On April 29, 2017, YWCA Charleston launched our inaugural Race to End Racism. Held in conjunction with the national YWCA Campaign: Stand Against Racism, the Race to End Racism has grown exponentially each year, with 900 participants registered for our last in-person event in 2019. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Charleston community and beyond came together in 2020 for the first-ever virtual Race to End Racism. Now, in 2021, we are hosting the second virtual celebration to both raise awareness and to raise critical operational funds for the YWCA Charleston Racial Justice Program. With those funds, the progress and growth we have seen from our Racial Justice Program has created powerful dialog and action to address racism.

Guided by our Racial Justice Committee, comprised of members of diverse faiths, ethnicities, races, ages, socio-economic statuses and professions, YWCA Charleston works with a broad spectrum of partners in the community to address the ways racism is tearing the fabric of our families and communities. Since the inception of the 2017 Race to End Racism, here are some of the Racial Justice Program highlights:

**FIVE Years of Progress in Racial Justice:**
- Hiring a full-time Racial Justice Program Director, Deedra Keys-Switzer.
- Presenting our Implicit Bias training in-person and virtually to over 1500 individuals
- Partnered with many community leaders and organizations including West Virginia State University, University of Charleston, West Virginia Center for African American Culture, West Virginia House of Delegates, Kanawha County Schools, Charleston Area Alliance, Generation Charleston, and many others to provide trainings, host events, and participate in panel discussions.
- Hosted in-person and virtual "Conversation Cafe" events, engaging community and YWCA staff in topics to support open dialogue about racial and social justice issues.
- Helped establish the honorary renaming of Charleston's Court Street to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way.
- Hosted a panel discussion and created a video giving a stage to the unheard voices of Charleston’s historic Triangle District.

We have so many reasons to celebrate the past five years of racial justice work, but we have so much more to do. It is our mission to ensure meaningful change happens right here for people of color in West Virginia.

Please join us in this mission and Race to End Racism virtually, wherever you are, from April 10th - 24th and visit ywcacharleston.org to register and find out how you can get involved with our Racial Justice Program.
Due to the restrictions of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the immensity of planning, fundraising, and executing a successful event, the YWCA Charleston and Racial Justice Endowment Campaign Committee have decided to officially postpone Over The Edge 2021 to June 18, 2022. While we are disappointed that our 2021 event will not be able to happen, we are excited to bring this urban rappelling fundraiser to Charleston, WV to raise critical funds for our Many Stories, One Future - YWCA Campaign to End Racism. This is a 3-year $1 million endowment campaign to support racial justice work in Kanawha, Clay, and Boone counties in perpetuity.

Please save the date for Over The Edge on June 18, 2022 and visit ywcacharleston.org/onefuture to learn more about this vital cause.
The Bible Center Church of Charleston characterizes their outreach as: "Investing in the lives of individuals who are hurting, hungry, or homeless in our community by building bridges and developing ongoing relationships." The church truly fulfills this through their ongoing and long-term partnership with YWCA Charleston.

Recently, volunteers from the Bible Center Church of Charleston donated heated throw blankets for the senior women at YWCA Shanklin Center for Senior Enrichment & Empowerment Homes and returned on a freezing dark evening to sing socially distant outside while providing hot chocolate to make their 2020 holiday season feel a little less isolated.

The Bible Center Church of Charleston also provides incredible support at YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women & Families, including a 2019 redesign and decorating/furnishing of the Children's activity room. Little did they know how much the bright, beautiful space would be used in 2020. They also prepared scrumptious pre-pandemic cookouts with activities for all ages. Even the pandemic could not deter them from cooking and delivering extra special meals for Sojourner's residents. We are truly grateful to all of the wonderful Bible Center Church volunteers who invest their time and talents to benefit YWCA Charleston and our programs. Thank you!
Corporate partners whose support sustains YWCA Charleston so that we can continue to serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Together, we work to promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

2021 Leaders For Change
eliminating racism empowering women
ywca

peace
dignity
freedom

Appalachian Power
City National Bank
Greylock Energy
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GIRLS NIGHT OUT GOES IN...
again!
save the date
AUGUST 8-14, 2021