

## YWCA FOCUS: SNOHOMISH COUNTY

The history of YWCA's work in Snohomish County originates back to World for Women, an organization founded in 1976 in Edmonds to provide emergency shelter and housing, counseling and services, job readiness classes, and support groups for women and families. The name was changed to Pathways for Women in the mid 1980's.

Pathways for Women merged with YWCA of Seattle-King County to make YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish in 1995. The merger aligned two organizations with very similar mission statements, values, and services. It also greatly increased the administrative capacity and infrastructure for the Snohomish County region.

Through direct services, advocacy, and education, our YWCA continues to be uniquely positioned to make a difference in the communities we serve:

- YWCA's Snohomish County programs for housing, economic advancement, health, domestic violence, and youth served 2,597 women, men, and children in 2016.
- Annually, 1,900 people are sheltered through YWCA's Snohomish County emergency or supportive programs.
- In 2016, over 500 people were served through YWCA's Snohomish County mental health services, including parenting and support groups.

With half a dozen locations across Snohomish County, each one of YWCA's facilities reflects the growing needs and changing demographics in the region, offering culturally appropriate employment, counseling, family services, and more.

YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women, and we're needed more than ever:

- In 2017, Snohomish County experienced an overall increase of 50% in unsheltered individuals since 2013.
- The poverty rate for female headed households in Snohomish County is 32%.
- One in five Washington women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Women of color have the highest risk of becoming victims of violence, yet are less likely to access domestic violence services than white women.