

# SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

In 2023, the YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region celebrated many achievements and saw first-hand success stories in the over 200 individuals in our programs. We achieved an astounding 18% surge in participation in our Women's Economic Empowerment Program (WEEP) over 2022, and saw increased interest in our InterACT cultural competency workshop and our Stand Against Racism events.

JANUARY 2024

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

3

Counties Served

125

WEEP Participants

1916

Hours of Client Assistance

### COURSES

#### Getting Ahead

Four 45-hour courses focusing on mindset, goal-orientation, community resources, hidden rules of class, & economic action planning

#### Moving Ahead

Five 10-hour financial literacy workshops focusing on budgeting, saving, & financial decision making

#### Young Women Choosing Action

Two youth leadership programs for focusing on decision making, wellbeing, & social justice

### OUTPUTS

### OUTCOMES

- 84% of graduates reported now setting goals more than 3 months in the future
- 92% of graduates now believe they can meet the goals they set for themselves
- 100% of graduates completed an economic action plan
- 79% of graduates reported increased knowledge of credit basics, including reviewing, understanding, and improving their credit and credit score
- 86% of graduates reported an improvement in one or more leaderships skills including an increased focus on their goals, improved confidence, and understanding the impact of social action on our community.

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Great Lakes Bay Region

## FOLLOWING UP WITH OUR GRADUATES

"I often think back to the Moving Ahead workshop and consider the things I learned. Although I still haven't perfected it, the most helpful part was the importance of establishing and maintaining a budget. Life's circumstances have made this a challenge with more needing to go out than coming in, but I am now more aware of how my money is being spent and where I need to improve. Six months after Moving Ahead, I am looking forward to a second interview for a full time office position. It would pay \$3 more an hour than my current position which doesn't provide enough hours or high enough wages to meet my financial needs."

- ANGELA, 2022 WEEP GRADUATE



**WORKING ON THE SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION PROJECT  
FOR YOUNG WOMEN CHOOSING ACTION**

## PROGRAMS

### InterACT

Six workshops focusing on acknowledging and breakdown biases that inhibit cooperation and connection, including 70 individual Intercultural Development Inventory post-workshop debriefs with workshop participants

## OUTPUTS

## OUTCOMES

- “The training allowed us to grow as a team towards the same goal.”
- “The entire experience was so powerful! Coming together as a staff around such important topics gave us a shared language and understanding to move forward. The individual meetings with our facilitator gave us meaningful, personalized improvements we can make to become better for each other and those we serve.”
- “InterACT has bettered our approach to finding volunteers and how we can update our forms and applications to be more inclusive of diverse groups and cultures.”

# WE DON'T DO THIS WORK ALONE

In 2023, community and your collaboration proved indispensable. This report highlights our collective efforts, emphasizes that meaningful progress is a collaborative venture, and showcases the undeniable truth that your combined contributions yield an impact far greater than the sum of their parts.

### Grantors

Alden & Vada Dow Foundation, Bay Area Community Foundation, Huntington Bank, Michigan Nonprofit Association, PNC Foundation, Saginaw Community Foundation, The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, United Way of Saginaw County

### Women of Achievement Circle of Support

Cheryl Burzynski, Diane Rapson Gabil, Jean Goodnow, Evelyn McGovern, Dorothy McKandes, Kathy Miller, Pamela Monastiere, Kathy Stewart, Karen A. Tighe, Lynn Weaver, Sandra Williams-Haughton

### Community Partners

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region, Emmaus House of Saginaw, First Ward Community Center, Mustard Seed Shelter, Shelterhouse of Midland and Gladwin Counties, Tri-Cap Saginaw

### YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region Board of Directors

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*The YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.*