



STATE OF THE Y 2019

2019 marked the celebration of 100 years of the YWCA of Lewiston, ID-Clarkston, WA. Our theme for the year was inspired by Rosie the Riveter - We Can Do It! We celebrated with many events throughout the year including:

- January Open House when we hosted the LC Chamber Business After Hours
- Featured skits at the Women's Leadership Conference in March
- A retro Tea Party in May that included a successful desert auction
- Birthday Bash in July at Pioneer Park with a dunk tank that raised \$285 thanks to volunteers such as Pat Santos (Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office) and Dustin Hibbard (Lewiston Police Dept.)
- In October, the Inspiring Women Brunch highlighted the experiences of three former Executive Directors – Violet Daehling, Sherri McMillan, and Sylvia Evers – who shared stories of the YWCA over four decades.

Our YWCA was fortunate in 2019 to receive increased support from our donors and several foundations. The Lewis Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation granted \$12,000 to fund our Restore and Renew Project to provide trauma informed environments that offer a comfortable and safe place for survivors to begin healing from the trauma of violence and abuse. Through this project, the safe shelter received a new washer and dryer and each room received new flooring, new beds, and a fresh coat of paint. Extended housing units also received fresh paint, new beds and dinette sets. The finishing touches for these makeovers are being provided through an Adopt a Room campaign.

Staff changes: YWCA funding allowed us to expand our staff to meet the needs of those we serve. A new advocate position (Rachel Davis) and expanded children's advocate position (Terra Axtell) completes our team. Also joining our team are Branda Orr (Information Coordinator), Tammy Watson (Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator), Joan Renshaw (Advocate-Lewis County/Kamiah), and Denise Downs (Shelter Advocate). Happy Retirement wishes go out to Sheryl Pizzadili and Jean Persoon.

2019 saw significant progress in moving our YWCA to electronic, paperless processes. Our new website domain (ywcaidaho.org) included changing our email addresses. Our website now includes credit card processing, making membership renewal and monthly contributions easier than ever! We are looking into other means of electronic processes to keep pace and reduce reliance on paper.

Marking 100 years of our local YWCA required a look back at our history. 2020 requires the same reflection on our history as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Voting is a powerful way to use our voice and also a way to move the YWCA's mission forward – empowering women, eliminating racism, and building a strong community. We Can Do It!