EQUAL.
POWERFUL.
UNSTOPPABLE.

GRATITUDE REPORT 2019
YWCA SEATTLE | KING | SNOHOMISH
“Exhausting, but hopeful. The tide is turning toward equity and equality. We are on a precipice.”

One of the many powerful messages shared by community members in response to the question: *What’s it like to be a woman in 2019?*

*In honor of YWCA’s 125th anniversary, these were placed in a time capsule to be opened 125 years in the future.*
Dear friends and supporters of YWCA,

At a time when we are facing the biggest public health threat of our lifetime and racial justice protests are filling streets across the country, reflecting on 2019 can feel like looking back at a different time.

It was a historic year for YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish, one when we celebrated our 125th anniversary and marked a century of service for African Americans in the Central District. We created meaningful activities that connected thousands of community members to YWCA’s mission and work.

We amplified the voices of women shaping our community for the better today, shared the stories of resilient women from our history, and created a time capsule filled with hopeful messages for women and girls 125 years in the future.

We partnered with a wide range of corporations and companies to share the mission of YWCA, reaching thousands of people at events across the region, and joined together with our community partners to advocate for systemic change.

At the same time, we remained focus on our mission – eliminating racism and empowering women – and delivered critical services for more than 10,000 people. YWCA’s programming works to help ensure each person in our community – especially women of color, who are furthest from opportunity – can have a safe, healthy, and fulfilling life.

Together, we helped create peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people, and showed when we all put racial and gender equity first, our community can truly live up to its values.

We will get up and do this work until injustice is rooted out, institutions are transformed, and the world sees women, girls, and people of color the way we do: equal, powerful, and unstoppable.

Thank you for supporting our mission and taking action with YWCA to build a community that values every life.

With gratitude,

M A R I A C H A V E Z - W I L C O X
Chief Executive Officer

L I S A S C H A U R E S
Board Chair, 2020-2021
In 2019, we celebrated the 125th anniversary of YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish and marked a century of service in the Central District by highlighting inspiring women from our past, present, and future.

Here are some of the ways we went all in for Washington women:

- Lit up the arches at Century Link Field in YWCA’s persimmon orange on International Women’s Day.
- Showcased the history of YWCA in Washington State for hundreds of visitors at MOHAI’s Free First Thursday.
- Shared the stories of a diverse group of women leaders from the community in a series of profiles, Washington Women Who Dare.

- Had Seattle Seahawks players and staff serve food, fix up the library, and give away fan gear at Angeline’s Day Center, where 150 women experiencing homelessness are served daily.
- Brought together individuals and businesses in Snohomish County for a day-long career workshop focused on helping women get back into the workforce.
- Hosted a panel discussion on the history of Black women in Washington’s workforce at MOHAI.
- Relaunched GenRising, YWCA’s diverse network of professionals ages 21-45.

- Filled a movie theater with girls and women from the community to hear a panel of inspiring women leaders and watch Captain Marvel.
- Joined Comcast and NBC News anchor Natalie Morales to celebrate the community engagement and civic leadership of women from across the region.
- Commemorated 100 years in the Central District and gathered generations of community members to restore the original name of this location to the Phillis Wheatley Branch.
In 1919, YWCA’s African American members responded directly to the needs of the community by establishing the Phyllis Wheatley Branch. Located in the Central District, it was a vital center of social and cultural life for the city’s African American community.

In 1936, Bertha Pitts Campbell was chair of this branch, and successfully fought to be recognized as a full board member. As a result, our YWCA was the first in the country with a fully integrated board.

For years, this was one of the few places the African American community could gather for celebrations and meetings. It was renamed the East Cherry Branch in 1952 and played an important role in community organizing during the Civil Rights movement.

In 2019, we proudly restored the name of the Phillis Wheatley Branch at this location. For 100 years, it has remained a place that centers the experiences of the Black community, and has stood as an example of what our commitment to race and social justice looks like.

“Thank you for sustaining a place where African American women, girls, men, boys, and those who accompany us can call and feel at home.”

Quote from a longtime supporter of YWCA who shared their memories of the East Cherry Branch on November 12, 2019, proclaimed by the City of Seattle as “Central Area YWCA Day.”
“It’s a critical time to come together, speak with a loud voice, and make space, in particular, for women who have been even further marginalized because of the color of their skin, their heritage and culture, and religion.”

We received more than 250 messages for YWCA’s anniversary time capsule, to be opened 125 years from now.
Every day, YWCA opens the doors to answer the cry for justice and demand equity for women, girls, and people of color across the region in an effort to make our mission a reality.

YWCA is dedicated to ensuring that women and girls in our community can live a safe, healthy, and fulfilling life – especially women of color, who are furthest from opportunity and disproportionately impacted by homelessness, poverty, disease, and violence.

Here’s a snapshot of the populations YWCA served in 2019:

10,050 women, men, and children were enrolled in YWCA’s programs for housing, economic advancement, health, and safety.

92% low-income
72% women and girls
63% people of color
72% experiencing homelessness
MISSION IMPACT

YWCA delivers critical services through a network of community-based programs, located at 20+ sites across King and Snohomish counties that each provide responsive and culturally-relevant services.

YWCA’s services are focused in the areas where we can have the greatest impact on people’s lives: housing, economic advancement, health, and safety.

These are just a few examples of how YWCA’s mission made an impact in 2019:

- YWCA Angeline’s Day Center was utilized by 1,494 women experiencing homelessness.
- Distributed 235,710 pounds of food through YWCA’s Central Area Food Bank.
- Provided permanent housing for 2,014 people. 94% of residents maintained a stable home.
- Offered computer access and job banks that were used by 14,548 people.
- 67% of job seekers found work through YWCA’s employment programs.
- Delivered one-on-one support for 1,402 survivors of domestic violence.
- 2,208 people were served through YWCA’s health and safety programs.
“Walking down the street, not a care in the world, freedom unfurled, bright in the sun, unafraid of fun, no need to run, wearing what we please, heart and mind at ease, far away from sleaze, happy and safe and free.”

“I hope that women will leave injustice behind and thrive with greatness.”

Some of the things our community members shared in response to the question: What’s your vision for future women and girls?
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Pamela Hughes and Robert Munoz
We are truly grateful for all of those who have contributed to YWCA’s mission. Your partnership and generosity make a huge impact on the lives of women and families in our community. Please contact YWCA’s Development Team if you notice an error or omission on the above donor lists: Sarah Hassen (shassen@ywcaworks.org or 206.490.4365).
We deeply appreciate the individuals and organizations that contributed to YWCA’s successful 125th anniversary year, who went all in for Washington women through their partnership and support.

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We are beyond grateful for YWCA’s board of directors for their continual leadership and commitment to our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Below is a full list of members from 2019 to 2020.

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** Started in 2020 term
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YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women. We will get up and do the work until injustice is rooted out, institutions are transformed, and the world sees women, girls, and people of color the way we do: equal, powerful, and unstoppable.