



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

helena

**BRIGHT
FUTURES
AHEAD**

2021 IMPACT REPORT

YWCA HELENA

Creating impact for more than 100 years

YWCA Helena is stronger than ever because of this community's generosity.



This year we've served more women and children than ever before, added child mental health services, and opened a therapeutic childcare center.

Our budget has grown to hire more staff, expand our physical space for programs, and provide more support for women transitioning into the community.

In the last year I've listened to numerous concerns from our community. These calls all highlight three critical areas for Helena: 1) Helena needs a dedicated women's and children's emergency shelter; 2) Helena's housing crisis needs a comprehensive approach; and 3) Helena has too few mental health services for vulnerable populations, especially children.

These challenges aren't going away on their own and YWCA Helena is resolved to lead in empowering women, protecting children, and lending a voice to the voiceless.

Join us.



Jenifer Gursky
YWCA Helena Executive Director

My six years serving on YWCA Helena's board has been immensely rewarding.

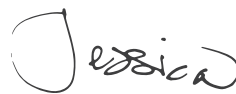


The healing and restoration I've observed has been tremendous. Your generosity and partnership in the last year has had a remarkable ripple effect that is reflected in this report. More women and children served than ever before. More program offerings for a full wrap-around, holistic recovery occurred than ever before. You're part of this mission and I am deeply grateful for you.

In 2015, when we started Caterpillars, we never would have dreamed that we'd be opening a trauma-responsive and therapeutic childcare center. But we did, and it's called the Caterpillars Clubhouse.

The innovative yet strategic growth we've experienced in the last few years is a testament to this community's unwavering support of YWCA Helena.

Thank you.



Jessica Stewart-Kuntz
YWCA Helena Board President

WINGS:

WINGS (Women Initiating New Growth and Stability) serves women who experience extreme poverty, homelessness, co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders, involvement with the justice system, and if they have children involvement with CPS.

Caterpillars:

Caterpillars Parenting Center is a community-based program that offers supervised parenting, safe exchange, evidence-based parenting classes, children's mental health services, and therapeutic childcare.

Social & Racial Justice:

The Social and Racial Justice committee hosts candidate forums, facilitates book clubs, and creates opportunities for community members to promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

Finance:

Nearly 47% of YWCA Helena's income comes from the generosity of our community and we carefully steward funds to strengthen programs and respond to community needs.

Kate's Story

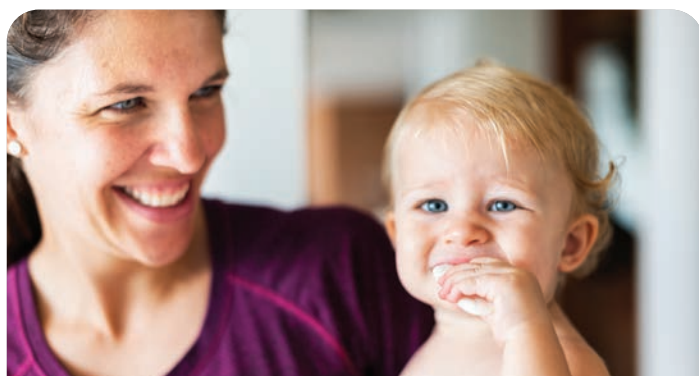
I was eight months pregnant with my fifth child and entering treatment for substance use disorder. I was ready. Ready to be sober. Ready to find order in my life. Ready to commit to the hard road ahead.

After my son was born, he was taken away. All my kids were living with multiple family members. I was doing my best to manage co-parenting with two individuals, mending past toxic relationships with family members, working with Child Protective Services and tackling sobriety for the first time in years.

When I found YWCA Helena, I found therapists and staff who cared about me, all my children, my past and my future. I set goals — sobriety and reunification with my children — and started laying a solid foundation so we could grow as a family. YWCA helped me to build a successful life in recovery.

In the WINGS program, I found peace inside myself and discovered my true self identity. I completed all classes offered through the Caterpillars Parenting Center, learning skills for bettering the relationships with my children and my family.

Now, with the support of YWCA Helena and Caterpillars Clubhouse, I am reunified with Liam, Olivia, Charlotte, Oliver, and Emma. We are setting new goals together, and with continued love from the programs and people at YWCA Helena, I am confident we will achieve them.



“ In the WINGS program, I found peace inside myself and discovered my true self identity. ”
Kate



“ During the past two years the YWCA has responded to every challenge, be it Covid or floods, in a way that not only exemplifies resilience to the women and community they serve, but expands to fill the gaps and cracks. What continues to impress me most about YWCA is that they continue to step up and step in — they are doing the things that aren't being done elsewhere to better serve women and children in our community. ”

Melissa Schlichting
YWCA Helena Board Member

24

ROOMS

YWCA Helena has 24 residential rooms. 18 of those rooms can accommodate children.

73%

WOMEN

of women continue to receive YWCA Helena services after they've transitioned to the community.

20

WOMEN

20 women are typically on the waitlist for YWCA Helena services.

10

WOMEN

10 women at YWCA Helena were pregnant or postpartum (within 12 months of giving birth) in 2021.



Women Initiating New Growth and Stability

WINGS is a state-endorsed Substance Use Disorder recovery program that offers holistic wrap-around care for women who experience homelessness, co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, poverty, justice system involvement, and if women have children, are involved with CPS.

The historic building on Park Avenue hosts 24 residential rooms, 17 of which can house children. WINGS consistently operates at capacity, housing an average of 24 women and 20 children. Openings occur when women can safely transition to the community after the now-typical 12-24 month wait for community housing, causing a stubborn waitlist for services that is often 20 names long.

In 2021, WINGS strategically grew to add staff and programming. Women who have children younger than 8 years old continue to represent over 80% of those the program serves, WINGS continues to be the only program in our community that serves women of any age, any family status, and children of any age.

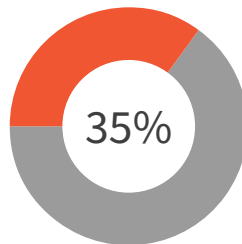
YWCA Helena served 43 women in 2021.



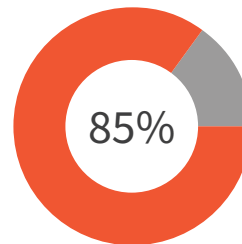
live below the Federal Poverty Level.



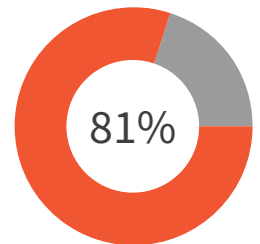
were at risk of, or in the midst of homelessness.



of clients served were women of color.



were involved in the justice system.

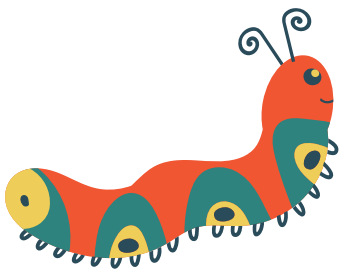


served were mothers.

“ At first, I didn’t understand how treatment could help me with my mental health and addictions. I was afraid and embarrassed. Now, after 3 months, I feel better. I can think clearly and I am excited about my future. You saved my life! ”

WINGS Participant





YWCA HELENA

Caterpillars

Parenting Center

Caterpillars Parenting Center offers critical interventions and therapeutic services for children and supportive services for parents. It offers supervised parenting, safe exchange, parenting classes, and one-on-one parenting coaching. In addition to offering support to the mothers of WINGS, all services are open to the community and often referred from partners like The Friendship Center, District Courts, and CPS.

In 2021, Caterpillars Parenting Center hired its first child mental health therapist, creating the Caterpillars Counseling Center. The program now offers Parent-Child Interactive Therapy, family therapy, play therapy, and other therapeutic interventions for WINGS participants and community members utilizing the services of Caterpillars.

Clubhouse

In 2021, YWCA Helena launched the Caterpillars Clubhouse, a trauma-informed and therapeutic childcare center. Licensed with the state for up to 24 children, the center hosts an on-site room for speech, physical, occupational, play, and other therapies. The Clubhouse utilizes Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, coaching and supporting childcare staff to work with children who have experienced trauma.

The Clubhouse accepts children who have experienced trauma, out-of-home placement in the foster care system, and who live at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Line. The Clubhouse serves children ages 0-6 years old and offers critical developmental and social emotional interventions.



\$1600 PER CHILD EVERY MONTH

A single child enrolled in the Caterpillars Clubhouse costs \$1,600 per month. YWCA Helena subsidizes \$800 per month, per child beyond what the State of Montana will provide for a child in fulltime daycare. Each year, YWCA Helena needs to raise an additional \$230,400 for the Caterpillars Clubhouse.

24

CHILDREN
were housed at
YWCA Helena.



23

CHILDREN
were served by
Caterpillars
Child Care.



51

PARENTS
completed
our parenting
classes



14

CHILDREN
were reunified
with their
mothers.



17

CHILDREN
were served by
Caterpillars
Counseling.



Continuing our impact

YWCA's Housing Crisis Response

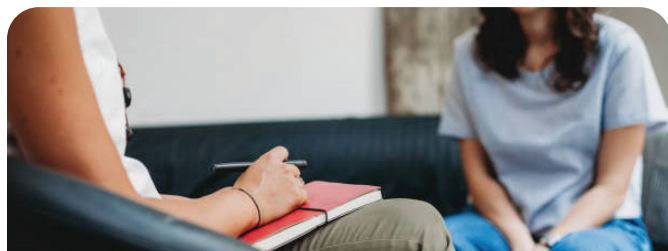
In 2021, YWCA Helena partnered with Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Habitat for Humanity, Rocky Mountain Development Council and the City of Helena to conduct a feasibility study for a full continuum housing project. The proposed project includes a supportive and transitional 20-unit facility owned and operated by YWCA Helena. The entire project proposes 9.8 acres of development and over 130 homes. To find out more information about this innovative and community-responsive project, visit: www.ywcahelena.org/ourfuture



Expanding Critical Services

YWCA Helena conducted extensive renovation on its downtown century-old building in 2015. And while the renovation was vital to ensuring the stability and sustainability of YWCA Helena, lack of funding left key parts of the building undone. Ten years later, it is time for us to focus on ensuring the legacy built for us 100 years ago remains for the next century of work.

The lowest level of the building, the basement, remains unfinished. At 5,000 ft², it has potential to create 8 more therapist offices, children's play areas, and more group therapy rooms. As we look to 2022 and 2023, please join us in the journey of expanding YWCA Helena to meet serious service gaps in our community.



Caterpillars Clubhouse: Rent or Own?

We launched Caterpillars Clubhouse in 2021, but YWCA Helena currently rents the space necessary to operate the trauma-responsive, therapeutic childcare.

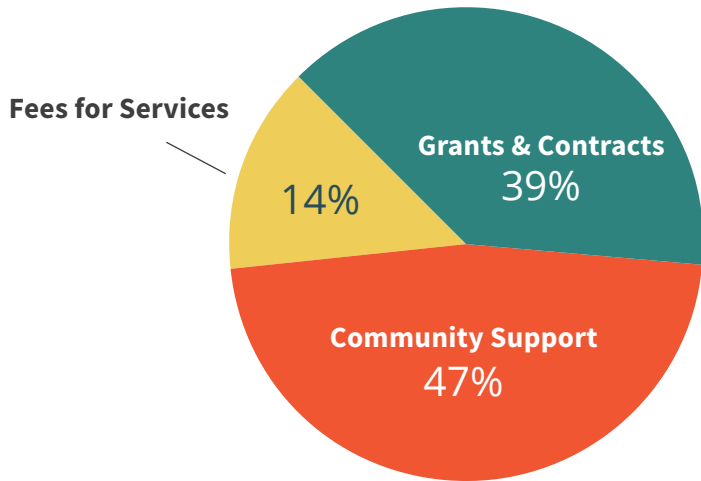
Looking forward, YWCA Helena will seek permanency for this program. The current rented facility is in walking distance from the YWCA residences and is licensed for up to 24 children.

The leadership of YWCA seeks to innovatively meet our community's needs and continues to find ways to build sustainability and permanency.

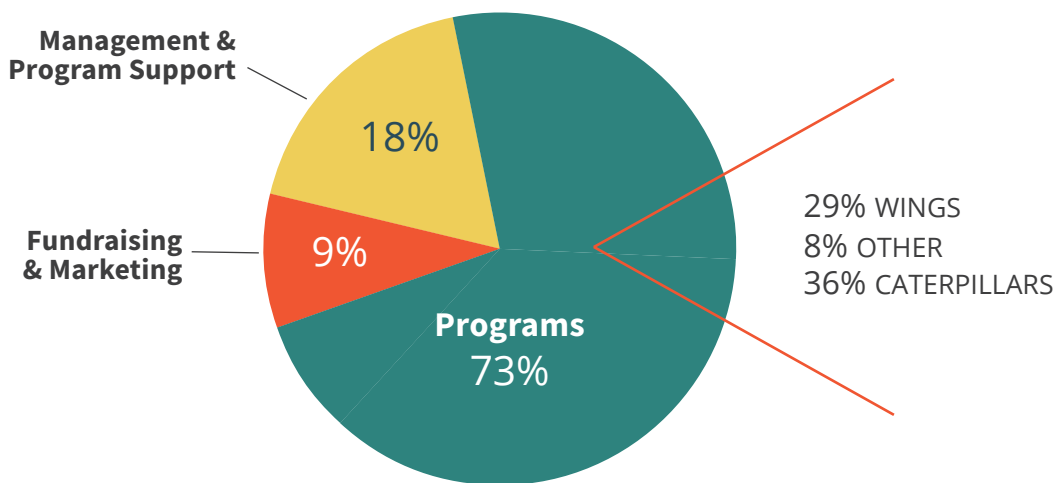


Financials

REVENUE IN 2021: \$1,215,352



EXPENSES IN 2021: \$1,136,461



YWCA HELENA Board of Directors

Jessica Stewart-Kuntz
Board President

Abbie Cziok
Board Vice President

Jill-Marie Steeley
Secretary/Treasurer

Gayle Agostinelli

Zoe Barnard

Kim Feig

Tess Horenblas

Rebecca Lawson

Kimberly Mangold

Samantha Offerdahl

Katy Peterson

Melissa Schlichting

Krystal Stewart

Ann M Waickman

“ YWCA Helena’s clients and staff showed resilience through COVID-19. Through effective and efficient programming, YWCA Helena’s financial position displays the same resilience. The agency grew to respond to both a global pandemic and a call from our community. Since 2019, YWCA Helena has tripled it’s revenue, staff, and program outcomes. We are healthy, growing, and looking to our future with strength. ”

Jill-Marie Steeley, YWCA Helena Treasurer

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P.O. Box 518
Helena, MT 59624

We are very grateful for the many ways our donors and benefactors engage with and support us. We simply would not be able to serve our community without you.

This impact report describes the many incredible outcomes created because of your partnership and generosity. Thank you.

With your continued help you will ensure the people, programs, and YWCA Helena's critical mission are supported. Thank you for being part of this bright future and helping to meet our community's needs.

Please join us in this work and make a generous gift to YWCA Helena today.



ywcahelena.org/donate



YWCA Helena is a non-profit organization providing transitional housing and supportive services for homeless women and their children.

501 North Park Ave.
Helena, Montana 59601
ywcahelena.org/donate

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
(406) 442-8774