

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

SPRING 2022



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Charleston, WV

We're Back IN PERSON for the 6th Annual Race to End Racism

YWCA Charleston Racial Equity & Inclusion Work is on the Move!

The YWCA Charleston will proudly hold its sixth annual **Race to End Racism on Saturday, April 23, 2022 IN PERSON!** Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Charleston community and surrounding areas came together in 2020 and 2021 to participate virtually to fight racism and champion human rights.

The program continues to make progress and was officially renamed in 2021 from the Racial Justice Program to the Racial Equity & Inclusion Program. Also, in 2021, Shanté Ellis was hired as the Racial Equity & Inclusion Program Director. Since its inception in 2017, The Race to End Racism has maintained the goals of raising awareness and critical operational funds for the Racial Equity & Inclusion Program.

Program Director Shanté Ellis works closely with our Racial Equity & Inclusion Committee, comprised of members of diverse faiths, ethnicities, races, ages, socio-economic statuses and professions. The program continues to experience strong growth and accomplishments year after year. Our role is to change one heart and one mind at a time to see true fulfillment of our mission work. Especially in today's world of divisive rhetoric, we must combat negative and unfair views of people of color, mitigate the downstream effects of racism, and attack the root causes of racial inequity.

In 2021 and to date, the Racial Equity & Inclusion Program has:

- Facilitated discussions with local organizations, municipal and state legislative bodies, businesses

and religious institutions such as Mountain State Justice, WELD, Charleston Area Alliance, The Mayor of Charleston, City of Charleston administrators/department heads and City Council, West Virginia State Legislators, West Virginia State University, University of Charleston, and others totaling over 1,000 individuals.

- Introduced our Anti-Racist series to include Implicit Bias, Meaningful Allyship, Understanding Privilege, and Acting with Intent.
- Facilitated Anti-Racist discussions for the freshman experience classes at WVSU for the fall and spring semesters.
- Collaborated with influential community leaders to start a series of children's virtual book readings that celebrate the African American community and culture to share with Kanawha and Boone County schools.
- Partnered with Read Aloud WV to distribute books to students at Mary C. Snow Elementary and provided each classroom with diversity book bins.

We are pleased with the work our Racial Equity & Inclusion Program has done in the past six years and know there is more work to be done. Only when individual biases and structures of oppression are dismantled will we see true advancement and equal opportunities for people of color.

Please join us on this mission and register to participate **IN PERSON** at the Race to End Racism, April 23, 2022. Visit [ywcacharleston.org](https://www.ywacharleston.org) to register and learn more ways to be involved.



In 2018, the YWCA Charleston launched "Many Stories, One Future", a three-year campaign to create a \$1 Million Racial Justice Endowment. We are proud to announce the \$1 Million goal was achieved in December 2021 and we have some more exciting news to share! **A most generous donor committed \$500,000 to the Racial Justice Endowment Fund provided the YWCA Charleston can secure matching funds of \$500,000, and the goal has been increased to \$2 Million!** These combined contributions will enrich the endowment to a \$2 Million restricted fund dedicated to racial equity & inclusion; making programming even more robust.

The YWCA Charleston has launched its #StriveFor5 Campaign to raise the needed \$500,000 match. Your donation can ensure anti-racism and diversity community-based initiatives at YWCA Charleston are funded in perpetuity for racial equity & inclusion work. Let's achieve change together through the gift of giving. Even the smallest gift can make a huge impact!

Join us on a pathway to sustainability!

Visit ywcacharleston.org/StriveFor5 to learn more about this initiative.

**over the
EDGE**

JUNE 18, 2022

Downtown Truist Building

Reserve & fund your rappel spot by May 10!



SCAN ME

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Huntington National Bank

Huntington National Bank has a rich history of being a most gracious supporter of YWCA Charleston programs as a Leader for Change. Huntington was the Title Sponsor of the 2022 Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon on February 25th, 2022. During the luncheon, Huntington National Bank Regional President Chad Prather **committed \$100,000 to the YWCA Charleston's Racial Justice Endowment Campaign**; comprising a fifth of the needed funding to achieve the #StriveFor5 goal. Mr. Prather openly challenged others in attendance to donate in an effort to expeditiously meet the \$500,000 match.



"As we transition our corporate sponsorships and giving to align more closely with community plan, we will work to build these types of relationships across West Virginia," Prather said. "It's vital to our communities that we identify the gaps and step in to help the people who need us most."

The YWCA Charleston is so incredibly grateful for Huntington National Bank, this donation, and their continued support of our organization!

a salute to Margaret Taylor

YWCA Sojourner's Shelter Program Director



Ms. Margaret has served as the Director since 1993 and prior to that, she held the Assistant Director position for 5 years. Sojourner's is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2022. During Margaret's tenure, she has shaped the program to the success it is today.

Margaret's name is synonymous with Sojourner's. Over her career at YWCA Charleston, Margaret has dedicated herself to the success of the program participants and the YWCA. She is the embodiment of meeting people where they are, coaching them, and empowering them to surmount any obstacle. She puts in late nights, early mornings, and weekends to make sure the residents have what they

need to succeed. Sojourner's has served around 10,000 individuals over the last 40 years, including children who have been enriched by Ms. Margaret's compassion, energy, and dedication. Many of us are familiar with Margaret's statement, "I've got to feed my children," which was often her response to where she was going, or what task she was working on. The program's budget and funding sources grew over the decades to make sure Sojourner's could meet the needs of the program. "We give people a bed and a reason to get out of it," is another phrase often shared by Margaret. She encourages and holds folks accountable in a kind manner. Everything Margaret has done has been to further the success of the staff and residents.

Those who have met Margaret are drawn to Sojourner's and they commit to supporting the program. This is evident through the longstanding partnerships she has developed with donors, volunteers, and supporters alike. All of these longstanding relationships are because of the community's passion for Sojourner's, yet it is a tribute to Margaret that folks share her passion for our community's most vulnerable people and their children. Following her retirement, The Margaret Taylor Education and Job Readiness Center will continue to provide people with opportunities to grow their skills, build a resume, gain interviewing experience, and attain a high school equivalency degree.

Margaret is known for her calming presence, warm smile, big heart, and humble approach. She says, "There is no 'I' in Sojourner's. We are a team." *It is an honor to have been a part of her team.*



VOLUNTEER *spotlight*

WEST VIRGINIA HEALTH RIGHT

WV Health Right's main clinic on the East End of Charleston is within walking distance to the YWCA Charleston Headquarters and many of the YWCA Charleston program locations. WV Health Right's mission is to provide comprehensive quality healthcare to impoverished uninsured/underinsured adults regardless of insurance or financial status.

WV Health Right has been an invaluable partner to the YWCA Charleston and during the pandemic, offering countless free COVID-19 testing and vaccinations to our program participants and employees. Their COVID-19 testing and vaccinations remain available at all three clinic locations and expanded

drive through options are currently available at their main clinic and West Side locations. We were grateful to attend the grand opening celebration of WV Health Right's CommUNITY Wellness Center at their West Side location on March 17, 2022, and look forward to continued collaboration with WV Health Right.



Thank you, WV Health Right for providing critical COVID-19 testing and vaccination services to the YWCA Program participants and employees, and being a vital partner to the YWCA Charleston.

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

1426 Kanawha Blvd., E
Charleston, WV 25301

 /ywcacharleston

 /ywcacharleston

 /ywcacharlestonwv

ywcacharleston.org



United Way
of Central West Virginia

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.47
Charleston, WV 25301

Girls Night Out[®]
power • passion • purpose

(304) 340-3594
gnowv.com

OUR DATE IS SET TO CELEBRATE **IN-PERSON!**

August 13th, 2022

2022 *Leaders*
FOR CHANGE
eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Charleston, WV

Corporate partners whose
support sustains **YWCA**
Charleston so that we can
continue to serve the most
vulnerable in our
communities.

peace



TRUIST 

encova
INSURANCE



freedom

empowerment

dignity



KOMAX
Business Systems

GREYLOCK
ENERGY

Appalachian Power
City National Bank
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank
Suddenlink-Altice
United Bank