In a 1998 interview, Gene Siskel asked Oprah Winfrey, “What do you know for sure?” She struggled to answer in that moment. Soon after, she started asking herself that question. She developed a column and even a book entitled, What I Know For Sure filled with multiple life lessons as answers.

In 2020, there were many things we at YWCA Mahoning Valley did not know. Thwarted plans led us to quickly modify our way of working. Fortunately, with the help of donors and community partners, we kept going. One thing we knew for sure was that our mission was important to the community.

This was an important year for civic engagement as we participated in the YWomenCount 2020 Census campaign and encouraged people to utilize their voices to vote in the General Election. We increased our racial justice programming to call out the violence against people of color. Our events were switched to a virtual format so that we could continue to empower women and girls by: showcasing their talents in the Women Artists show; celebrating our achievements with Young Women with Bright Futures; and recognizing their potential in Y-Girls STEAM Ahead summer camps.

Thank you to our volunteers, sponsors, donors and partners who support YWCA Mahoning Valley. Together we will continue to speak out, take action and uplift others along the way.

**YWCA STAFF**
Leah Merritt, President & CEO
YWCA Mahoning Valley

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

_“The uncertainty will not hinder her from making bold, courageous choices.”_ - Morgan Harper Nichols

“Thank you to the volunteers, sponsors, donors and partners who support YWCA Mahoning Valley. Together we will continue to speak out, take action and uplift others along the way.”

- Leah Merritt

President & CEO
YWCA Mahoning Valley

**Board member and Women Artists Co-Chair Elizabeth Ford’s artwork was painted after hearing news of the generous donation to YWCA from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott.**

**YWCA Staff distributed gift cards to housing clients thanks to funding from United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. The giveaway was in response to the great demand for food and household items during the start of the pandemic.**
EMPOWERMENT

Equipping women with the skills, tools and opportunities needed for economic success and celebrating each other’s achievements

- 75 women attended Y’s Women: Power of the Purse
- 30 high school seniors were honored at the Young Women with Bright Futures ceremony
- 62 artists entered the Women Artists: A Celebration! online exhibit
- 7 young women artists between the ages of 14 and 17 entered the 17 Under 17 online exhibit

ADVOCACY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Confronting the systems that harm and create barriers in society

- 188 people attended the Trumbull/Mahoning Domestic Violence Collaborative Seminar
- 40 people attended the Stand Against Racism event
- 154 people participated in the 21-Day Racial Equity & Social Justice Challenge
- 221 people joined our Racial Justice Lunch & Learn “Understanding Racism in America” in November
- 37 people participated in the Ohio Nonviolence Week Reading Challenge

HOUSING

Providing safe, affordable, supportive housing for new and existing clients

- 26 individuals accessed WINGS housing
- 31 were served by the Rayen Avenue apartments
- 30 were served by the Barbara Wick Transitional Housing Program
- 21, accessed housing at Kensington Liberation Station
- 219 were served by permanent supportive housing for families with disabilities
- 73 individuals and organizations donated to the Wish Upon A Star program
- 99 children received holiday gifts and 33 teens received gift cards for Wish Upon A Star

CHILDCARE & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Offering quality kindergarten readiness curriculum for children in Discovery Place and exposing middle school girls to STEAM options for career pathways to living wage jobs

- 16 middle school girls participated in summer programming with Y-Girls STEAM Ahead virtual camps
- 23 children were enrolled in YWCA Discovery Place Early Learning Center

NEW BOARD CHAIR

CrysShanna A. Jackson, Ph. D. was elected Chair of the YWCA Mahoning Valley Board of Directors.

Dr. Jackson is Associate Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations at Youngstown State University.

2020 Income

Contributions and Special Events: 51%
Government Contracts & Foundations Grants: 32%
Management, General & Fundraising: 17%

2020 Expense

Housing & Supportive Services: 57%
Youth: 24%
Emancipation: 14%
Programs, General & Facilities: 4%
Management, General & Fundraising: 6%
United Way: 3%

TOTAL INCOME: $2,631,721
TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,778,781