

about us

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

madison

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EMPOWERING
WOMEN 1909
2009



about the YWCA

our mission

- **eliminating racism**
- **empowering women**

The YWCA Madison is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1909 as a member of the national YWCA, an autonomous women's movement. We are committed to self-determined social change for women of all racial, ethnic and economic groups. The YWCA provides leadership in our community, nation and world in the struggle for peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. The YWCA Madison is committed to providing safe, affordable housing for low-income women, emergency shelter for homeless women and families, Racial Justice programming, education and training to ensure economic security for women, and enrichment programs for girls to grow healthy, strong, and confident.

The story of the YWCA Madison and the YWCA of the U.S.A. is a chapter in women's history, the history of the civil rights movement and the history of the United States itself. The YWCA plays a leadership and collaborative role as it works to achieve positive change in the lives of individuals and in the community.



housing

Everyone needs a place to call home – a safe haven and shelter from the storm; a place to settle and be nurtured. The YWCA has designed several programs and services that address this need, and help women and their families find their place in the world.

affordable housing

The YWCA is the largest provider of affordable housing for low-income women in Dane County. We provide low cost housing to women who cannot find affordable or appropriate housing on the open market. We offer 82 single room occupancy units (SRO) and 12 one-bedroom apartments. All units are furnished. Residents share a community kitchen and lounge with others on their floor. Twenty-four hour staffing provides excellent building security. Support services are available for residents who need assistance.

homeless shelter

The YWCA provides emergency shelter to homeless families with children and homeless teenage girls. We house up to 40 people in private shelter rooms, with a shared kitchen. A YWCA case manager works with each family to help them find housing and to prevent future episodes of homelessness.

third street

Third Street, located on the 3rd and 4th floors of the downtown YWCA, provides affordable apartments and a safe neighborhood for families. The program serves single moms with one child, birth to 4 years old, or women in their last

trimester of pregnancy. Third Street helps families overcome the challenges of poverty, homelessness and abuse while supporting them in pursuing their goals of becoming self-reliant, nurturing parents by providing stability, support and a starting place. While in the program, women are able to pursue their goals and build a positive housing history. The program provides an environment where moms can have the resources and stability needed to raise happy, healthy children. We provide bright play spaces for moms and children to play, a computer lab with Internet access and an exercise room. Families participate in weekly meetings, workshops, outings and special program events. Volunteers provide respite and playgroups for moms and children. Families gain a sense of community and build support and friendships, which continue beyond their stay in the program.

second chance tenant education program

The Second Chance Tenant Education Program is a collaboration between the YWCA, local landlords, the Apartment Association of South Central WI, Tenant Resource Center, the Fair Housing Center of Greater Madison, and local credit unions that provides families that have not rented before or have had difficulty maintaining housing in the past with case management, education, and skills.

Participants attend two three-hour trainings that cover a range of topics including: building and repairing credit, financial planning, finding and maintaining housing, understanding landlord/tenant and Fair Housing laws, communicating with your landlord and understanding notices and contracts associated with renting. Some graduates are eligible for case management, financial mentoring, and other follow-up services.

SKILLS program

The S.K.I.L.L.S. Program (Student Knowledge of Independent Living and Life Skills) is a tenant and financial education program that partners housing program staff from the YWCA with local volunteer financial professionals to conduct a four-week curriculum at some of the alternative high school programs in the Madison Metropolitan School District. The goal of the S.K.I.L.L.S. Program is to give young adults the tools they need to be successful, independent adults. Topics covered include: apartment renting, tenant rights and responsibilities, checking and savings, budgeting, and credit.

second chance apartment project

The Second Chance Apartment Project is a collaboration with The Road Home, the YWCA and local congregations & community groups to end homelessness in our community. Through this program, homeless families are given transitional, affordable housing and supportive services as outlined below.

Congregations and community groups provide: rental of one apartment, volunteer mentors to work with the family, furniture and housewares for the family, assistance in moving the family, and assistance with cleaning and repairs. The YWCA and The Road Home provide: intensive case management for families, training and supervision of volunteer mentors, tenant education for families through the Second Chance Workshops, and employment & training assistance.

house-ability

The House-ability Program, a collaboration between the YWCA, Salvation Army and The Road Home, provides permanent housing in the community to homeless families with minor children and at least one disabled adult. Participants pay 30% of their adjusted income for rent and utilities. Ongoing case management is provided. House-ability goals include moving families quickly out of shelter into permanent housing, helping them maintain that housing long term, and helping families achieve their individual goals. The House-ability Program serves 23 families.

rapid rehousing

The Rapid Rehousing Program is a collaboration between the YWCA, Salvation Army, and The Road Home. Rapid Rehousing moves homeless families with minor children from shelter and places them in long term housing in the community. The program pays first month's rent and security deposit and provides rent subsidies for 11 additional months. Case management is provided for one year to families in the program. Rapid Rehousing goals include moving families out of shelter and into permanent housing, helping them maintain that housing, and helping families achieve their personal goals. Rapid Rehousing serves 45 families.



employment & training

The YWCA Madison works with people to help them become full participants in the economic mainstream of our community through job training and support for finding, changing or maintaining a job.

training partnerships for the skilled trades (TPST)

TPST is a training program to improve employment opportunities for people traditionally underrepresented in the skilled trades, such as women and people of color. TPST prepares participants to pass the entrance exam to get into the construction trade apprenticeship of their choice. The program consists of classroom study in mechanical comprehension, spatial visualization, job skills and personal finance, along with tutoring in reading comprehension and math. Information on the application procedures and testing processes for each trade is also provided.

SUCCESS – Structured Training for Successful Employment Success Internship Program is a collaborative effort between the YWCA Madison and MCD, Inc. providing classroom and paid on-the-job training to prepare people traditionally underrepresented in the field such as women and people of color to work in the printing and advanced manufacturing industry. During this twelve month paid internship experience, participants prepare to work in the printing and manufacturing fields through on-the-job training while paired with a mentor for support. The YWCA provides employment support – strengthening essential life skills including communication, problem solving, finance and budgeting, and improving math and reading skills.

transportation alliance for new solutions (TrANS)

TrANS is a collaborative effort between community based organizations, trade associations, labor unions, government, and contractors to fulfill entry-level laborer positions for road construction contractors in southeastern Wisconsin. TrANS is a 120-hour industry awareness class designed to introduce individuals who are traditionally underrepresented, such as women and people of color, into the road construction industry. This six week class teaches flagging, concrete construction, CDL training, job site safety, and incorporates many hands-on projects. Graduates are referred to contractors in Madison and the surrounding areas and also can receive continued case management once placed with a company. The TrANS mission is to provide low-income people who are ready to start a career in the road construction industry with jobs that have a family supporting wage and break down barriers and stereotypes.

displaced homemaker program

The Displaced Homemaker program serves women and men who have been displaced from the primary responsibility of homemaker. Participants qualify if they are unemployed or underemployed and have been financially dependent upon another household member's income. People may also qualify if they have been dependent on public assistance and have dependent children. The program offers personally tailored career counseling and support.

job options program

The Job Options Program serves low-income people traditionally underrepresented in the workforce, such as women and people of color who are in need of employment. The program offers services in career exploration, educational guidance, and available scholarships. Both the Job Options and Displaced Homemaker programs offer job seekers assistance in resume development, cover letter writing and interviewing skills.

computer lab

YWCA Empowerment Center offers a free computer lab to job seekers enrolled in the Job Options and Displaced Homemaker programs.

working knowledge series

The YWCA offers a series of workshops relating to employment issues. Topics include communication in the workplace, debt management and returning to school. These workshops are free and open to the public.

drivers license recovery program

The Drivers License Recovery Program assists individuals in achieving economic prosperity and security by addressing the growing issue of the loss of a drivers license for the population at or below the poverty level.

smiles for success

Smiles for Success, a program sponsored by the Max W. Pohle Dental Clinic at Meriter Hospital, assists women returning to the workforce by providing cosmetic dentistry services aimed at improving smiles and increasing self-confidence.

If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access our services, activities or programs, please contact the YWCA Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer. Please do so at least two weeks prior to the event.



peace



dignity



freedom



justice



empowering girls

girls inc.®

Girls Inc.® at the YWCA Madison is an after-school enrichment program designed specifically for girls ages 9-18. The program inspires girls to be strong, smart and bold by using research-based informal education programs that encourage girls to take risks and master physical, intellectual and emotional challenges. Major programs address math and science education, pregnancy and drug abuse prevention, media literacy, economic literacy, adolescent health, violence prevention, leadership development and sports participation.

Currently, there are three Girls Inc.® at the YWCA Madison sites: Goodman Community Center, Kennedy Heights Community Center and Wisconsin Youth and Family Center. The program assists girls living in low-income neighborhoods by providing curriculum-centered programming as well as social and community event opportunities.

**girls
inc.®**

Girls Incorporated®
at YWCA Madison



services

YW Transit

YW Transit is a community-based alternative transportation service. YW Transit provides safe night rides for potential victims of sexual assault and for people who are without transportation to/from work at night. YW Transit also provides contracted rides for community agency programs.

The YW Transit JobRide program provides transportation for low-income workers throughout Dane County to go to/from work and work-related activities (i.e. job training, interviews, childcare).

suited for success

Suited for Success provides professional-styled clothing, shoes and accessories to low-income women who need appropriate wardrobes in order to return to work or for job interviews. This program is made possible by the generous donations of business clothing from the community.

children's programs

The YWCA offers evening and weekend children's activities for children staying in our homeless shelter and 3rd Street program. These programs include evening activities, field trips, and holiday celebrations.

food and personal care pantry

The YWCA offers a food and personal care pantry for resident use. Donations to the pantry are welcome.

racial justice

Racism affects all of us regardless of what we look like. The elimination of racism is an on-going process that requires persistence, commitment and continuing dialogue between individuals and groups. The YWCA is committed to helping individuals, organizations and companies in the Madison community improve race relations and find ways to eliminate racism through constructive dialogue and meaningful action.

All Racial Justice programs are offered regularly in the community and upon request from groups, organizations or businesses.

unlearning racism workshops

Unlearning Racism Workshops provide a forum for participants to discover conscious and unconscious ways that racism has impacted their lives. This powerful program is designed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of differences.

- Unlearning Racism I is a 4-hour workshop including a facilitator guided viewing of *The Color of Fear*.
- Unlearning Racism II features the film, *Last Chance for Eden* and also runs for a duration of 4 hours.

it's time to talk forums on race

It's Time to Talk forums provide an opportunity for meaningful cross-cultural dialogue about racism. This program brings people together who may be friends or acquaintances, see each other at work, in community groups, or civic organizations, and may have never discussed race issues.

racial justice dialogues for criminal justice professionals

Racial Justice Dialogues for Criminal Justice Professionals is an opportunity to intentionally create a safe space for specific and intentional dialogue about institutional racism and race relations. Through such dialogue, participants will develop a critical consciousness concerning racism and strategies available for challenging racism. Participants find the skills and support needed to change behaviors and to actively challenge the manifestations of racism that they recognize.

Race: The Power of an Illusion

Race: The Power of an Illusion questions the very idea of race as biology. Yet race still matters. Just because race doesn't exist in biology doesn't mean it isn't very real, helping shape life chances and opportunities. By asking, "What is this thing called 'race'?", a question so basic it is rarely asked, *Race: The Power of an Illusion* helps set the terms that any further discussion of race must first take into account. This is a 3-part series that is based on the 3 PBS films in: *Race: The Power of an Illusion*. Each of the 3 sessions is two-hours long.

heart to heart conversations®

Heart to Heart Conversations®* is a national program of public dialogue that speaks to social issues of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation focusing on oppression through the lens of race. It moves the conversation beyond black and white and speaks to the inter-connectedness of racism, classism, sexism, and homophobia. These conversations are sparked by facilitator guided viewings of videos which serve as a model for dialogue.

- Heart to Heart Conversations® I is a 4-hour workshop including a facilitator guided viewing of *The Way Home*.
- Heart to Heart Conversations® II features the new film, *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible* and also runs for a duration of 4 hours.

racial justice summit

Each year the YWCA hosts a community Racial Justice Summit that brings together community stakeholders to work together to eliminate barriers which foster racism in our community. The Summit involves nationally known keynote speakers and researchers; awards to honor community leaders doing outstanding work in the field of Racial Justice; and learning from and supporting each other in our common goals.

*Heart to Heart Conversations® is a trademark of World Trust, and centers around the work of Dr. Shakti Butler. For more information about trainings from World Trust, please visit: www.world-trust.org



get involved

volunteer opportunities

The YWCA believes that everyone has something to contribute and receive from participation within the YWCA community.

The YWCA offers each volunteer the opportunity to:

- Participate in worthwhile, challenging work.
- Use existing skills, develop new skills, and partake in opportunities to demonstrate leadership.
- Meet and socialize with volunteers and program participants who have similar interests.
- Enjoy the benefits of being engaged in a community where diverse people from a wide range of backgrounds are welcomed and engaged as contributors to aiding each other in achieving goals.

membership

Membership in the YWCA signals your support for what the YWCA stands for racial justice and the empowerment of women and girls.

Strengthened by diversity, the YWCA draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people.

YWCA membership reflects your belief in the value of supporting a local organization that has represented women's interests for 100 years in the Madison community.

ywca madison legacy society

The YWCA Madison Legacy Society was established to provide the opportunity for our thoughtful donors to make a lasting gift for the future and to be honored in the present for their generosity. Members of the YWCA Legacy Society are women and men who are part of the history of the YWCA and want to do more for the future by leaving a gift from their estate. With a legacy gift, individuals of even modest means can help preserve and expand the work of the YWCA Madison for future generations. For more information about the YWCA Madison Legacy Society contact the Development Department.

campaign for real lives, real change

Since 1909, the YWCA Madison has been dedicated to providing safe, affordable housing, and employment and training programs for women. Today, YWCA Madison must make a significant investment in its future. The Madison community's need for the YWCA residence and programs has increased. We are up to the challenge, and confident of the community's support for our renovation and program expansion campaign. To find out more about this exciting Campaign for Real Lives, Real Change and how you can get involved please contact the Development Department.

**you have the power to
make a difference.**



get involved.



events & awards

women of distinction

Each year, the YWCA Madison presents the annual Women of Distinction Awards. Honorees' community service, professional achievement, integrity, leadership and dedication to the lives of others and to the quality of life for all stands as a reflection of the YWCA's historic mission and values.



circle of women™

Celebrate the power of women's philanthropy at the Circle of Women™. Guests hear from women whose lives have been changed by the YWCA of Madison and discover how their gifts benefit women and their families in our community. The event encourages philanthropy among women and provides an opportunity for guests to learn about and network with people from diverse social, ethnic, economic, educational and cultural backgrounds. Because of our generous sponsors, each dollar raised goes directly to the YWCA to support local programming.



CIRCLE OF WOMEN
ywca madison

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