

A woman with dark hair styled in a bun, wearing an orange sleeveless top and a gold necklace with a diamond pendant, is looking to the right. The background is a red brick wall.

# **YWCA** **IS ON A** **MISSION**

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**2017 - 2018**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

west central michigan

# YWCA IS ON A MISSION

We need to believe.

Believe survivors. Believe domestic abuse and sexual assault happen. Believe the uncomfortable truth that people we know are capable of violence. Believe there are structures in place that protect offenders. Believe we can be part of the problem, but also part of the solution. Believe that domestic and sexual violence are not inevitable – they are preventable. Believe the world can be different.

Believing is an act of hope. And it's what supporters like you do – recognizing that you can help, that you can change things.

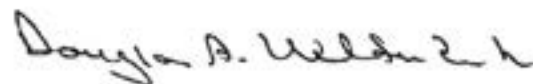
Your support of the YWCA makes an impact for the 4,000+ served here each year, and also for our community and beyond. You change lives, you change laws, you change attitudes. The numbers and stories in this report show just how transformative that can be.

Thanks to you, we can support survivors with quality comprehensive services, and make bold change through prevention and empowerment programming. You act in the belief that change is possible – and it makes all the difference. **Thank you.**

**Eliminating Racism  
Empowering Women and Girls  
Promoting Peace, Justice, Freedom, and Dignity for All**



Charisse Mitchell  
CEO



Doug Wilterdink  
President, Board of Directors

## 2017-18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Charisse Mitchell, CEO



# 100%

of those who stayed in the emergency shelter with children reported that education regarding strategies for helping kids recover is useful to them

**8,403**  
individual and family therapy sessions

Responding to the needs of survivors: This year added the inclusion of a support group specifically for **LGBTQ survivors**, as well as an increased number of **Spanish speaking** staff.

**41,466** nights of safety for individuals in long-term supportive housing

**2,182**  
advocacy and safety planning sessions

**363** medical-forensic exams (rape exams) provided to survivors of assault (including adults, adolescents, and pediatric cases) with an experienced nurse in a safe, respectful environment.

**97%** of support group participants report feeling less isolated

## DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

24-hour confidential helpline • Emergency shelter • Long-term supportive housing • Advocacy • Victim counseling and support groups • Assailant counseling and psychoeducational groups • Supervised parenting time and safe child exchange • Medical forensic examinations • Therapy

## SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

24-hour confidential helpline • Therapy • Counseling • Support groups • Medical-forensic exams for adults and children • Advocacy • Short-term respite services for victims unable to return home

## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE SERVICES

Therapy • Counseling • Support groups • Medical-forensic exams • Advocacy

# PREVENTION AND EMPOWERMENT SERVICES

- Healthy relationship education for co-ed middle and high school classes with a 10-session curriculum
- Young Women for Change after-school leadership and empowerment programming for girls and those who identify as female, ages 13-18, in collaboration with the Michigan Women Forward
- Trainings for educators on topics such as rape culture, healthy relationships, etc.
- Healthy relationship groups for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as part of the WEAVE (Working to End Assault and Violence for Everyone) collaboration
- Community outreach through events, panels, and workshops
- Outreach to local and state policy makers to build awareness of sexual violence prevention

*Few women have influenced our organization as fundamentally as Helen Claytor, and few things mattered more to her than the well-being of girls. In recognition of her commitment, a group of more than 70 donors came together to establish the Helen Claytor Recognition Society. The dollars raised by the Society are used to provide special leadership-building opportunities for the girls participating in the YWCA's leadership programs.*



**51** Grand Rapids bars and businesses partnered with Prevention and Empowerment Services for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

**389** sessions of prevention education provided through Healthy Relationships classes for middle and high school students of all genders. Of these, 98 were for students in alternative schooling.

**109** students with intellectual and developmental disabilities participated in sexual education through a partnership between the YWCA and the Kent Intermediate School District, developing the first-ever curriculum in Kent County for youth with I/DD. Individuals with I/DD are sexually assaulted at a rate seven times higher than those without disabilities (*via NPR/U.S. Justice Dept. study*).

The Young Women for Change after-school leadership and empowerment program kicked off by taking participants to the Women's March on Lansing. Girls learned about the power they can have and how coming together as a community can make a difference in the issues they care about.

Later, the program continued its summer camp, Activism Academy, for girls grade 7-9 and added the #BecomingAGirlBoss camp for girls grade 10-12. The camps provided girls with the opportunity to learn about social justice topics, develop skills to create change in their communities, and feel safe and valued while expressing themselves.

**44**  
young women learning to take the lead and impact the community around them

# PRIVATE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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YWCA CEO Charisse Mitchell (left) recognizes title sponsor Mercantile Bank with Mark Augustyn, Senior Lender and West Region President for Mercantile Bank of Michigan

**2018  
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*Tribute!*  
eliminating racism  
empowering women **ywca**



2017 Honorees (from left): Edye Evans Hyde, Binti Abdi, Valerie Carrasco, Deborah Phillips, Sara Knoester, and Jennifer Deamud. Not pictured: Dr. Veneése Chandler

**2017  
Title Sponsor:**



## SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HOSTED EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE YWCA:



Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC  
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The Greater Grand Rapids Chapter of Jack & Jill of  
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## Heart of West Michigan United Way

### Government Funders

Kent County Department of Health  
and Human Services  
Michigan Department of Health  
and Human Services  
Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Prevention and Treatment Board  
U.S. Federal Emergency Management  
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U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Justice  
(Office of Violence Against Women)

### Grace Dyer Hunting Circle (\$5,000+)

*As one of the YWCA's early leaders, Grace Dyer  
Hunting led the capital campaign in the early  
1920s to build our current Sheldon  
Boulevard facility.*

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### Helen J. Claytor Circle (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

*Civil rights leader Helen Claytor blazed the  
trail for later generations when she became  
our association's board president in the late  
1940s and again in the mid-1960s when she  
assumed the position of board president of  
the YWCA USA.*

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Michele L. Suchofsky-Gabrosek and  
Dr. John Gabrosek  
The Tassell - Wisner - Bottrall Foundation

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David and Judith Teater  
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*Educator, attorney, social activist, and Fifth  
 Congressional District candidate Jean McKee  
 led the organization during tumultuous times  
 in 1967 and 1968.*

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 Janet Zahn

**Francis Rutherford and  
 Emma Wanty Circle  
 (\$100 - \$499)**

*Dr. Frances Rutherford, the first female  
 city physician in the U.S., directed her  
 commitment to women's health toward the  
 establishment of the YWCA's predecessor  
 organization — The Women's Gymnasium and  
 Noon Rest — in the 19th century. Dr. Emma  
 Wanty's extraordinary fundraising ability  
 and active leadership in numerous offices  
 helped to establish the YWCA and strengthen  
 its position as an important community  
 resource.*

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***A YWCA volunteer in the 1940s, Loney Clinton Gordon played a leading role in the research that led to the discovery of the whooping cough vaccine. Like her YWCA peers, her contributions extend well beyond our organization and benefitted countless individuals.***

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a capital, programming and endowment campaign

drawing strength from our past, building for our future

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*The Putnam Heritage Society honors the generosity of Caroline W. Putnam, whose gift during the early part of the 20th century became the cornerstone of today's YWCA. Putnam Heritage Society members have graciously made estate gift arrangements to eventually benefit the YWCA and those it serves.*


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**Helen Claytor Recognition Society**  
*Few women have influenced the YWCA as fundamentally as Helen Claytor, and few things mattered more to her than the well-being of girls. The Helen Claytor Recognition Society gives life to her vision of a community that develops generations of girls into tomorrow's leaders by funding leadership-building opportunities for girls in YWCA empowerment programming.*

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