.

We are proud of the work we do at the YWCA Northeast Kansas – this year alone we have been able to serve nearly 100 at-risk children as they prepared for Kindergarten. We continued to expand our advocacy efforts with new racial justice facilitation trainings and being a part of important community conversations. We work every day to support women, children, and families, and none of it would be possible without your support. We are so grateful for our staff, board members, our ever-growing team of volunteers, and members like you who are committed to this bold mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting social justice for all. Because of your continued support, our future truly is bright. Thank you.

BY THE NUMBERS:

316 VOLUNTEERS SERVED NEARLY 10,000 HOURS IN 2017.

NEARLY 100 AT-RISK 4- TO 5-YEAR-OLDS WERE TAUGHT BASIC SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC SKILLS THIS SUMMER THROUGH OUR KINDERGARTEN PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE PUBLIC ON IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAVE INCREASED FROM 155 TO 216 IN 2017.
"I was broken": Survivor Says Center for Safety and Empowerment's Services Are Vital

Interview originally conducted by
Melissa Brunner, WIBW

For years, no matter how bad it got, Alicia Weir couldn't walk away from abusive relationships.

"I was beat on a regular basis," Weir recalls. "I was always told I wasn't good enough, I'd never amount to nothing."

But something clicked nearly three years ago. Her daughter died suddenly and Alicia knew she had to take responsibility for her two young grandchildren, Trey, then age 13, and Destiny, who was 2.

"I finally said enough was enough and made some changes," she said.

That's when Weir decided to reach out to the YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment.

"We can be inspired by incredible perseverance and resilience of the clients we serve," CSE Program Director Michelle McCormick said.

"One thing that (my counselor) told me right off the bat is that I was worth it - and that was something that I hadn't ever heard for a long time. After seeing her, I started to believe it," she said.

Weir is sober, raising her grandchildren and finally sees a future.

"Once you take that first step to get help, I promise you it's better on the other side," she said.

BY THE NUMBERS:

250 SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING SOUGHT SAFETY IN OUR SHELTER...

...THANKS TO RENOVATIONS MADE POSSIBLE BY FHL BANK TOPEKA, 50 MORE CAN BE SERVED EACH YEAR.

NEARLY 2,000 CRISIS HOTLINE CALLS WERE RECEIVED IN THE CENTER FOR SAFETY AND EMPOWERMENT.
Girls on the Run Coaches Make a Lasting Impact

Girls on the Run coaches do not have to be runners themselves; the only requirements are enthusiasm and commitment to the healthy development of young girls and themselves.

Over the course of 10-weeks, coaches meet twice a week for 75 to 90 minutes with girls in 3rd through 5th grade (Girls on the Run) or girls in 6th through 8th grade (Heart and Sole). Our scripted curriculum guides them through each lesson, and everything they need—from supplies, to snacks, and handouts is provided.

Each season, these devoted coaches volunteer approximately 4,500 hours of service to the program.

Girls on the Run coaches help girls:
• Accept themselves and others
• Stand up to bullies
• Develop a positive self-image
• Make healthier choices
• Confidently chase their dreams
• Change the world

Early Learning Center Empowers the Mother of a Toddler

The following is an extract from a letter we received this year from a thankful mother of a child in our Early Learning Center

“Thank you so much for taking such excellent care of my daughter every single day.

Without the YWCA I have no idea how I would be able to support little L. and myself. I am grateful every single day for the work you do! Because of you all, I can drop my child off every morning free of the burden of worry. I have no doubt L. is safe, loved, cared for, watched over, respected, observed, nurtured and encouraged.

The YWCA has been our saving grace, allowing me to obtain gainful employment and my child to obtain crucial social and language skills. The staff who were selected to facilitate these programs are absolutely wonderful – everyone does a phenomenal job and I am so grateful that each and every one of you is willing and able to help me raise L. It truly takes a village!”
2017 YWCA NORTHEAST KANSAS
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