

2023 Inspire Luncheon - Why Support YWCA

The best way to encourage participation in our 2023 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 at the [2023 YWCA Inspire Luncheon](#) on **Thursday, September 14 from 12 – 1:00 p.m.** This year, for the first time since 2019, the Inspire Luncheon will be based in-person at The Westin Seattle – a special opportunity to reconnect with the YWCA and each other!

The September 14 Inspire Luncheon is expected to draw more than 1,000 attendees 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 a virtual table. During this live event, you'll learn about the YWCA's impact in our community, connect with other like-minded guests, and be inspired by our keynote speaker, Misty Copeland. Before the program ends, each guest can 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 be infused directly into YWCA's housing, health & safety, and economic advancement programs for women and families in King and Snohomish counties.

This year's keynote speaker, Misty Copeland, embodies YWCA's mission –

Misty Copeland is a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theatre, the first Black woman to be promoted to the position in the company's 75-year history in 2015. She has performed some of the most iconic classical ballet roles, including Odette/Odile in Swan Lake; Juliet in Romeo & Juliet; Giselle; Manon; Coppelia; Kitri in Don Quixote; and Firebird, to name a few.

She has performed alongside cultural icons such as Prince for his Welcome 2 America tour; Taylor Swift at the American Music Awards; Camilla Cabella, Common, Ben Platt, and dancers from the Debbie Allen Dance Academy at the Grammy Awards; as well as the televised Prince Grammy Tribute performing with award-winning recording artist H.E.R. Misty made her Broadway debut in On The Town in 2015 and her major motion picture debut in Disney's The Nutcracker and the Four Realms in 2018.

Misty is an **avid philanthropist** and in 2022, she launched The Misty Copeland Foundation, with its first signature program, BE BOLD, which aims to bring greater diversity, equity and inclusion to dance, especially ballet. She is an ambassador and alum of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and MindLeaps, a Rwanda-based arts program that helps young people get off the streets and into an academic setting to help enhance their lives.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Shelly Neuhart | 206.490.4349 | luncheon@ywcaworks.org

Misty started her production company, Life In Motion Productions, which focused on bringing representative stories of artists past, present, and future and normalizing the arts experience. Her first independently produced project, Flower, is a silent arts activism film using dance to help raise awareness about intergenerational equity.

She is the New York Times bestselling author of several books, including Life In Motion, Ballerina Body, Black Ballerinas, The Wind At My Back, and picture books Bunheads and Firebird.

In 2021, Misty received the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest honor.

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 since 1894, developing the systems, scale, and knowledge to address some of this community's toughest problems.

Remaining nimble and responsive to the current and most critical needs of our communities, YWCA delivers critical housing, health and safety, and economic advancement programming to over 7,700 people receiving ongoing services 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, 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 individuals served, 70% were experiencing homelessness at intake, 63% identified as women and girls, 63% identified as BIPOC, and 38% identified as Black, African American, or African. Key 2022 program outcomes included:

- 63% of people exiting YWCA shelter, diversion, and homelessness prevention programs moved into permanent housing
- 95% of YWCA permanent housing and Rapid Rehousing residents maintained 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

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WHY NOW?

Our community remains in crisis. 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. **What we know:**

- Domestic violence protection orders filed with King County Superior Court increased 29% from March 2019 to March 2022
- The number Snohomish County households experiencing sheltered homelessness increased 52.4% in 2022
- In 2021, the median income of White households in Seattle was 2-3 times higher than that of Black and Native American residents

As the needs of our community continue to 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, our biggest chance to share YWCA's story and 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 reunite IN PERSON with old friends and colleagues at The Westin Seattle for the first time since 2019 and to include those who can't make it to The Westin online. We'll hear an inspiring keynote address for a speaker who embodies our mission, and we'll enjoy each other's company. Through our personal gifts, we'll **take action to 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

I ask that you make 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. **Your donation** will directly impact local women and families by providing a home, food, job training, access to healthcare or support to rebuild their lives after a domestic violence issue. **Your donation** will allow YWCA to lift up the needs of our community, elevating issues and solutions through our advocacy and public policy work. **Your donation** will make a difference. **YWCA works! I hope you can join.**

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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