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Tastes & Treasures HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
Our 9th annual Tastes and Treasures Holiday Luncheon took place on November 21, 2019 at the Evansville County Club. Guests once again enjoyed shopping at our holiday boutique for unique and festive finds from local, woman owned businesses, and were present for the drawing of our Dazzle for a Difference raffle sponsored by The Diamond Galleria. Sandy Feagley won a stunning halo design ring, and she chose tanzanite as her center stone!

Executive Committee
Davena Day - President
Denise Johnson-Kincaid - President-Elect
Jennifer Briggs - Vice President
Ann Ryan - Secretary
Michelle Smith - Treasurer
Martha Goldman
Danyelle Granger
Jennifer Moore
Sherianne Standley

Andrea Backes
Ashley Bartholomew
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Lisa Mitsdafffer
Christen Mogavero
Cathy Nestrick
Alyssia Oshodi
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Jill Rawley
Olivia Robinson
Sloane Standley
Lisa Vaughan

Emeritae Council
Isabella Fine*
Nancy Gaunt
Phyllis Igleheart*
Dee Dee Leitch
Ruth McMillen*
Virginia Schroeder
Joann Schwentker
*deceased
Courtney Edwards, YWCA Youth Program Director, was awarded the 2019 Tyna E. Wheat Mended Heart Community Volunteer Award in November for over 27 years of service to our community’s children. The local community is a much better place thanks to the unwavering support Courtney has shown to countless young ladies over the years. We applaud Courtney for her dedication to improving the lives of young women!

Our Director of Client Services, Dee Lewis, recently earned a Level II Recovery Coach certification from the Indiana Credentialing Association on Alcohol & Drug Abuse (ICAADA). In addition, YES! staff member, Rachel Cosby, just earned her Certified Recovery Specialist certification from ICAADA. These certifications require many hours of training and we are incredibly proud of Dee and Rachel for all they do for YWCA Evansville!
Donor Spotlight

Pictured top to bottom: Alisha and Lauren, representing Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, were part of a huge group of sorority sisters who donated toys and gifts for YWCA children this past holiday season. This group also planned and hosted a holiday party for our clients and their children. If there’s one thing we can count on every holiday season, it’s the generosity of the Gerling Law firm. They visited us once again this year and dropped off self-care Christmas gift bags for all of our adult housing clients. Our women were treated to herbal tea, face masks, snacks, a coffee mug, a journal, and several other items to help take the stress out of the busy season. The Gerling group also donated toys and books for our client lounge. A comforting tradition for many families during the holiday season is the baking of Christmas cookies. Caring couple John and Karla Kinney made sure our clients had all the supplies they needed to take on this task while staying at the YWCA. Baking supplies of all kinds were donated to us, ensuring a fun experience for YW residents of all ages. Pictured below: Members of the Gibson Southern girls’ basketball team, along with their coaches, visited the YWCA in December, bringing holiday gifts for clients and taking a few minutes to learn about the services that we offer.

Anna Merris, a student at Castle High School, took on a class project which she called “The Giving Box.” She held a drive at her parish, Holy Rosary, where individuals donated toiletries and other necessities for YW clients. Cash donations were also accepted. Through this drive, Anna was able to help dozens of our residents with everyday items that are essential to the work of rebuilding their lives. In the spirit of the holidays, a children’s group wanted to make things a little warmer for homeless individuals in the local area. Kristi Valiant, the mom of two of the youngsters, posted a message on the Stonecrest neighborhood Facebook site. It stated that if neighbors wanted to help with donations of coats, gloves, and hats, Christmas caroling children would stop by and pick up the donations from each house. The response was much higher than expected, resulting in the donation of 25 coats, 30 hats, and 25 pairs of gloves! Pictured are Kristi and daughters Ciana and Jovie, who stopped by the YWCA to drop off the result of their hard work. Evansville Rescue Mission was the recipient of the men’s items collected, spreading the cheer even further.

The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 73 has been so generous with YWCA donations over the past few years, and 2019 was no exception. David Cook and Michael Sidea arrived with several huge boxes of toys, sure to make the holiday season brighter for our youngest clients. The caring members of P.E.O. BJ Chapter chose the YWCA to be recipients of a large donation of toys and gifts for clients. Shown is Anne Stallings, who braved the cold weather one Saturday afternoon to deliver the goodies. Shown is Jodie Miller, who honored her mother’s passing by donating some of her mom’s favorite purses to YWCA clients. The purses were filled with toiletries, snacks, and other necessities. Jodie was accompanied by her friend Tracie Ruff (not pictured) who helped her assemble the bags.
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Pictured top to bottom, left to right: Parri Black visited the YWCA in December on behalf of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Members of her church had gathered their resources to provide a wide variety of gift items for YWCA clients. Our wish list and Target gift registry came in handy, as congregants shopped for children and adults in our programs and were able to find exactly what our clients desired. In fact, some church members went above and beyond and donated non-holiday appliances that our housing programs needed. Chad and Matt from TenBarge Seed & Turfgrass Supplies were out and about in downtown Evansville in November, donating bags of ice-melt to non-profit agencies. We very much appreciate this practical and needed donation!

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Each year we are amazed at the generosity of our community as individuals and organizations come together to make the holidays brighter for those residing in our building. For several years, Tracy Rodriguez has collected gifts for our youngest residents along with her friends and family members. Pictured here with her mother, Luana Johnson, Tracy delivered several large bags of toys and gifts for our shelter children in December. Andrea and L'Oreal from TownePlace Suites by Marriott were all smiles as they delivered bed pillows and towels last fall to replenish our supply for clients. Members of the women’s basketball team at USI spent a morning at the YWCA in late December, using their womanpower to help us with preliminary sorting of holiday gifts for clients. These hardworking ladies spent about two hours going through bags and boxes of toys and gift items, ensuring that our eventual gift distribution to YW children would run as smoothly as possible.

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