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# 13



## 100 YEARS LATER: THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

Throughout its one hundred years the YWCA has provided needed services for women and girls in Nashville and Middle Tennessee. A partnership of the professional staff of the YWCA and dedicated volunteers has met the challenges of social change and responded with a program of vision. Like those women who accepted the challenge to establish a YWCA one hundred years ago, these women have demonstrated a belief in their mission and a responsibility to those in need. The YWCA has brought diverse women together and provided them with opportunities for increased understanding and tolerance. Through the YWCA, women continue to help women.

Ten years after the dedication of the building at 1608 Woodmont the YWCA celebrates its centennial, 100 years of service to the women and girls of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. In 1998, the program of the YWCA reflects its continued belief in its original mission of helping women in need. The roots of all the current programs of the YWCA can be traced to the historical roots:

- Domestic Violence Shelter is now a national YWCA program. The Nashville shelter serves over 6000 victims each year through the 24-hour Crisis Line and the shelter. The Shelter provides legal referral and court advocacy programs as well as support groups and children's programs. The Shelter provides services for over 7,000 women and children traumatized by domestic violence each year. The YWCA hopes to break ground on a new shelter in 1998.

•The Youth Department of the YWCA provides an after-school component and a residential component through its programs. Youth Services includes the Sisterhood program which provides after-school activities for African-American girls age 10-14. In addition to building self esteem and self confidence, the curriculum features drug prevention, communication skills and decision making, and help in improving academic performance. Try Angle House, the YWCA's program for adolescent girls, is a national model. This program provides nurturing support and structure in a therapeutic home environment for adolescent teenage girls who are unable to live at home due to some form of abuse or neglect. Family reunification or preparation for independent living are the goals of this program. Presently, Try Angle House has a capacity for eleven girls.

•Community and Career Education is a continuation of the YWCA's historic emphasis on educational opportunities for women. This program provides opportunities to the public for continuing education as well as career counseling and legal services. This program services thousands of people throughout Nashville and Middle Tennessee annually.

•NewStart is a program to prepare women who are within six months of their release eligibility date from the Tennessee Prison for Women. The program offers employment and life skills workshops to help women make the transition from incarceration to freedom. Counselors assist them with securing housing, career assessment, job readiness and placement, life skills and family reunification. Ongoing support is offered to participants after release. This program has provided assistance to more than 400 women.

•Employment and Training helps women who must support their families to find jobs and economic independence. More than 300 women receive training, referrals and job leads annually. Classes are offered in GED instruction, Adult Basic Education, and Survival Skills workshops to prepare them for the workplace. The job placement and referral service assists participants upon completion. The Trade Option Program (TOP) trains women for higher paying jobs in occupations normally held by men.

•YWCA Dollar General Learning Center is the newest program of the YWCA. A unique partnership between the YWCA and the Dollar General Corporation, this program offers qualified residents of South and Northeast Nashville educational training and employment services.

•Family Child Care Registration offers training and start-up assistance to women interested in providing quality day care in their homes.

•CABLE is the YWCA's associate in creating diverse networks and promoting opportunities for business and professional women. As an associate of the YWCA, CABLE receives administrative services that offer both logistical and operational support to the organization. In addition, CABLE's president annually serves as an ex-officio member of the YWCA Board.

These programs are funded by a variety of sources including the United Way, individual and corporate contributions, special events, government grants, membership fees and other sources. As the YWCA enters its second century of service, its annual budget approaches \$3 million.

One hundred years ago, the women who organized the YWCA gave of themselves to meet the needs of women. Although two ministers had responded to the letter in the newspaper, they knew that for this organization to succeed, it would have to be an organization of women. The YWCA was organized in Nashville for the purpose of helping the young woman working in business or in the factory to meet her needs: where to live, where to eat, and what to do for fun. Through the efforts of the board members and volunteers, working women gained respectability as well as independence. Women who had been sheltered from many of the social problems of the community were given an opportunity to see first-hand how other women lived. This growing awareness of other women's needs enabled these women to realize the common bonds of womanhood and the potential good that could be accomplished by women working together.

As the YWCA celebrates its one hundredth anniversary throughout 1998, it is launching a eleven million dollar capital campaign to fund existing and expanding programs into its second century of service. The campaign will provide the funds for a new domestic violence shelter and a new group home for teenage girls as well as creating an endowment to secure current and future program needs. The 1998 programs of the YWCA reflect its continued commitment to eliminate racism and to empower women as women work together. As the needs of women in this community change, the YWCA will continue to accept the challenges ahead with new ideas, new energy and new vision.

#### MISSION

*The YWCA of the United States of America is a women's membership movement, nourished by its roots in Christian faith and sustained by the richness of many beliefs and values.*

*Strengthened by diversity, the Association draws together membership who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people.*

*The Association will thrust its collective power toward the elimination of racism where it exists and by any means necessary.*