



2024 Inspire Luncheon - Why Support YWCA?

The best way to encourage participation in our 2024 Inspire Luncheon is by sharing why **YOU** support YWCA! In addition to your personal story, please also feel free to use some or all of the key messages below to extend your invitation to potential guests. These messages can be used in an email, text, or as a helpful guide if you're calling someone to invite them to our Luncheon this year.

EVENT DETAILS

Join my table for the [2024 YWCA Inspire Luncheon](#), **Thursday, September 19 from 12 – 1 PM**, at the Westin Seattle.

This year's Luncheon is expected to draw more than 1,000 attendees from across our King and Snohomish County communities and throughout the country. Because this is a hybrid event, guests can come together in person at The Westin or login from anywhere to join virtually.

Attendees will learn about the YWCA's programs and services and our impact in our community, connect with other like-minded guests, and be inspired by our keynote speaker, Dr. Mae Jemison. During the event, each guest will be invited to take action with a special gift to advance YWCA's mission to eliminate racism and empower women.

Our goal is to raise \$1 million to directly support YWCA's housing, health & safety, and economic advancement programs for women and families in King and Snohomish counties.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Mae Jemison, physician and former astronaut.

Mae Jemison, M.D. is at the forefront of integrating the physical and social sciences with art and culture to solve problems and foster innovation.

Jemison leads 100 Year Starship® (100YSS), a nonprofit global initiative to assure that capabilities for human travel beyond our solar system to another star exist within the next 100 years while transforming life on Earth. 100YSS celebrated its 10th anniversary this year with Nexus Nairobi™ – When SPACE, PURPOSE & CULTURE Collide™. Jemison served six years as a NASA astronaut and was the first woman of color in the world to go into space and was the Area Peace Corps Medical Officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia. Jemison founded technology organizations including The Jemison Group, Inc., a STEM education international science camp The Earth We Share™ (TEWS) and was an environmental studies professor at Dartmouth College.

Jemison is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, Chair of the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts External Council and is on the board of Kimberly-Clark and the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Author of "Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments from My Life" and Scholastic True Books' 100 Year Starship series. The first real astronaut in the Star Trek TV series, LEGO mini-figurine, Astronaut Mae in Sesame Street and voice / inspiration of "Skipster" in Marvel's "Moon Girl and the Devil Dinosaur", series host of National Geographic's "One Strange Rock" and advisor for its global miniseries, "Mars."

QUESTIONS?

Contact Shelly Neuhart | 206.490.4349 | luncheon@ywcaworks.org



OUR "WHY"

YWCA of Seattle | King | Snohomish is the oldest and largest nonprofit focused on meeting the immediate needs of women in the Puget Sound area. YWCA has been on the frontlines for 130 years, developing the systems, scale, and knowledge to address some of this community's toughest problems.

Today, YWCA delivers critical housing, health and safety, and economic advancement programming to over 7,700 people annually at 24 program sites – including more than 1,100 units of housing – from Everett to Auburn. YWCA board, staff, and community partners are working toward the vision of 'a healthy and joy-filled community transformed by racial and gender equity, where women and girls of color have equal access to opportunity and resources to pursue their full potential.'

YWCA WORKS

In 2022, the most recent period for which formal outcomes are currently available, YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish served 7,733 unique participants with ongoing programs across three pillar areas of housing, health & safety, and economic advancement. Of the 7,733 individuals served, 70% were experiencing homelessness at intake, 63% identified as women and girls, and 63% identified as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color).

- **63%** of people exiting YWCA shelter, diversion, and homelessness prevention programs moved into permanent housing
- **95%** of YWCA permanent housing and Rapid Rehousing residents kept stable housing
- **99%** of people leaving YWCA domestic violence programs gained the tools and awareness to support their personal safety goals
- **99%** of people leaving YWCA domestic violence programs gained or increased knowledge about their rights and options
- **87%** of people leaving YWCA employment programs increased employability and job readiness

YWCA also works on behalf of our program participants. Our public policy team advocates for mission-aligned legislative solutions that positively affect women and girls across the state.

These efforts include: reducing barriers for non-profit affordable housing providers, including insurance feasibility; implementing a state-wide, progressive estate tax; and investing in childcare by passing the Childcare Stabilization Act, extending funding necessary to keep providers' doors open, and the Childcare for Working Families Act to make childcare affordable for working families.

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WHY NOW

Women and families in our area, especially those in BIPOC-led households, continue to face unprecedented challenges in accessing affordable housing, access to health care and safety from violence, and stable, living wage employment.

- Child poverty in Washington was nearly three times higher in 2022 than in 2021
- The cost of living in Seattle is rising faster than any other city in the United States
- Nearly twice as many eviction cases were filed in October 2023 compared to 2022 in King and Snohomish Counties

As the needs of our community grow – trapping future generations in cycles of poverty and inequity – we must acknowledge that it's time to do more.

THE POWER OF YOU

As ambassadors for the YWCA and this event, Inspire Luncheon Table Captains help generate approximately 40% of the giving that happens at the Luncheon. Luncheon Table Captains play a critical role in introducing new potential donors to the YWCA through this event, which is our biggest chance to share YWCA's story and our unique impact with the community. Maintaining a strong donor pipeline with your help is essential to our long-term financial viability.

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

There's a special power in coming together as a group of more than 1,000 women and men united in our values and in YWCA's mission to end racism and empower women. We're thrilled to be together in-person with old friends and colleagues at The Westin Seattle and to include those who can't be with us in person, online. We'll hear an inspiring keynote address, and we'll enjoy each other's company. Through our personal gifts, we'll help fund critical housing, health & safety, and economic advancement services for local women and girls. And we'll leave energized, inspired, and hopeful about the future.

CALL TO ACTION

There's no cost for you to join my table but I do ask that you **take action by making a gift** during the event toward our goal to raise \$1 million to be directly infused into YWCA's housing, health & safety, and economic advancement programs.

This event will sell out – so please let me know ASAP if you can join me. If you are unable to attend, please [consider making a gift](#).

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