

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2002 - 2003



**Message from the
Board Chairperson
and President/CEO**

Dear Friends,

For much of the last twelve months, the YWCA has been hard at work laying the foundation for some exciting and important changes that promise to enhance the services we currently provide and our ability to support those we serve.

In the fall, we concluded an important reorganization of the YWCA's Counseling Center that better aligns the operations associated with our services for domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse. While we anticipate the next year will offer continued opportunities for improvement, we are confident that the result will allow us to more efficiently manage key administrative functions and provide a more integrated, seamless therapeutic approach to benefit our clients.

Significant steps also have been made to develop a customized database which will allow the YWCA to electronically and comprehensively manage all client records for the first time in our history. Slated to be completed in June 2004, the database will ease the current manual process of preparing numerous and highly varied funder reports. Moreover, it will increase our efficiency in responding to issues surrounding violence against women and children. We expect the new system will make available critical information regarding our client base and place the YWCA as a community leader in providing services to those in need.

Understanding that the YWCA is an advocate, as well as, a service-provider, public policy statements are being discussed on the regional, state, and national levels. Within our own association, we're taking similar steps along this front with the creation of a Public Policy Committee. We are working to expand our own public voice as advocates for those whom we serve and our community.

A recently completed Marketing Plan – developed after months of research and review which included marketing professionals, board members, and representation of YWCA staff from throughout the organization – helps better define who we are to our varied audiences. It also provided invaluable background as we set about to create the YWCA's next Strategic Plan which will act as our organization's guide for the next five years.

The YWCA of Grand Rapids has also taken a lead role in helping to refine the National YWCA's vision. With the creation of the newly accepted YWCA Hallmark Impact Areas: *to empower women and to eliminate racism*, the organization will once again have a common nationwide core of programs that embodies the YWCA's mission and better allows us to focus our collective energy. Most importantly, this effort allows YWCAs to enhance our proud tradition as the largest provider of sexual assault and domestic violence services in the country.

Throughout our past – long ago and more recently – such a tradition of success has been strengthened by committed supporters. It is, no doubt, the foundation for all that is to come as well. For this and for all our supporters provide on the YWCA's behalf, we offer our deepest appreciation and present to you this record of the achievements such generosity has helped realize.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Edwards-Cannon, Chairperson
Board of Directors



Caroline "Carla" Blinkhorn,
President/CEO



YWCA Sexual Assault Services

The YWCA continues to provide some of the most comprehensive and progressive services available for victims of sexual assault in our state. Between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003, the YWCA cared for 717 individuals through our 24-crisis intervention services, counseling or support groups. Of that figure, approximately 300 received medical-forensic examinations through the **YWCA's Nurse Examiner Program**. With these services, which are offered at no cost to victims with the exception of on-going therapy, the YWCA has a tremendous impact on the lives of victims of sexual violence and those who care about them.

In a recent survey of clients who had concluded counseling or therapy, 75% were successfully able to identify important coping skills and tools that helped them deal with the emotional consequences of their assaults, such as anxiety, nightmares, fears, and depression. Over 80% reported that they felt well supported as a result of their participation in the YWCA's support groups.

Additionally, in 2003 the **YWCA Nurse Examiner Program** coordinators passed the new national certification exam for sexual assault nurse examiners. The certification is part of a national movement to develop standardized practices related to the field of forensic nursing.

YWCA Domestic Violence Services

Citing statistics from the Bureau of Justice which found that every 15 seconds in the United States, a woman is beaten by her current or former husband or intimate partner, the YWCA has continued to provide critical services for victims of domestic violence in our own community. These include crisis intervention, emergency domestic violence shelter, counseling for victims and assailants, support groups, and long-term transitional housing for those leaving the shelter and the cycle of domestic violence.

With the local economic downturn coupled with the dynamic of domestic violence, more and more victims are finding themselves in unusually difficult situations. Few have resources with which to independently and safely sustain themselves and their children. Approximately 96% of the women served at the YWCA's Domestic Crisis Center are low-income. Consequently, the YWCA saw an increase in the average stay at our shelter from 15 days in 2001-02 to 18 days in 2002-03.

In an effort to help survivors build an independent life free from violence, the **YWCA's Project HEAL** program has found great success. Established in 1997, Project HEAL offers clients Housing, Education, Advocacy, and Legal Assistance, and innumerable other supportive services for up to two years after they leave our Domestic Crisis Center. Doing so gives them the time and assistance they need to gain the skills necessary to be self-sustaining. Indicating the program's success during the 2002-03 fiscal year, approximately 38% gained part-time or full-time employment when they completed the program; 50% participated in education programs (ex: GED, real estate training, LPN, massage certificate, medical technician certification); 44% maintained or obtained a car (independent transportation); and 85% obtained safe, affordable permanent housing of their own.

Our Mission: To Empower Women, Promote Diversity, and Advocate for Justice and Equality



YWCA Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Services

One of every four girls and one of every six boys is sexually abused before reaching adulthood. Through our **Child Sexual Abuse Treatment services**, the YWCA continues - as we have since this service component was established in 1982 - to effectively respond to such frightening statistics. Between July 2002 and June 2003, the YWCA helped over 300 families deal with the devastating trauma that occurs as a consequence of child sexual abuse. Understanding that a healthy, supportive family is the best chance a child has to heal following sexual abuse, YWCA services focus on the whole family, not just the child victim. Key elements of the program are individual, family, marital and group counseling. By replacing low self-esteem, fear, hopelessness, and a trauma-based view of the world with a sense of resiliency, courage, empowerment and self-care,

our participants are able to engage in life choices that reflect an internal sense of value and respect for themselves and others. Highlighting this success, the YWCA found that in the 2002-03 reporting period, 77% of children leaving the program demonstrated an increased ability to effectively manage the stress in their young lives.

YWCA Girls Inc. Program

In 2003, we successfully concluded the three year pilot period for the **YWCA Girls Inc. Program**. While on the surface, the YWCA Girls Inc. Program may resemble more traditional girls programs, what sets it apart is the population we serve – girls, ages 9-17 who have either witnessed violence or been victimized. Providing services that help support and guide them as they grow is a critical part of helping prevent future victimization for this vulnerable population. As evidence of the pilot's success, 80% of the girls who participated reported that they felt empowered by the program, felt our program had high expectations for girls, and felt Girls Inc. increased their commitment to learning. More than 90% felt supported by adults and that the YWCA helped promote positive values, social competencies and positive individual identities.

With a continued emphasis on strengthening the developmental assets of girls – especially those who may not have access to other resources – the YWCA Girls Inc. Program has maintained its partnerships with area foster agencies, Park School, YWCA counseling programs, and several area middle and high schools.

YWCA Health and Fitness Services

The **YWCA's Health and Fitness services** have existed in various forms since the organization was established in 1900. The health and wellness of the young women in our community was viewed by YWCA founders as central to the YWCA's mission. Since that time YWCA activities and facilities have been designed with this in mind and have become an integral part of our services. We have worked hard to broaden our community's understanding of women's health and even harder to broaden access to important health resources. For many of those we serve, even heeding experts' advice to take a simple walk each day is impossible because it assumes that one's neighborhood is safe or that one has not endured past victimization and feels physically secure. The YWCA's importance to these populations is great, and in 2002-03, we served 326 families. Our programming is strongly aligned with important national and local health initiatives, namely Healthy People 2010 and Healthy Kent 2010 respectively. The **YWCA's Health Fitness Center** has continued to be an important resource for YWCA counseling clients and in this fiscal year, 20% reported utilizing the facilities and services in conjunction with their traditional treatment. Additional partnerships include the YWCA Girls Inc. Program, Park School for teen mothers, and a host of other area non-profit organizations.



Since the beginning our local community has been the cornerstone of much of the YWCA's success, and the past year was no exception. A number of community volunteers organized successful fundraisers to benefit the YWCA's services. These included **Rogers Department Store's** clothing drive efforts; the **HolidayFest Charity Auction** which celebrated its final year with its traditional festive generosity; the Vagina Monologues which was sponsored by the **Nokomis Foundation, GVSU's Women's Center, School of Communications and FORGE**; and the **Grand Rapids Frontrunners** who hosted their annual Pride 5K Run. Additionally, the YWCA was the grateful beneficiary of the **Women Lawyers Association of Michigan-Western Region's** generosity. In celebration of their 20th anniversary, their annual Women Lawyers vs Judges charity softball game raised over \$10,000 for the YWCA.

Of particular note is the **Steelcase Foundation's** extraordinary gift of \$50,000 which was given to commemorate its 50th anniversary and to aid the YWCA in capacity enhancement projects.

The YWCA's own annual fundraising events – **Circle of Women, Run Jane Run, and TRIBUTE!**, were an important part of the 2002-03 landscape, raising well over \$100,000 in net revenue for YWCA services and enhancing the organization's community profile.

*Financial Information
Schedule of Support, Revenue and Expenses
Year Ended September 30, 2003*

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions and nongovernment grants	\$ 248,480
Special Events (net)	\$ 141,959
Government Grants	\$ 1,836,567
United Way	\$ 409,946
Program Fees	\$ 381,683
Utility Refund - net expense	\$ 0
Membership Dues	\$ 115,968
Investment Income	\$ 18,233
Income from Outside Trusts	\$ 10,729
* Change in Value of Beneficial Interests in Outside Trusts	\$ 70,747
*Loss on Disposal of Property and Equipment	\$ 0
*Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	<u>\$ 97,582</u>
	\$ 3,331,894

EXPENSES

Functional Expenses

Salaries and contract staff	\$ 1,833,700
Payroll Taxes	\$ 155,781
Employee Benefits	\$ 252,769
Professional Services	\$ 253,196
Food and Household Supplies	\$ 31,037
Operating Supplies and Expenses	\$ 116,950
Telephone	\$ 29,159
Postage	\$ 8,779
Utilities	\$ 150,193
Insurance	\$ 48,822
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 84,756
Publicity and Promotion	\$ 32,830
Travel and Vehicle Expense	\$ 21,578
Conference, Training and Dues	\$ 18,243
Housing, Transportation and Other Client Assistance	\$ 191,113
Interest	\$ 546
National YWCA Support	<u>\$ 15,216</u>
	\$ 3,244,668

*Depreciation \$ 165,456
\$ 3,410,124

Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over total expenses, before management and general allocation (\$ 78,230)

Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over total expenses (\$ 78,230)

** These items are not reflected in the operational budget and have negligible impact on annual operational income and expenses.*

**Community
Gifts & Donors**

**Cumulative
Annual Gifts
FY 2002-03**

Grace Dyer Hunting Circle

(\$5000+)

Fifth Third Bank
Martha Koning Trust
Mercantile Bank of West Michigan
Georgia T. Nelson
Steelcase Inc.
Nellie Stevens Trust

Helen J. Claytor Circle

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

ALLTEL Communications
Beene Garter LLP
Margaret W. Bishop
Caroline D. Blinkhorn
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan
The Campbell Group
Cascade Engineering
Charles W. Loosemore Foundation
City of Grand Rapids
Consumers Energy
Carrol J. Cook
Davenport University
Deloitte & Touche, LLP
Dodds Trust
Elizabeth G. Dole
Julie K. Duisterhof
Randall S. Damstra
First Congregational Church
UCC-Lowell
Founders Trust Personal Bank
G.R.A.C.E.
Marjorie B. Goebel
Grand Valley State University
Donald & Doris Griffith Foundation
HHS, Health Options, Inc.
Herman Miller Foundation
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Keeler Foundation
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Judith B. Lloyd
Michigan Community Blood
Centers Foundation
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Metropolitan Hospital
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Cummiskey PLC
Lynda M. Nance
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Preferred Benefits, Inc.
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The Samaritan Foundation
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WOOD TV8
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Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Jean McKee- Presidents' Circle

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Crowe Chizek & Company, LLP
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Drew, Cooper & Anding, PC
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Fehsenfeld Charitable Foundation
First (Park) Congregational Church
Fountain Street Church
-Social Action Committee
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Georgia Woodrick Gietzen
William Gilbert
Margaret E. Goebel
Grand Rapids Area Chamber
of Commerce
Grand Rapids Community College
Grotenhuis
Terri L. Hanna
Diane Hedeman
Dirk and Victoria Hoffius
Hoffman Jewelers
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Steve and Mary Kretschman
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(\$100 - \$499)

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Sofia Dittmer
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Suzanne S. Douma
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Dreamweavers Basketry Guild
Duba's Restaurant

Gloria Jean and Gene Dummer
Duthler Ford
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Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Eastown Deli
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Eastown Salon
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YWCA Giving Circles

In the past year, the YWCA of Grand Rapids was pleased to recognize six women whose active participation in our organization helped further the YWCA’s mission and strengthened our community. It is because of their exceptional contributions that they have been honored as the namesakes of the YWCA’s giving circles which pay tribute to today’s generous YWCA supporters.

As one of the YWCA’s early leaders, **Grace Dyer Hunting** led the capital campaign in the early 1920s to build our current Sheldon Boulevard facility. Aided by her fundraising committee, \$567,000 was raised in just seven days. With a passion for justice and equality, **Helen Claytor** blazed the trail for later generations in the late 1940s when she became board president of the YWCA of Grand Rapids – the first African American to hold the position in a community association anywhere in the country – and in the mid-sixties, the first African American board president of the YWCA of the USA. As an educator, attorney, social activist and later candidate for the Fifth Congressional District, the YWCA was well served by **Jean McKee** who led the organization as its board president during the tumultuous times following the local race riots in 1967 and 1968. **Frances Rutherford**, the first female city physician in the U.S., directed her commitment to public health toward the establishment of the YWCA’s predecessor organization – the Women’s Gymnasium and Noon Rest – in the late nineteenth century. Rutherford and others, including **Emma Wanty** whose extraordinary fundraising ability and active leadership in numerous offices, helped establish the YWCA and strengthened its position as an important community resource. As one of the YWCA’s earliest African American volunteers in the 1940’s, **Loney Clinton Gordon** played a leading role in the research that led to the discovery of the Whooping Cough vaccine. Like her YWCA peers, her contributions extend well beyond our organization and even our local community. Today, we see further, because it is on their shoulders that we stand.

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2003-2004

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