YWOMEN VOTE: 2020 REPORT

THE STAGE IS SET FOR WOMEN TO BE A DRIVING FORCE IN 2020

The nation will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave some women the right to vote, and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which later expanded critical voting rights and protections for people of color.

Women have responded with consistently high levels of voting participation. As we head into the 2020 election, women - particularly women of color - are primed to continue their unprecedented roles as candidates and decisive voting constituencies in city, county, state, and national elections all over America.

Against this backdrop, new data from YWomenVote2020 - YWCA's 3rd national survey of women in the United States - explores their economic, health, gender-based violence, workplace equity, and racial justice concerns and priorities - finds:

1 Women are highly motivated to raise their voices to advance shared personal and economic security interests in 2020, and overwhelmingly call on policy makers to enact solutions that address their priorities.

2 Despite national political discourse that highlights the country's divisions, women possess deep alignment and shared interests across age, race, ethnicity, education, and political affiliation.

3 Women expect leaders to take action to protect against sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and domestic and sexual violence, which remain issues of significant concern.

Ensuring women’s voices are at the forefront of policy decisions is a priority as our nation heads into the 2020 elections. YWCA's national survey of women in the United States, YWomenVote, explores women's economic, health, gender-based violence, workplace equity, and racial justice concerns and priorities. YWomenVote 2020 frames a clear women's agenda for the next Congress and Administration, and will guide YWCA’s largest-ever civic engagement program to deliver on women's enthusiasm for change. To learn more and read the full report, visit https://ywomenvote.org.

YWomenVote is an initiative of YWCA USA. All content and images provided by YWCA USA.
CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Over the past few months as our nation’s “business as usual” came to a screeching halt, YWCA Evansville continued providing safety and support for some of our community’s most vulnerable. As a residential facility housing women in recovery, survivors of domestic violence, and those in need of emergency shelter, our doors are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our work truly never stops even in the midst of a pandemic.

YWCA staff and residents have banded together to endure these unprecedented times. Residents have once again proven their remarkable nature of resilience as they adapted to strict protocols and check-in procedures implemented to keep exposure low. Staff members have assisted with extra duties including wiping down frequently touched surfaces multiple times a day and finding creative ways to interact with participants from our programs that are currently suspended such as Live Y’ers. All residents and staff members are wearing masks to help control the spread of germs and many of these procedures will continue until we are certain it is safe to lift them.

All meetings with external individuals have been cancelled or moved to an online platform and any internal meetings are now conducted in a space that allows for social distancing. In addition, our spring and summer fundraising and advocacy events have been canceled or postponed in observation of CDC guidelines. We are working diligently to plan for the possibility of our fall and winter events, but as always, we will place the safety and wellbeing of our clients and community above all else. In lieu of several key fundraisers, we are hosting a Safe at Home Gala and welcome donations of any size to help us continue services during this difficult time. Donations can be made on our website at https://www.ywcaevansville.org/.

While much has changed these past few months, our essential services have not waned. We’re still on a mission to empowering women, and we have no plans of yielding even in the toughest of times.

**Pictured top to bottom** are staff members Jaime Kiesel, Serina Adams, Cindy Freeman, and Karen Brandon wearing masks, Dee Lewis taking temperatures, and the Parlor set for a socially distanced internal staff meeting.
Ann Ryan

Ann Ryan, YWCA board member and Legacy of Style silent auction chair, retired from Old National Bancorp earlier this year. Ann served the bank for 18 years in various roles utilizing her creativity and ingenuity to lead transformations and redesigns in her areas of marketing and client experience.

Tillie Christian, Cindy Allega & Deveta Miller

Tillie Christian, Cindy Allega, and Deveta Miller recently celebrated their retirements from YWCA Evansville with a gathering of friends. With over 50 years of combined experience, their knowledge and compassion in our residential children’s program will be missed.

Please join us in wishing these remarkable women all the best!
Pictured top to bottom: Following the death of Roger Chapman last year, his family decided to create a charitable foundation so that his legacy could live on in future generations. The YWCA was the lucky recipient of the inaugural gift from the foundation, a sizable donation toward YW programming and ongoing maintenance of our building. Shown (left to right) are foundation representative Georgia Chapman, board member Ashley Bartholomew (granddaughter of Mr. Chapman), and YWCA CEO Erika Taylor. University of Evansville theatre students presented another successful Jampon event in February of 2020. "Jampon: A Jam for Pads and Tampons" is an annual event that showcases the talents of hard-working students and helps provide much-needed feminine hygiene products to YWCA clients. Admission to the show was a box of pads/tampons or $8.00. The team of Madeline Jane Malinowski, Lauren Ward, Leila Bowman, Sally Walker, and Megan Sizemore procured over 9,000 hygiene products and raised an amazing $2,500 for YW programming. Pictured are three members of the organizing crew, who made a trip to the YW to drop off their donations and tour our facility. When one of our clients and his three children needed new shoes and clothing items, the mother/daughter team of Jill and Meagan Gander jumped right in to help. These caring ladies provided shoes, pajamas, a jacket, and two outfits for each person. As this newsletter goes to print, this family is moving from the YWCA domestic violence shelter into an apartment of their own, grateful for the generosity of the Gander family and others who made this achievement possible. Shown is Meagan Gander (left) and Janet Keller, Donor Relations Coordinator at the YWCA.
Pictured above left to right, top to bottom: Continuing a tradition that he started when he lived in the Lafayette area, Marvin Walls recently moved back to Southern Indiana and contacted the YWCA. Walls has a soft spot for homeless shelters and wanted to make Valentine’s Day special for our clients. He recruited friends and family to help provide our residents and after-school girls with special gifts to mark the holiday. Our facility was filled with stuffed animals, fresh flowers, chocolates, and other items to make the day special. Shown are some of the Live Y’ers participants who were beneficiaries of Walls’s generosity. ■ YWCA housing clients enjoyed beautiful new jewelry thanks to volunteers from Primrose Retirement Community in Newburgh. Said Primrose representative Peggy Russelburg, “We wanted to give back to the community somehow. When we received a large donation of beads, we held a jewelry-making class for our residents. They decided to donate the items to the women at the YWCA.” As they showed off their new bling, YW clients were appreciative of the efforts of these women to make their day brighter. Shown are some of the Primrose volunteers involved in the project. ■ Each month, Yoga 101 selects a charity organization to benefit from their weekly “Give Back” classes. The fee for these classes is donation based, and in February, YWCA Evansville was the lucky recipient. Nicole Tibbs recently stopped by to deliver the variety of toiletries, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies that were donated through this program. Thanks Yoga 101 and each participant who generously supported YWCA Evansville through this drive. ■ Jax and Bones, a California based company who specializes in durable dog toys, accessories, and bedding recently began making cloth masks in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. When they learned YWCA Evansville needed masks for staff and residents, they shipped 100 directly to us. Pictured are YWCA staff members Courtney Edwards and Mallory Hartweck wearing Jax and Bones masks. ■
Equal Pay Day

On March 31st, YWCA Evansville advocated for equal pay with an at home Paint the Town Red campaign. While all in person events were canceled to follow social distancing guidelines, we asked the community to wear and decorate their homes in red to show support for equal wages for all. Pictured are YWCA staff members wearing red on Equal Pay Day 2020.

YWCA Evansville is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women.

Our work will continue until the world sees women, girls, and people of color the way we do: Equal. Powerful. Unstoppable.

EQUAL
YWCA Live Y’er mentor and mentee, Britni Kendrick and Inetta Eastwood, enjoy lunch together at Glenwood Leadership Academy.

POWERFUL
Brandy Fleck moderates our second Boss Up event with guest speakers Mo Hobgood and Amy Word.

UNSTOPPABLE
Twin sisters, Kenyale and Zi’Aire, proudly stand with their Lodge Community School 8th grade graduation signs. Both students are YWCA Live Y’ers.
2020 YWCA Calendar Update

Over the past few months, social distancing requirements and stay-at-home orders resulted in canceled spring and summer events. We especially missed connecting with supporters and sharing delicious cake at this year’s Tribute to Achievement, and hope you are able to celebrate with us when it is safe to hold this event again.

Please know our board and committee members are busy working on plans for our remaining 2020 events. Our main priority is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our donors and community so we are monitoring the situation closely and will make all decisions with this in mind. Information will be shared via our website, social media, and newsletter as soon as decisions are final.

Should you have any questions, please contact Robin or Janet at 812-422-1191.
For more information about the YWCA, or to make an online donation, please visit www.ywcaevansville.org.

Join the YWCA in the fight to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice and freedom for all!