

*Celebrating 100 years*

# eliminating racism empowering women

**ywca pierce county** 2006–2007 annual report

**Celebrating our 100th anniversary** this year afforded us an opportunity to look back at the YWCA's legacy in Pierce County. Over those 100 years, our programs and services have shifted with changing times, but one thing has remained constant: we aim to listen to and respond to our community's needs.



Like our programs, the language used to express our goals has shifted as times changed, but our work has consistently upheld our vision of **peace, justice, freedom, and dignity** for all people.

The poster slogan used in the 1927 capital campaign for our existing building boasted: "The Girls Need It! The Girls Deserve It!" Creating a physical space to afford the realization of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity through gender equity was the goal in 1927.

Over our history, the underlying tenets of our vision inspired programs around education, employment, and safe shelter. Those tenets inspired countless community collaborations. They inspired the inception of offshoot agencies that met other community needs. That rich history unfolded in our building raised by the 1927 capital campaign.

Our current programs, aiming to eliminate racism, empower women, and end domestic violence, continue the work begun by our predecessors. These programs fall into three main categories: Community Education, Legal Services, and our Women's Support Shelter and Services.

Intersections among these programs abound. The common thread is our commitment to empowering clients, to fostering equality, to providing safety, and to inspiring necessary change.

100 years after our inception, and 80 years after that original capital campaign, our goal of empowering women perseveres. Now, we focus on empowerment and equality for all through our work with racial justice.

Our commitment to responding to community needs and serving as a key collaborator within the county continues. Our commitment to exacting change within our community endures. To modify our forerunners' slogan: "The Community Needs It! The Community Deserves It!"

## looking back



The work of the YWCA, in support of the Pierce County community, has a rich tradition. We celebrated both our 100th year anniversary and that tradition this year. At one anniversary event, Senator Patty Murray addressed our work, our accomplishments, and the need for our continued service. Please join me for a brief walk down memory lane.

The YWCA received its charter in 1906 and our early work centered on education and shelter. We moved into our current building in 1928. Dormitory rooms offered safe and affordable housing for women. In 1976, those rooms became the first domestic violence shelter in the state of Washington, known as the Women's Support Shelter.

Although the Shelter may be the best known of our services, we have historically spearheaded a variety of important movements. The state's Domestic Violence Hotline started at the YWCA before it moved to Olympia. In 1984, we collaborated with Tacoma Public Schools to provide a specialized school for homeless children.

As a legacy to our early goals of educating and providing shelter, last year we served nearly 7,500 women and children through intervention, prevention, and empowerment programs. We educate the public through domestic violence awareness and racial justice trainings, we provide comprehensive legal services to domestic violence victims, and we continue to offer a safe haven through our Shelter.

Your support—through donations of time, talent, or financial gifts—is what makes our work possible.

I want to thank you deeply for your support and commit to you our continued best efforts in service to our community.

**Chris George** BOARD PRESIDENT

## looking ahead



The YWCA is a source of inspiration for me. To wake up in the morning and know you work for an agency that changes lives, provides hope, and increases the self-esteem of women and children is nothing short of marvelous.

We do so much for our clients to provide stellar services, but there is always more to do. I am motivated not only by what we do well, but by what I know we can do better. Our current shelter facility is a prime example of an opportunity to do better.

In 1927, a group of women, inspired by a dream, raised money in just two weeks to build the YWCA at 405 Broadway. The rooms were small, intended to simply provide safety for traveling single women. In 1927, safety mattered and it still matters today. The same rooms meant to house a single woman for one night now house women fleeing domestic violence, often with children in tow, for up to 90 days—same rooms, more inhabitants, longer stays.

While we provide significant, vital services, it is my hope that we will move forward and create a new and innovative shelter for the women we serve. Your support has allowed us to do so much for women and children in our community. Together we can dream of what the future holds for the YWCA and the women we serve.

I thank you for your help in meeting our mission and welcome your comments, suggestions, and inspirations.

**Miriam Barnett** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# programs



## women's support shelter and services

These combined services provided direct support for 417 women and children last year with another 4,717 served through our telephone crisis line.

### Women's Support Shelter

The YWCA's Women's Support Shelter opened in 1976 as the first domestic violence shelter in Washington. The Shelter provides basic needs for women and children for up to 90 days. During their stay, these women and their families access individualized case management, education, counseling, support groups, children's services, and 24-hour on-site advocacy. The Shelter and its related services provide a foundation for these women to create lives free of violence and full of hope.

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**Women served: 155**

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**Number of rooms: 22**

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**Number of beds: 50**

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**Average stay: 43 days**

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**Crisis calls received: 4,717**

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**Average monthly turnaway\*: 299 family units**

\*Our turnaway number is based on the space constraints we face with just 50 available beds, despite being the largest domestic violence shelter in Pierce County. Each family turned away due to space constraints receives safety planning, assistance with locating alternate shelter, and other referral and support services either from our Shelter Advocates or our Community Advocate.

### Children's Program

Given that a child's exposure to domestic violence is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next,\* the YWCA Children's Program provides more than immediate physical safety to our young residents. We equip children in the Shelter with tools to prevent them from becoming involved in violent relationships. Children receive food, clothing, respite care, age-appropriate individual therapy, access to weekly group therapy, safety planning, opportunities to develop

self-esteem, and connections to other community resources. Through this array of services, we aim to help our young clients develop healthy bodies and minds while growing into stable adulthood.

\*Source: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family, APA, 1996.

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**Children served: 179**

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**Percent of children served under age 10: 82%**

### Family Permanency Project – Transitional Housing

Leaving an abusive relationship and becoming homeless as a result takes time to overcome, and moving toward independence does not happen in one step. The families living in our Shelter often require more time than the 90 day stay to regain self-sufficiency. The next step for families occurs through the Family Permanency Project. This Transitional Housing program offers 20 families affordable housing, access to support groups, and economic literacy classes. Strengthened through these available resources, each family gains empowerment through the goal-making process supported by our individualized case management. Through the autonomy offered within the program to set goals specific to their individual needs and employing resources most relevant to them, participants determine their own path, their own hopes, and their own futures.

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**Number of units available: 20**

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**Women and children served: 83**

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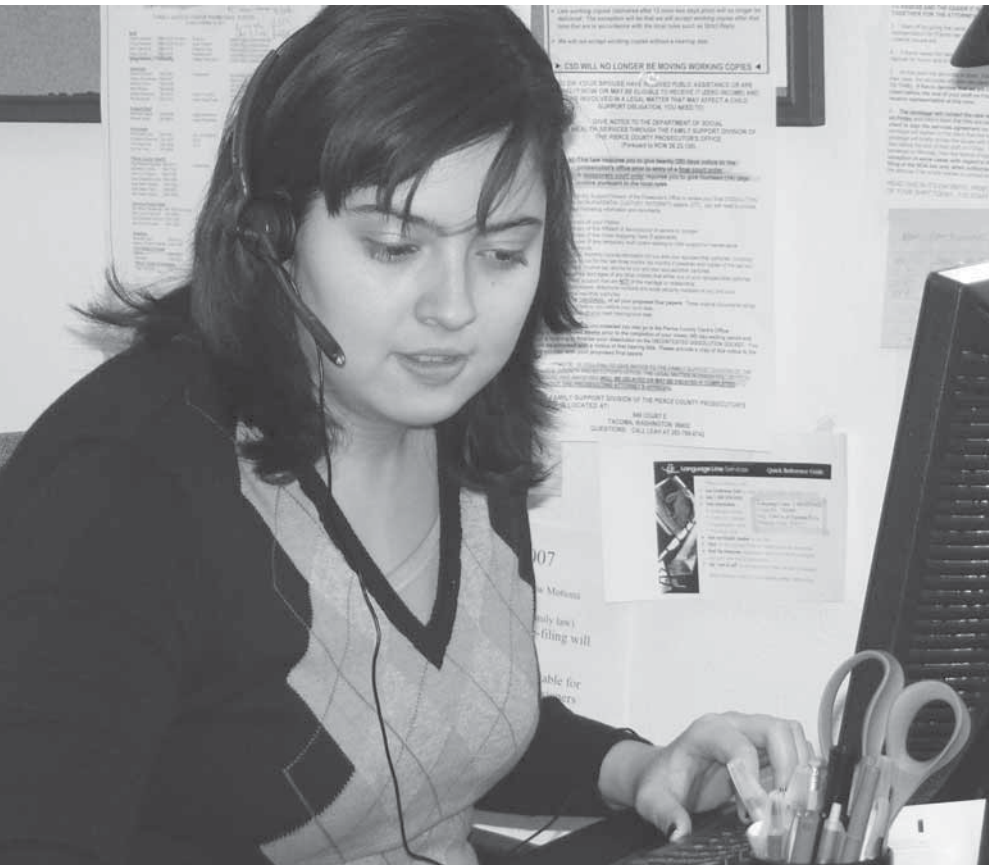
**Percentage of children in program: 71%**

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**Maximum stay: 2 years**

“ Having the YWCA here for me...gives me a sense of security and assurance that my situation isn't hopeless...[and]...has given me confidence in my ability to overcome. ”





“ I went from a solitary life filled with abuse to having a host of new friends and a world of laughter. I have become self-confident and secure in my own decision-making abilities. ”

## legal services

The efforts of our on site staff and our staff working at the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center enabled our Legal Services Program to reach 3,228 victims of domestic violence in need of civil legal assistance this year.

Domestic abuse survivors, the vast majority of whom are women, have the highest per capita rate of legal problems among all demographic cluster groups.\* Domestic violence creates daunting challenges—emotional and financial—for victims who need civil legal assistance to maintain safety. Parenting plans, protective orders, dissolutions, separations, and child support orders are just a few of the legal hurdles our support can remove for clients. The YWCA’s Legal Services team provides civil

legal counsel, referral, and representation to victims of domestic violence in Pierce County. Through this combination of services, victims significantly increase their chances of permanently and safely ending their domestic violence relationship. Encouraged to make their own decisions by our staff, the legal team empowers clients as they establish lives free of violence.

\*Source: Washington State Supreme Court Taskforce on Civil Equal Justice Funding

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<b>Adults served: 1,242</b>
<b>Children served: 1,986</b>
<b>Limited English-speaking clients: 19%</b>
<b>Clients who received attorney representation: 22%</b>

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## community education

Our multi-pronged approach to education provided training and support group opportunities to 2,939 community members in this last year.

### Racial Justice

The Racial Justice program provides public education workshops that raise cultural awareness and explore prejudicial practices, ensures that YWCA programs are accessible to all, and features advisory groups that aid in program development and community outreach. Through the programs and services we offer, and through our connections in the community, we aim to continue the YWCA's campaign to eliminate barriers that deny people their freedom based on ethnicity or race.

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**Racial Justice Workshop attendees: 460**

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### Insights Domestic Violence Prevention

The prevention and elimination of domestic violence requires a coordinated community response on the part of individuals, employers, the faith community, health care professionals, law enforcement, and human service organizations. The YWCA's Insights program works to build a community committed to recognizing and responding to domestic and dating violence. We do this through education, collaboration, training, community awareness events, and support groups that focus on healing and education for women experiencing physical or emotional violence in their relationships. Through our Insights Domestic Violence Prevention program, we establish safety, accountability, and a unified front against domestic violence.

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**Community members trained: 621**

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**Domestic violence survivors in support groups: 220**

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### Youth Programs *(formerly know as Generation YW™)*

#### Remann Hall Youth Development

Designed to empower girls involved in the Pierce County Juvenile Court System, we provide weekly classes for incarcerated girls with the intent to strengthen their self-esteem and interpersonal skills. Equipping them to make positive choices through this skill building and personal development, we aim to reduce recidivism.

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**Remann Hall Youth Development attendees: 597**

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#### Teen Dating Violence Prevention

Violence occurs in an estimated 1 out of 5 teen relationships\*. The Teen Dating Violence Prevention curriculum centers around educating high school youth on issues of power and control that fuel abuse in relationships. This curriculum also offers warning signs, safety tips, and community resources to participants.

\*Source: Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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**Teen Dating Violence Prevention participants: 947**

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#### Project Empower & Employ

Targeting teenaged girls from 16–19, this biannual three-day intensive workshop delivers job readiness skills to attendees. The event includes interviewing skills and proper interview attire, definition around employer expectations, financial literacy, and real-life interviewing opportunities with many participating local employers.

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**Project Empower & Employ girls served: 94**

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## community advocacy

The Community Advocacy Program, designed to fill gaps between our other programs and community members in need, provides on-site crisis intervention and referral services through the operation of our Drop-In Resource Center. The Drop-In Resource Center serves clients not participating in our other available programs, and therefore serves the broader community.

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**Drop-In Resource Center clients served: 896**

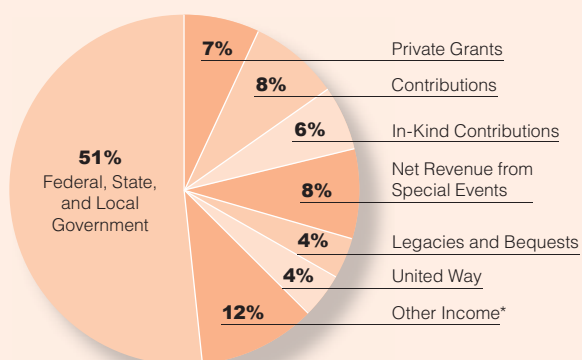
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**Average monthly Drop-In Resource Center clients served: 75**

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# financials

## Funding Sources



Contributions.....	\$198,667
Private Grants .....	181,125
Federal, State, and Local Government.....	1,320,534
Net Revenue from Special Events.....	196,087
Legacies and Bequests.....	108,542
United Way.....	111,708
Other Income*.....	297,039
In-Kind Contributions.....	150,458

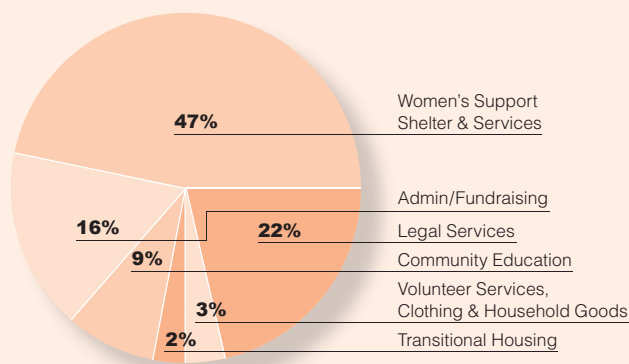
**Total Revenue** ..... **\$2,564,160**

\* Other Income includes:

Program Service Fees/Sales to Public .....	\$13,106
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains .....	148,451
Investment Income .....	119,460
Net Assets Released from Restriction .....	16,022
Total Other.....	\$297,039

All figures based on audited financial statements.

## Program Expenditures



Women's Support Shelter & Services .....	\$ 1,149,950
<i>Housing, Food, Clothing, Counseling, Case Management, Children's Program</i>	
Legal Services .....	532,266
Community Education .....	225,391
<i>Generation YW, Insights Domestic Violence Prevention, Racial Justice</i>	
Transitional Housing .....	57,450
Volunteer Services, Clothing & Household Goods.....	72,829
Administration/Fundraising .....	383,583

**Total Expenditures** ..... **\$2,421,469**

*Change in Unrestricted Net Assets* ..... **\$142,691**





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**Thank you!** We would like to express our thanks to the many people who have given individually and through their corporations and foundations to support our work. It is through your generosity that we are able to make a difference.

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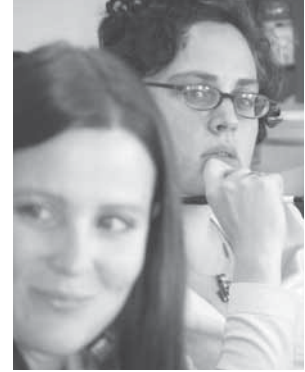


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