Mission - Minded
YWCA NORTHEAST KANSAS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

2018
BY THE NUMBERS:

144
NEW VOTERS REGISTERED

600
OUTREACH EVENTS SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

7,000+
HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE FUELING OUR MISSION

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

At YWCA Northeast Kansas, we find strength in the achievements of the over 7,000 individuals and families we serve each year as they overcome challenges and become empowered members of our community. 2018 has been a year of determination and collaboration locally as we have continued to expand our wide array of programming and align our existing programs within a mission impact framework.

On a larger scale, this year has been a watershed moment – a culmination of events touching the many issues we address through our services and advocacy work.

This year has been a time of people coming together to say intersectionality is valued in positions of power and to voice support for survivors. We take our mission of empowerment seriously throughout all our programs here at YWCA Northeast Kansas. And it was in this spirit that we are proud to report that we were able to register 144 voters.

This is life-transforming work, and we are accomplishing it together, thanks to the ongoing generosity and support of donors, volunteers, and community partners like you.

- KATHLEEN MARKER, CEO
2018 has been a busy year for growing and strengthening our Youth Services programs.

In addition to our FEATS program at Williams Science & Fine Arts Magnet School, we expanded into State Street and Ross Elementary schools.

FEATS is an after school tutoring program providing specialized instruction, healthy meals, and community engagement to students in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

We were proud to introduce STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, and Math) curriculum kits into our 6 Kids Quest Before and After school sites. Over the past year, Kids Quest staff has been working to increase the number of STEAM related activities they do on a weekly basis, enhancing the quality of these experiences with fun activities, and encouraging critical thinking in students.

In our Early Learning Center, we continued to bolster positive social, emotional and academic development — all while promoting school-readiness in 25 preschoolers.

This year, we began implementing “Get Set for School”, a literacy curriculum which meets rigorous Early Learning Standards indicating school readiness, eliminating the education gap regardless of race, economics or culture.

We were proud to celebrate our first Early Learning Center graduating class in June of 2018.

740 CHILDREN WERE SERVED BY OUR YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS IN 2018

Joyful, Healthy, Confident.

GIRLS ON THE RUN INSPIRES GIRLS TO NURTURE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS AND INSTILLS SELF-CONFIDENCE AT A CRUCIAL AGE

We have foster children and we have now had 3 different girls who have gotten involved with Girls on the Run through West Indianola Grade School. The program is amazing for us because it gives Foster youth an opportunity outside of a classroom to develop friendships and to develop bonds with the teachers within the school. With our first group of girls, this bonding helped one of the girls immensely by providing her with an outlet where she could openly share her experiences in a setting surrounded by kind people where it wasn’t her teacher or any of the endless therapy psychologists that she had experienced in her young life.

As we have always felt, it takes a village to raise a child, and this child has a complete new focus on life because of the opportunities she has been given through Girls on the Run, and has allowed her to grow from what was a sedentary lifestyle into one that she now controls.

- DENNIS R.

MISSION-MINDED
In 2018, our Center for Safety and Empowerment saw a 28% increase in the number of clients in our shelter.

During this same time period, there was a 50% increase in hotline calls received from the previous year.

Specifically, during the one week time frame in October 2017 when the #MeToo campaign went viral, our hotline saw a 433% increase in anonymous calls from that same time frame the previous year.

The services provided by our agency have always been critical for community safety, but we are seeing an expanded reach to many who did not access these services before now.

In the past year, our public education and awareness numbers around these issues have been impressive: we made a whopping 600 community presentations, tabled at events, and conducted professional trainings for small and large businesses, as well as the Kansas Legislature.

We believe that everyone deserves to be safe and free from violence. And we’ll keep working towards creating a community where survivors are believed, supported, and have the resources they need, and where those accused of sexual violence are not prioritized over survivors’ pain and trauma.

50 NIGHTS WERE ADDED TO OUR SHELTER’S CAPACITY IN 2018.

< Our shelter has been consistently operating on overflow, meaning only victims with a high risk of lethality can be accepted. We know that we have to continue to collaborate with law enforcement and local government partners to address the urgency of this issue.

It is one of the main tenets in our mission to break through the barriers that perpetuate racism.

We also know that in order to address women’s empowerment, we must also stand for racial justice. That is why we are committed to addressing the unique and complex challenges many women and girls face, including racial inequity, immigration status, housing, and health concerns.

The good news is that when communities come together and people show up to support these issues, real change is possible.

That’s why YWCA facilitators are committed to racial justice work. As an active member of the movement to promote positive race relations, facilitators carry the responsibility of promoting a safe environment for all participants to share personal experiences and opinions regarding the topics of race and racism.

We were proud to conduct 3 Racial Justice Facilitation series this year, while growing our team of facilitators and starting a Racial Justice Advisory Board. 2019 is poised to be an even bigger year for fostering healthy conversations around the topic of racial justice and developing new programs to continue to remain true to our mission.

A participant in a racial justice facilitation practices sharing in a circle dialogue.
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