

PAVING THE WAY

A NEW DIRECTION FOR YWCA MINNEAPOLIS

OUR MISSION

YWCA Minneapolis strives to eliminate racism; empower women and girls; and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

WHO WE ARE

For more than 130 years, YWCA Minneapolis has worked with our community to meet the needs of hundreds of thousands of people throughout the Twin Cities.

A NEED FOR CHANGE

While YWCA Minneapolis programs continue to make a difference for thousands each year, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened existing disparities in our community, and we are already beginning to see long-term consequences, especially for children and teens. After all of the school disruptions and prolonged isolation they have gone through, youth are experiencing significant declines in educational outcomes, mental health and access to vital resources – including teachers and mentors. These impacts are most prominent for students of color and students from low-income households who are seeing a much more drastic decline than their peers.

Unless we invest more in our programs that are making a difference, our children – through no fault of their own – will face lifelong challenges that limit their opportunities to grow and develop. We must act now to ensure these issues don't impede their progress any more than they already have. Our children need us to advocate for them, and we will continue working with our individual and institutional partners to pave the way for their success.



I have proudly watched YWCA Minneapolis impact thousands of lives in our community – including my own! I'm thrilled to carry on this legacy of continually adapting and evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of our community.

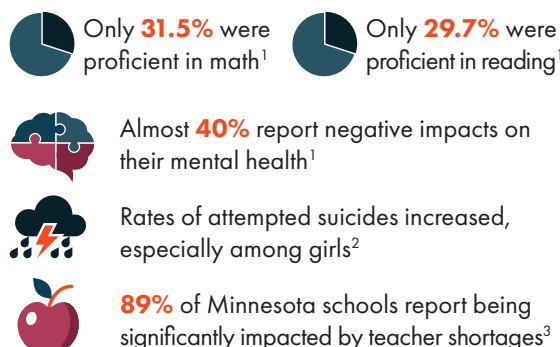
Now, it's time for YWCA Minneapolis to evolve as it has so many times before.

We will be repositioning our organization to invest more into Early Childhood Education, Girls and Youth programs, and Racial Justice work, as well as transform our Midtown location into a community hub. This change will allow us to make an even more significant difference for the thousands impacted by our programs, and I am excited to share it with you!

In community with you,

SHELLEY CARTHEN WATSON
President and CEO,
YWCA Minneapolis

2022 COVID-19 STUDENT IMPACT



¹ https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile/overview/MN?ci=PgTab_OT&chart=2&sub=MAT&sj=MN&fs=SubjectLabel&st=MN&year=2022R3&sg=Gender%3A%20Male%20vs.%20Female&sgv=Difference&ts=Single%20Year&tss=2022R3&sf=NP

² <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED614131.pdf> (pg. 6)

³ <https://educationminnesota.org/news/press-release/teacher-shortage-expands-in-minnesota/>



OUR IMPACT

YWCA Minneapolis serves thousands of people every year – offering high-quality, affordable early childhood education; providing comprehensive support services and educational enrichment activities for all youth; equipping community members with the knowledge and skills to address racial issues at all levels; advocating for public policy changes; and operating community fitness facilities.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The challenges facing our community are dire, and we must adapt to meet them by restructuring our programs to increase our impact and ability to serve those most in need.

OUR PLAN

Given the urgent needs of our community, we are restructuring our organization. We have made the decision to close fitness operations at our Uptown and Downtown locations and pursue the sale of those buildings while we work to find alternative space for our Downtown early childhood education center. This change will enable us to serve our community as needs change and costs rise.

Moving forward, we will invest more into our early childhood education, girls and youth and racial justice programs. We will also turn our Midtown location into a community hub where people can access services. By focusing on these areas of impact, we can continue to be the program leader and advocate our participants and partners need.

OUR FOUR PILLARS

Early Childhood Education

Giving Every Child the Chance

Girls & Youth

Empowering and Inspiring Youth

Racial Justice & Public Policy

Until Justice Just Is

Midtown Community Hub

A Space for Everyone