RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGE

America has been engaged in a national conversation regarding racial equity and social justice. However, sometimes the hardest part of joining a conversation is knowing how to get started. The 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge is a powerful opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of how inequity and racism affect our lives and our community while providing a format to connect with others on the same mission.

According to research, it takes approximately 21 days for a behavior to become a habit. This challenge takes that idea into consideration as it is designed to give participants a designated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership.

Each day you will receive an email with challenges related to different aspects of racial equity and social justice, such as disparities in public health, housing, education and intimate partner abuse, just to name a few. There will also be an optional social media component that will allow participants to engage and share with others taking the challenge.

This is an exciting opportunity to dive deep into social justice issues to identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination within our homes, our community and the world. We hope you will accept the challenge and join us on this journey. Check out our website ywcaidaho.org for registration and further information.

We can’t wait to get started and work together!

MOVING OUR MISSION FORWARD

Cambia Health Foundation is a proud partner in our racial equity and social justice work and recognizes how these issues affect the way people experience our health care system. With a new grant through the Foundation’s Healthy People, Healthy Communities focus area the YWCA can launch its 21-Day Racial Equity & Social Justice Challenge, completely free for all participants. The grant funding will also allow all YWCA staff to become Human Rights certified through the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights.
STATE OF THE YWCA 2020

Just one year ago we were wrapping up our celebration of the 100th year of our local YWCA. After a year full of celebration, events, and activities, we were looking forward to things slowing down in 2020. We looked forward to commemorating the passage of the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote 100 years ago. We planned to establish a “normal” flow of events and community outreach.

Then everything came to a screeching halt in mid-March as we had to close our doors because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Annual Meeting was cancelled, and nothing has been normal since. Staff were required to work from home. We closed the emergency shelter because shared living spaces were unsafe. We learned to hold meetings and talk with survivors virtually via Zoom. All events and outreach were cancelled.

One thing that didn’t change was the need to keep victims of sexual and domestic violence and abuse safe.

When we cautiously opened at the end of April, we were stocked up on PPEs such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing supplies. The interpersonal work of providing advocacy and support required that we carefully implement all of the CDC guidelines for interacting with each other.

The need to provide services to victims did not decrease during this forced slow down. We provided shelter to more victims than we previously had and assisted with more applications for protective orders. We are grateful that the support we received from the community increased, as well. Many groups and individuals contacted our office asking what we needed in order to continue providing services.

Thank you to everyone who contributed money, gift cards, and cleaning and sanitizing supplies, and for all of those who made masks for our staff and those we serve.

In addition to the pandemic, our country has experienced an awakening to the need for racial justice. As an organization who has “eliminating racism” in our mission statement, we know that we have a responsibility to do more. The past few years we have focused on building internal capacity to discuss racial justice issues by learning more and listening more to the experiences of racism. Now we would like the community to join us in our efforts to learn more through the 21-Day Racial Equity & Social Justice Challenge (see page 1). By learning more, we can join in tough conversations and recognize how we can each have an impact on making our communities safe and equitable for all.

Throughout these ever-changing times, our staff have been amazing in adapting, shifting, adjusting, pivoting, accommodating, and problem-solving. Together we have been determined to keep victims safe and provide support along the journey to healing from the trauma of abuse. Above all, we have endeavored to support and encourage each other through these unprecedented times.

MISSION:
The YWCA of Lewiston and Clarkston is dedicated to empowering women, eliminating racism, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. It is committed to building a strong community by actively promoting the value of diversity and the right to a life free from violence, poverty, and oppression.

STATS & SERVICES

Provide a safe place for women and children to live

149 women and 94 children were sheltered in the YWCA safe shelters or motels when shelter was not an option for a total of 6,549 bed nights

9 adults and 18 children received assistance through our VIP program, including rent, utilities and childcare

Educate and raise awareness in our community

The YWCA hosted 89 speaking engagements that educated 6,306 adult and teen community members about issues surrounding domestic violence/sexual assault and the services provided at the YWCA

112 women attended domestic violence women’s support group

23 children attended children’s support group

Advocate for a life free from violence for all people

Advocates provided 7,510 additional advocacy services including crisis intervention, safety planning, information & referral, crime victim compensation assistance, medical advocacy, emergency financial assistance, and legal advocacy

The YWCA answered 2,609 calls on the crisis line concerning domestic violence or sexual assault

STAFF:

Kiesha Ade, Terra Axtel, Kristy Beckstein, Kayla Burke, Rachel Davis, Denise Downs, Nellie Frost, Kathy Gordon, Laurie Lewis, Lisa Macomber, Shelly Meisner, Sue Ann Meyers, Brandi Orr, Mike Reed, Joan Renshaw, Karrie Smith, Staci Taylor, Tammy Watson, Terri Walters, Chelsea Weeks, Amanda Wilhelm. Interns: Rhiana Fox, Emilea Harris, Chelby Smith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Emily Ashby, Jenna Bailey, Erin Bly, Angela Brooks, Brook Brown, Jill Charpentier, Dayna Cooper, Rhonda Crook, Marlowe Daly-Galeano, Jackie Davis, Elaine Dufford, Lori Gaskill, Sarah Graham, Jackie Heaven-Ahhi, Barbie Kramer, Mollie Mustow, Denise Aldous White

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Stay Connected

Interested in any of our events?
Need more info?
Connect with us:
Website: www.ywcaidaho.org
Facebook: ywcalcvalley
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**Issue Education**

**Idaho’s “No Arrest” Policy**

On June 12, 2019, the Idaho Supreme Court unanimously decided that the Idaho Constitution prohibits warrantless arrests for misdemeanor offenses committed outside an officer’s presence. This ruling came after a woman reported to police that she had been groped by a stranger while visiting a public beach in Hayden, Idaho and wanted to press charges. Police caught up with the man, Peter Clarke, and the arrest led to a search that resulted in drug charges. Clarke and his attorney fought against this charge, claiming that an illegal search was conducted, leading to the discovery of drugs and was not the original intent of police intervention. The Idaho Supreme Court analyzed Idaho Code § 19-603, which sets the policies in which an arrest may be made. As a result, the law now states that an arrest cannot be made due to a misdemeanor charge unless an officer witnesses the crime being committed or in cases such as domestic violence, where there is enough physical injury to the victim in which the perpetrator may be charged with a felony.

The ruling has made making arrests more difficult and time-consuming for police, and has put pressure on prosecutors to find ways to secure arrest warrants quickly in cases where they might not have had to otherwise. In cases of domestic violence it is projected that victims will be less likely to call for help during a domestic assault knowing that there is a possibility that police will not be able to arrest their abuser. If the police are called and the abuser is not arrested, it is far more likely that the victimization will continue, and the repercussions of the call may end in a more violent altercation once the police leave. If an officer feels they have grounds for arrest in a misdemeanor domestic violence case, they must now get an on-call prosecutor to approve. This can take more than three hours, which is simply too long when a life is at risk. Police and prosecutors around the state are working on ways to make necessary arrests, but the Supreme Court ruling on warrantless misdemeanor arrests is proving to be difficult to navigate.

**Program Updates**

**Support Groups**

This year groups have been running in modified versions. We started in March moving to a fully virtual format and progressed to an in person option which limited the group to 10 members at a time and limited childcare and children’s group numbers, as well. We used physical distancing, masks and sanitization to keep members safe and allow them the time and space to talk, heal and support each other.

The classroom and childcare area have been rearranged to encourage social distancing. Children are asked to wear masks, wash hands and use hand sanitizer. Tables, toys and supplies are disinfected after use. Children's support group continues to use discussions and fun activities to help them cope.

This year the YWCA started a new group focused on cultivating wellness and building resilience for current shelter residents. Topics vary from week to week and have included self-care, cultivating play, and gratitude. One thing every week has in common is fun!

As COVID-19 cases start to increase, we are looking at moving back to virtual formats and increasing safety procedures moving forward. We look forward to the day when we can all get together once again.

**Prevention**

YWCA continues to offer domestic violence prevention education to area youth, however it has been difficult this year as guest speakers are not allowed in schools and clubs in an effort to lower the spread of COVID-19. We are looking into ways to do prevention online, so keep an eye on our Facebook and website for updates.

**Awareness Months**

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April of 2020 our outreach efforts looked very different! We adapted and utilized social media as our main tool of communication to reach the victims of sexual assault along with the striking visual of teal ribbons placed throughout our service area.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month again utilized social media along with shadow women and purple ribbons. On Wednesdays, we encouraged the community to wear purple and post pictures online to support domestic violence survivors. Through our partnership with Hot Shots Espresso, stats were placed on coffee cups for the YWCA’s Week Without Violence.

**Domestic Violence + COVID19 = Danger**

Victims of domestic violence already face a number of complicated challenges as they try to stay safe. With the onset of COVID-19, many of the protective measures suggested to prevent the spread of the virus further complicated victims situations and put them at even greater risk. The challenges that each victim faces are unique, but in general the five most common challenges that victims have had to face as a result of COVID-19 are as follows:

- The stay at home measures increase the time that victims must spend in direct contact with their abuser. Tensions can build, which increases the risk of violence. Reaching out to domestic violence services or to support systems can be more difficult for the victim if the abuser can always listen in.
- Quarantine and stay at home measures may impact the victim’s ability to go to work or limit other opportunities to leave the house - opportunities that afforded them a much needed reprieve. If either they or their abuser lose a job because of the pandemic, the resulting financial insecurity can cause additional stress that may contribute to an escalation in violence.
- The potential lethality of COVID-19 makes it easy for abusers to use the virus as a manipulation tool. Many victims have been afraid to leave the house and have received threats from their abusers that if they show any symptoms they will be locked out in the cold.
- Concern around COVID-19 has made it more difficult for victims to access medical services. Many victims are afraid there isn’t room for them in the ER, or they have been afraid that they might catch the virus in a hospital setting. This fear can be further compounded if the victim or their abuser has issues with the hospital system and are not taken seriously.
- The closure of the court system for an extended period of 2020 made it difficult for victims to move forward in pursuing justice. Many hearings and court dates were rescheduled, sometimes on multiple occasions, which extended the time that many victims had to battle their partners in the courts.

**COVID19 Response at YWCA**

YWCA has continued to serve our clients and community throughout the Pandemic. Despite having to close our doors mid-March, we have stopped answering our 24 hour crisis line and helping those fleeing domestic violence through appointments, on the phone and through video. We re-opened our doors to the public on June 15 and have had to phase back as our community had a spike in positive COVID-19 cases in November. For the health, safety and well-being of our clients, employees and community, we are staying cautious and practicing social distancing. We are equipped with both disposable and cloth face masks, as well as hand sanitizer, sanitizing sprays and wipes, and a heavy cleaning schedule.

YWCA has made several adjustments in order to accommodate our clients and provide services through this pandemic. Virtual services have been a go-to way to serve many clients. Court services in Washington and Idaho have held hearings via virtual platforms. Idaho court systems are still not open to in-person hearings or trials. We have added monitors and screens to create virtual rooms for advocates to maintain safe and comfortable support.

Rural advocates continue to meet with clients with physical distancing and sanitation and help clients access services they need and get an answer on protective orders. We feel that the best way to keep our resources available to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic is to closely follow the guidelines set by our state and health officials. Community support for the YWCA has been instrumental in allowing us to keep our doors open and serving the LC Valley.

We encourage everyone to continue to keep safe.
School Supply Distribution

2020 school supply distribution saw many changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Where we usually host teams of volunteers to pack bags of school supplies, this year small groups of volunteers wore masks to pre-pack school supplies in tight bundles and backpacks. To promote physical distancing and avoid the long lines of those needing supplies, we established a drive-through style distribution in the parking lots of Clarkston High School on one day and at the old Lewiston High School on another day. We had lots of help. Big thanks to the Clarkston and Lewiston school districts for allowing us to use their space, Karl Tyler’s Chevrolet Lewiston for lending us trucks to transport all the supplies, and the Clarkston and Lewiston police departments for reviewing our plans and sending SRO’s to help with traffic control and so much more. Special thanks to Pacific Empire Radio for a successful Stuff the Bus campaign to collect school supplies, Staples for hosting the live radio remotes, and P1FCU for creating the Stuff the Bus bank account to collect donations. 878 students received school supplies this year.

In Remembrance

2020 was a difficult year with the loss of two long-time members of our YWCA family. On February 16th we lost former crime victim advocate Tom White, who worked at the YWCA for 8 years after retiring from the Asotin County Sheriff’s Office. On April 25, we mourned the loss of our former Executive Director Sylvia Evers. Sylvia lead the YWCA for 17 years before retiring in 2016. Everyone who had the privilege to know them loved their generous spirits and kind hearts. Their dedication has become a legacy that will live on for generations to come!
The right to vote is important for every American and this was a special year celebrating 100 years of Women’s Suffrage. YWCA staff worked with the Asotin and Nez Perce county auditors offices and the League of Women Voters to help encourage community members to get registered and to vote.

The last few years we have celebrated National Voter Registration day by helping people get registered to vote. This year we also provided voter information and many of our staff volunteered at the polls.

The 3rd Annual Embrace Race Color Run 5k went virtual this year in light of the global pandemic. This allowed participants to complete the race anytime and anywhere they wanted between June 13th and June 26th. All of the race swag (T-shirt, water bottle, bag, and anti-racism fillable statement for photos) was delivered to their homes prior to the kickoff. We asked the participants to take photos and use the hashtag fywcaidaho so that we could see all of their personal reasons for participating.

This year we had 118 register. Due to sponsors, Optum Idaho and Regence, and with those who registered, we were able to make over $5000. Optum Idaho and Regence also shared videos that you can find on our Facebook page describing why this was an important event for them to support and sponsor.

YWCA’s Stand Against Racism provides the opportunity for communities across the United States to take a #StandAgainstRacism and to unite their voices to educate, advocate, and promote racial justice.

We take a Stand Against Racism every day by raising awareness about the impact of institutional and structural racism and by building community among those who work for racial justice.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Daily social media postings and visual purple ribbons were the highlights of our awareness campaign this year. YWCA staff showed their support by wearing purple on Wednesdays during the month of October. Many staff also showed their support for our sister agency, New Beginning’s through the Nez Perce Tribe and participated in their virtual walk for Domestic Violence.

Last year both Lewiston and Clarkston Police Departments took the “No-Shave November” to an all new level of awesome! The departments charged officers a dollar a day if they didn’t shave for the month. The proceeds were donated to the YWCA. Unfortunately due to mask requirements, they were unable to participate in No Shave November in 2020.

Stinker Stores had to postpone their Pieces of Hope Campaign this past year, but they still pulled it off and made over $5,000 to donate to our children’s programs.

Thank you Stinker!
Over the last year we’ve received the benefits of over 1450 hours of volunteer time! Our mission could not move forward without the dedication of everyone who has so generously donated their time and effort to our organization. Volunteering is an exceptional means of support to the YWCA: it aids in helping us reach our grant match, it assists us in successfully facilitating events that support our clients and the community, and it allows us to build long lasting relationships that help us stay connected with the LC Valley. If you would like to get involved and make an impact, there are many ways to do so based on your interests and availability, and we would love the opportunity to have you work with us.

Volunteering at the YWCA

One Time
Come help on one special day or at an event! It may be one day or several days leading up to one event in preparation. Events include Embrace Race Color Run, the School Supply Drive and distribution, Soup-Port Our Shelters, and more!

Ongoing
If you’d like to help out on a regular basis, we really appreciate having support in our front office and for ongoing projects! This is a great way to connect with staff and the organization. Ongoing volunteers often have the ability to come in at least once a month or more.

Interns
Interns are like junior staff. We’ve hosted LCSC social work and psychology students to work with our advocates, students studying math/data, non-profit business, and public engineering, and web design. We’re open to your ideas!

Board of Directors
Our leaders and change-makers are volunteers too. If you are interested in helping us take our mission to new heights in the future, you can connect with our Board President by submitting an application online!

THANK YOU 2020 VOLUNTEERS!

We know that the COVID19 pandemic has complicated the lives of many. With that in mind, it has also made a significant impact on how we’ve had to go about volunteering. We’ve had to take extra precautions such as wearing masks, sanitizing, and limited volunteer groups, and have even had to suspend volunteering for periods of time to ensure we were keeping everyone’s safety a top priority. All of this considered, we are especially grateful to all of the volunteers who were able stick with us through this troubling time!

Volunteer Spotlight: Jackie Davis

We would like to highlight one of our volunteers, Jackie Davis, who has gone above and beyond for the YWCA. She has now put in more than 150 hours of volunteer time this year and has taken such an interest in the organization that she has joined our Board of Directors. It has been a genuine pleasure getting to know Jackie. She has been in the Army National Guard for 7 years now as a medic and would like to work towards going to medical school to further her education and become a doctor. She said that she values the experience the Army gave her because it has made her a better, stronger person who is more disciplined and who now has the ability to develop herself without needing a deadline to push herself. When asked what she likes most about being a part of the YWCA, she said it was the people. When she finds a group of great people, she likes to invest in that, which she certainly has. Thank you, Jackie, for dedicating yourself to the YWCA and for giving us the opportunity to get to know such a wonderful, devoted individual!


Bowl Painting Groups: Boy Scouts, City of Lewiston, Daughters of the Nile, Juvenile Corrections Center, Leadership of the LC Valley, Lewis Clark State College, Pacific Consulting Group, Prairie Art League, Regence, Sycamore Glen, and Wooden Nickel.
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

INDIVIDUAL DONORS:


ORGANIZATIONS & SPONSORS:


MEMBERS:

SOUP’S ON ORDER UP!

February 26

$25 BUYS YOUR MEAL AND A BOWL!

Can’t get to us? WE DELIVER!

Delivery requires a minimum of 5 orders per location and may include a delivery fee.

Delivering lunch from 11:00am-2:00pm

Buy tickets online ywcaidaho.org/store, at the YWCA, or at Rosauers

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Please visit our website or Facebook for up-to-date information on event detail changes during the pandemic.