We are excited to announce the launch of the Stand Against Racism Challenge running in April of 2022. Previously known as the 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge, this is the same program developed by YWCA Greater Cleveland in 2019. Since then, the Cleveland team has been working with YWCA USA to make this a national program and partnering with YWCAs across the country to bring this unique learning opportunity to communities in 48 states.

The Stand Against Racism Challenge is designed to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership. Participants log on to the challenge app on their phone or visit the challenge website and are presented with options such as reading an article, listening to a podcast, reflecting on personal experience and more. Participation in an activity like this helps us to discover how racial injustice and social injustice impact our community, connect with one another, and help identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination.

Structural racism plays a large role in determining the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age. These factors affect people’s access to quality housing, education, food, transportation, political power, and other social determinants of health. Understanding and addressing systemic racism from a public health perspective is crucial to eliminating racial and ethnic inequities, and to improving opportunity and well-being across communities.

Our collective efforts can root out injustice, transform institutions, and create a world that sees women, girls, and people of color the way we do: Equal. Powerful. Unstoppable.

Registration will be available in April 2022 at ywcaidaho.org.
At YWCA Lewiston-Clarkston, we have navigated another year of the pandemic with the health and safety of our staff and those we serve at the forefront. Trying to conduct business as usual during a pandemic has been a challenge, but keeping focused on our mission (to empower women and eliminate racism) and the purpose of our work (to keep victims of abuse safe) has helped us adapt and find new ways to move forward. We have always had to be creative problem solvers, whether it's by creating safety plans for victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse or finding diverse funding sources to support our programs and services.

During 2021 we have learned many things about ourselves and our ability to persevere. Once again we learned that building relationships is key to supporting each other through the ups and downs of these daily struggles.

A great example of this was the way our relationships with first responder agencies helped convert our SoupPort Our Shelters fundraiser to safely serve soup. Working with local restaurants, YWCA supporters were able to receive their hand painted bowl and pick-up delicious soup for take-out.

Like many people, we’re continuing to learn about online and virtual options for meetings and presentations. YWCA’s Inspiring Women Event this year was a recorded interview with Stacia Morfin, an amazing business-woman, CEO of Nez Perce Tourism LLC, and a survivor of abuse. Her story and insights were moving and inspiring during this online presentation.

Going virtual provided greater access for people, in many cases, from court hearings to support groups to regular meetings. Twice as many staff were able to enhance their knowledge by attending virtual national training conferences. However, we’ve also learned that attending conferences online is harder in some ways than traveling to a conference. Trying to pay attention to a speaker and still having to work at the same time is hard, similar to working from home with children and pets running around.

2021 has been another year of changes, but more importantly, a year of learning and growth. At YWCA, we continue to empower women to be creative thinkers, to brainstorm solutions, to find alternatives and options, and to find the strength to persist through all of the barriers and challenges.

We’ve learned to honor each other, and to give and receive grace, support, and compassion.

YWCA MISSION STATEMENT
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

- 161 women and 86 children were sheltered in the YWCA safe shelters or motels when shelter was not an option for a total of 5,036 bed nights
- 8 adults and 15 children received assistance through our VIP program, including rent, utilities and childcare

Educate and raise awareness in our community

The YWCA hosted 75 speaking engagements that educated 4,356 adult and teen community members about issues surrounding domestic violence/sexual assault and the services provided at the YWCA

90 women attended domestic violence women’s support group
18 children attended children’s support group

Advocate for a life free from violence for all people

Advocates provided 5,094 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 2,208 calls on the crisis line concerning domestic violence or sexual assault

STAFF:
Aubrey Ahlman, Kiesha Ade, Terra Axtell, Kristy Beckstead, Kayla Burke, Rachel Davis, Denise Downs, Nellie Frost, Kathy Gordon, Laurie Lewis, Lisa Macomber, Shelly Meisner, Branda Orr, Mike Reed, Joan Renshaw, Karrie Smith, Staci Taylor, Tammy Watson, Terri Walters, Chelsea Weeks, Amanda Wilhelm. Interns: Maria Bernabe, Rhiana Fox, Emilee Harris, Chelby Smith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Emily Ashby, Jenna Bailey, Erin Bly, Angela Brooks, Marlowe Daly-Galeano, Jackie Davis, Elaine Dufford, Lori Gaskill, Sarah Graham, Jackie Heaven-AhHi, Barbie Kramer, Mollie Mustow, Ashley Schneider, Kimberly Willis

WEB EXTRAS
- 300 Main Street Lewiston 208.743.1535
- 221 W Main St. # 21 Grangeville 208.983.0888
- 320 Michigan Ave. #209 Orofino 208.476.0155
- 603 6th Street Kamiah 208.935.0044

STATS & SERVICES
- 5,094 additional advocacy services
- 2,208 calls on the crisis line

WEB EXTRAS
- Interested in any of our events?
- Need more info?
- Connect with us:
  - Website: www.ywcaidaho.org
  - Facebook: ywcalcvalley
  - Instagram: ywcalcvalley
  - Email: info@ywcaidaho.org
  - Phone: 208.746.9655 (24 Hrs) 800.669.3176
Support Groups
2021 has been a wild year for support groups. We were meeting virtually for the first few months, but we determined it is much more difficult to connect with people through a computer screen. We spent the next few months attempting different social distancing and safety measures that allowed us to come back together in person.

These measures have changed over the months to reflect guidelines. In person groups have been running smoothly, except for one small issue—we have too many people wanting to join us for the space we have available, especially in our children’s areas. To address this issue, we have been requiring members to RSVP to ensure there is an open spot available.

If you or someone you know may be interested in joining the support group in Lewiston, please contact the office at (208) 743-1535 and speak with an advocate to reserve a spot today!

Rural Support Groups have had similar issues, but do not provide children’s groups so their space is less limited. Childcare assistance is available. Groups are offered in Grangeville and Kamiah.

More information for all groups is available on our website ywcaidaho.org.

Prevention
YWCA continues to offer in-person training on teen domestic violence prevention. Workshops include: Bystander intervention, healthy relationships, healthy communication and conflict resolution, self-esteem building and leadership. These workshops are based on curriculum backed by empirical data and use fun games and crafts to help kids learn the warning signs of unhealthy relationships, how to seek out healthy relationships and how to help others who are in violent relationships.

Due to the pandemic we have also come up with ways to offer classes virtually. This training is appropriate for teens and adults. Call today to schedule in-person training and look for our virtual classes on our website and on Facebook.

YWCA Endowment Fund
In June an endowment fund, YWCA of Lewiston-Clarkston Fund, was established at the Innovia Foundation to build the financial stability of YWCA Lewiston-Clarkston. We look forward to growing this fund to sustain future program development and provide a solid financial base for future building needs.

To contribute to the YWCA of Lewiston-Clarkston Fund endowment, go to www.Innovia.org/ways-to-give/ and select “choose an existing fund.” Click “Search Now” next to “Funds at Innovia Foundation.” Enter YWCA in the keyword search and choose YWCA of Lewiston-Clarkston Fund.

Legacy Giving
YWCA Lewiston-Clarkston is among organizations asking supporters to invest 5% in legacy giving to transform our communities. While few of us consider ourselves wealthy, most of us have enough to share with our communities at the end of our lives, especially when we look beyond cash on hand. Our giving potential is also found in our homes and real estate, personal belongings, investments, business holdings and elsewhere. If everyone committed just 5% to benefit local communities, over $200 million would be available for annual grant-making – year after year – for generations to come.

Now is the time to make a plan. Make a simple bequest in your will or a real estate gift, no matter what 5% means to you. Reach out to discuss your giving options as you create a plan to invest 5% in your community. Contact us at 208-743-1535, visit our website www.ywcaidaho.org/donate, or you can call our colleagues at Innovia Foundation at 509-624-2606.

Issue Education
Nearly 80% of sexual assaults go unreported according to the U.S. Justice Department analysis of violent crime. With sexual assault being such a serious crime, why is this happening? One reason is that in cases involving sexual assault, survivors are often not believed, leaving them to both pick up the pieces of themselves after trauma and defend their integrity.

Survivors are often overwhelmed by trying to convince people that they aren’t lying, or that they didn’t do anything to deserve the assault or ask for what happened to them. Another factor that contributes to not reporting is fear of the perpetrator retaliating or other ramifications from family members, employers and the public.

These fears are validated when we see the consequences of reporting play out in cases of sexual assault involving high-profile perpetrators. These high-profile cases usually involve a power differential in which the victim feels coerced into situations where they don’t have any control over what’s happening or the ability to say no.

Yet we live in a society where victim blaming is still the norm and the repercussions for the victims who are coming forward are often greater than for the perpetrator. This is especially true when the perpetrator is a person of power, who has a friendly, likeable persona and is respected or admired by the public.

People still believe false things that are said in high-profile cases, such as she only wants fame or she’s just trying to get money, contributing to the myth that accusers of sexual assault frequently false report and are not to be believed. Studies show false reporting is incredibly low at about 2%. These cases make media headlines and sometimes the survivor’s name is released to the public. Releasing the victim’s name could jeopardize their safety, their jobs, and their current relationships with their social circle. Releasing the name of the victim adds an additional barrier to the already difficult task of reporting a sexual assault. Some anonymity when reporting can make victims feel safer and encourage speaking up.

Watching a survivor of sexual assault get dragged through the mud in the media while the defense works hard to suggest the victim is lying, it is no wonder that other victims who see this are reluctant to allow themselves to be dragged through the same mud by reporting.
Shelter Room Adoption

In January of 2020, the Lewiston Democratic Women “adopted” one of our Extended Housing Program (EHP) units to warm it up with a more trauma-informed environment. When a victim of domestic violence leaves home to seek shelter, we want them to feel welcomed in their tiny, but safe new space. The initial room adoption included providing comfort items like a sitting chair, throw pillows, wall décor, a rug, and a journal. Additional rooms were adopted by a group from St. Stanislaus School, Women’s Connection, Tseminicum, and the Elks Lodge #896. One of the Women’s Connection members, Karrie Hughes Kay, helped with the adoption of a unit in late 2020, inspiring her to makeover additional units. Karrie started flipping units left and right as clients moved out and we had new arrivals.

Karrie was able to see first-hand what clients who are fleeing domestic and sexual violence and abuse need and want. One of the items we added to the list was a container to keep court paperwork organized, since many clients have protection orders or divorce and custody cases. One of our clients upon exiting shared that she was claustrophobic and knew that staying in a small place with her young baby would be impossible for her. She was pleased when she saw how homey and welcoming it felt, and was able to stay for a few months while she worked on getting a new place.

All EHP units are now equally maintained with all the accessories because of generous and helpful volunteers and donors like Karrie, and groups who helped get the EHP room adoption program started. If you or a group you’re involved with are interested in sponsoring a flip of an EHP unit, you can purchase the items and volunteer your time re-stocking the unit with new items or you can visit our website ywcaidaho.org and buy a package in the store.

Building Restoration

YWCA’s mid-century modern building will be getting a much needed exterior makeover. The work will include restoring our water damaged wood beams and a full exterior paint. To complete this repair, the perforated metal screens that hang on the front of our building will be removed and will not be reinstalled. We want to thank City of Lewiston Community Development for funding this project under a Community Development Block Grant, as well as TD&H Engineering and Mangum Construction LLC for their service and expertise.

But wait, there’s more! It’s time to replace the YWCA flat roof. Repairs and patches have been made over the years, but current roof leaks are affecting our ability to provide services to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. We are raising funds to help us toward this goal. We currently have $10,000 of the approximate $35,000 that will be required. If you feel moved to donate, please mark on the donation envelope that you would like your donation to be used for a new roof. Thank you!
Event Updates

The YWCA annual Domestic & Sexual Violence & Abuse Conference in October had to be postponed. The conference format was a little different this year with one track of training topics rather than multiple tracks. The agenda centered on the discussion of two specific topics presently affecting our community: Human Trafficking in Rural Communities and Effective Responses to Intimate Partner Stalking. We look forward to inviting Dan Hally, former Asotin County Detective and Anti-Predator Project Volunteer, and Jennifer Landhuis, Director of the Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC), to join us again soon to present these important topics.

2021 SoupPort Our Shelters transitioned to soup delivery and pickup only. Soup vouchers were included for your choice of seven different hot soup options at a variety of locations including Hogan’s, Jollymore’s Station3, Jollymore’s, Palace Meats & Deli, Tomato Bros., Season’s, and the Senior Nutrition Program at the Lewiston Community Center. This could not have been done without the help of our area first responders- Clarkston Police Dept., Clarkston Fire Local 2299, Nez Perce County Sheriff’s Office, Lewiston Police Dept., Lewiston Fire Local 1773, Asotin County Sheriff’s Office, and Garfield County Sheriff’s Office. We are very grateful for all of the support we received during this unusual year, and are hopeful that 2022 will allow us to sit together once again.

The 2021 Soup Soiree took place as a Facebook Auction. We had six different featured artists (Sandy Dawes, Moriah Hale, Sharon Hart, Jaymee Laws, Amber Rae, Michelle Washburn) and a variety of wonderfully painted bowls by community members that contributed to a very successful event!

Survivors Tell Us . . .

They have given my little girl and I hope and shelter. They have helped turn our lives around and keep us safe at the same time. I am forever grateful for the YWCA for what they have done.

Everyone at the YWCA was amazing. I was more comfortable here as soon as I arrived than I had felt in years.
Volunteering at YWCA

There are many ways to get involved with volunteering at the YWCA depending on your interests and availability. Any project that you work on or any way that you decide to help - from deep cleaning to event support to ongoing involvement - furthers our mission of empowering women and eliminating racism. Every hour of volunteer time is valued at the national average of $28.54 that we can use towards our grant match requirements – and so, even if you are only able to help out one time, every little bit makes a positive difference in our community. Mentioned below are various opportunities for involvement.

**One Time/Event Specific**

Come in and help once to get a better feel for our organization, or help out at your favorite event every year!

**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!

**Interns**

Interns become part of our staff. We've hosted many different majors such as business, marketing, math, engineering, psychology, and social work. We're open to your ideas!

**Board of Directors**

Our leaders and change-makers are volunteers, too. If you're interested, you can connect with our Board President by submitting an application online!

THANK YOU 2021 VOLUNTEERS!

A very special thank you to ALL of the volunteers who have so generously donated their time to better our community. Volunteers contributed over 1150 hours of their time in office hours alone, and over 1475 hours for fundraising events. Assisting the community wouldn't be possible without that continuous support. Listed below are volunteer spotlights for just a couple of the many wonderful individuals who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support the YWCA.

**Volunteer Spotlight: Cori Sanzone**

Cori has demonstrated incredible dedication to the YWCA over the last seven months. With over 75 hours in volunteer time, she has grown to be an invaluable member of our team. She is always willing and flexible to be a helping hand wherever is needed, and never fails to bring a positive attitude and efficient work ethic to every activity. Cori initially started volunteering to fill hours for her Social Work Field Preparation class for her college degree, but continues to embrace our mission of empowering women and eliminating racism because she says not only does it lay a great foundation for her educational goals in Social Work and potentially Law, but she loves seeing the impact we have on our community.

In addition to devoting her time to the YWCA, Cori involves herself, along with the company of her husband and two children, in other areas of the community as well, including food drives and taking meals to new moms through her church’s programs. We are so lucky to have such a talented, committed, and compassionate individual supporting our organization. Thank you Cori!

**Volunteer Spotlight: Dirty 40 Motor Society**

The Dirty 40 Motor Society has shown exceptional commitment in many ways that have made them an asset to our organization. They have supported our mission through their own organized fundraisers which included a spaghetti feed and a Show n’ Shine. They are always making themselves available for any volunteer activity that comes their way—helping hang awareness ribbons, collecting food donations, and distributing school supplies. Thank you all for your generosity and support!

Pictured: A few of the many members of the Dirty 40 Motor Society
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!


ORGANIZATIONS & SPONSORS: All Saints Catholic Church, American Insurance, Art Beat, Asotin County, Assist 2 Sell, Avista, Banner Bank, CCI/Speer, CHAS Health, Church of the Nativity, Clarkston Fire Local 2299, Clearwater Paper, Clearwater River Casino, Confluence Valley Ghostbusters, Congregational Presbyterian Church, Costco, Dirty 40 Motor Society, First Presbyterian Church, Frontstream, Hells Canyon Auxiliary, IdaVend Broadcasting, Inland Cellular, INNOVIA, JoAnn’s, Jollymore’s, LCCU, Lewiston Elks Lodge #896, McVey Entertainment, Melody Sandahl Insurance Agency, Microsoft-PanTech-Supp, Optum, Oregon Community Foundation, P1FCU, Pacific Empire Radio, Presnall Gate, Prestige Care & Rehabilitation-The Orchards, Printcraft, Regence Blue Shield of Idaho, Retro Max, Rove Fitness, Roy Prospects LLC, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Seattle Mariners, Seattle Seahawks, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Stinker Stores, Swift Inc., Team DMC, Tri-State Memorial Hospital, Twin River Bank, US Bank Foundation, Vista Outdoor, WISP Inc., Whitman Elementary School, Women’s Association of Congregational Presbyterian Church, Women’s Association of Federated Presbyterian Church, Women’s Connection, Zion’s Bank.


BOWL PAINTING GROUPS: Advance America, Art Uncorked, Century 21, Clearwater Gastroenterology and Clearwater Endoscopy, Corner Villa, Keller Williams, LCCU, Lewis Clark State College, 4-H, Lewiston High School, Patriot Insurance, Prairie Art League, Whitman Elementary, Wooden Nickel- and many, many more individual painters!
SOUP’S ON ORDER UP!

February 25

$25 BUYS YOUR MEAL AND A BOWL!

Can’t get to us? WE DELIVER!

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

Please visit our website or Facebook for up-to-date information on event details.

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

Buy tickets online at ywcaidaho.org/store and at the YWCA.

208.743.1535 | 300 Main Street | ywcaidaho.org