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Women on a Mission

Thank you to our Legacy of Impact Sponsors

Title Sponsor

Annual Corporate Donors

Peace

Justice

Freedom

Dignity

Women/ GIS D00001

WHO/TOUGH ON A MISSION
When the current YWCA facility was constructed in 1924, iron fencing was a mainstay in Evansville architecture. Promoting both security and opulence, beautiful ironwork railings could be seen in many homes and businesses in the downtown area, including the YWCA.

However, weathering, erosion, and normal wear and tear had taken its toll on this mark of history in recent years, and the YW fencing had lost some of its earlier grandeur. Bent posts, curled finials, and other problems had occurred, suggesting the end of an era for our building.

An especially worrisome aspect was the fact that the roots of a nearby tree were reaching the surface of the ground and displacing some of the main fence posts.

Thanks to the handiwork of Local 103 of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Iron Workers, our fence received a much-needed facelift and elemental repairs—at no cost to the YWCA. “Three guys did most of the work,” said Shawn Russell, business manager of Local 103. The project included the removal of the overgrown tree by another business, then continued with the fabrication, torching, and welding of fencing pieces. “Luckily, the YWCA had extra fence parts on hand, and our workers could use those to replace damaged and broken pieces,” added Russell. He also mentioned that his crew set up a new configuration for the fence, whereby panels can now be slid out, making future repairs much easier.

The end result is a beautiful and functional fence that will serve the YWCA for years to come. “We are thrilled with the look and functionality of our refurbished fence,” said YWCA CEO Erika Taylor. “Being a part of the downtown Evansville area for a century, the YWCA takes pride in our past and the historical significance that our fencing reflects. Alongside Local 103, we celebrate the return of this piece of history to its original greatness.”
YES! PROGRAM INCREASES CAPACITY BY FOUR BEDS

Since 2001, the YWCA’s YES! program has been helping homeless women recover from substance abuse and embrace a life of independence, health, and reunited families.

Our current facility has an entire floor dedicated to this program. With financial help from INARR (Indiana Affiliation of Recovery Residences), we were recently able to expand our capacity from 24 clients to 28, a jump of nearly 17%.

This project was the result of a refurbishment grant we received that allowed us to update and put into use a non-working bathroom that was attached to a client bedroom. Prior to this project, the bedroom was not able to be occupied due to safety issues related to the non-functioning restroom. Over the summer months, a myriad of activities took place to remedy this situation and make this space viable. Faulty plumbing was repaired, damaged walls were fixed, the floor was replaced, a new toilet and bathtub were installed, and other restorations took place. The end result is a bedroom/bathroom combination that utilized formerly unused space in our program and allows us to serve more clients.

“Most of our clients on the YES! floor use a dorm-style bathroom located along the main hallway,” said Dee Lewis, Director of Client Services. Lewis explains that the YW is seeing an increased need to offer a separate bedroom/bathroom for clients who may benefit from their own restroom space. This option would be appropriate for transgender individuals, clients who have older male children, and those who may need to be isolated due to illness. Two client beds will be offered in this suite.

An additional part of this project included the transformation of a nearby storage room into another two-client bedroom, increasing our room offerings even further.

With an additional grant from the Women’s Fund of Warrick County, new furniture and linens were purchased for both of these new rooms.

“This project has been a long-time hope for the YES! program,” adds Erika Taylor, YWCA Chief Executive Officer. “My heart is full when I see professional and community groups coming together to benefit our clients.”

FENCING REPAIRS BRING BACK HISTORICAL BEAUTY

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YOUTH AND EDUCATION
Amy Bonenberger, Lodge Community School
Lana Burton, Read Evansville
Angie Richards Cheek, ARK Crisis Children’s Center
Jennifer Dyson, Bosse High School
Shannon Hart, Castle South Middle School
Angie Oliver, Glenwood Leadership Academy
Tonya Staup, Posthumously, Boys and Girls Club
Daniela Vidal, Ivy Tech Community College
Patricia Weinzapfel, Read Evansville

RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
Tanisha Carothers, Carothers Law Office
Amber Combs Perkins, Sweet Emotions
Summer El-Khodary, Cultural Communications
Moriah Hobgood, Mo’s House, Metzger Tavern
Karese Johnson, United Way of Southwestern Indiana
Kathryn Kombulum Zelle, Parenting Time Center
Anne Shoemaker McKim, Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana
Jalessa Slade, Evansville African American Museum
Lora Stephens, Bridge

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE
Vaneta Becker, Indiana House of Representatives
Allyson Shelby, Newport Town Council
Stephanie Terry, Vanderburgh County Council
The Women Serving on the Bench in Vanderburgh and Warrick County Courts

THANK YOU TO OUR LEGACY OF IMPACT SPONSORS

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