

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

Great Lakes Bay Region

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

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1891-2021: 130 years of service

YWCA of Bay City members, c. 1924

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*Dow*

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We thought that 2020 was the year of big changes, but it's turned out that 2021 has been a year of change too! We moved offices in February and relocated to a suite in the United Way of Bay County building. We held virtual events for Stand Against Racism, and our Spring Getting Ahead and Moving Ahead graduations were held virtually too, so we are looking forward to returning to in person events. Right now we're planning for the return of our Empowerment Symposium. As 2021 is our 130th anniversary, we will be celebrating our long history and the women that came before us. Invitations will be mailed out in mid-September, so keep an eye on your mailboxes for more information to be sent soon!

Sincerely, *Maira Branigan*

## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Our Women's Economic Empowerment Program has been meeting on Zoom since early 2020, and we are making plans for in person classes starting in September. If you know a woman who may benefit from assistance with goal setting and who is in need of a supportive group environment, **please let her know about this program!** Program graduate Terema M., had this to say about her experience: **"The instructors were helpful and persistent with ladies who attended!!! I am truly thankful for what I learned and experienced and for being able to accomplish such an amazing program!!"**

# THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR EVENTS A SUCCESS



Water Street view during Riverside Art Festival 2021!

In March, our **Winner's Choice Raffle** was a HUGE success, thanks to all who donated prizes AND who bought tickets! We will be bringing this fun event back in early 2022. We were so pleased to bring back **Riverside Art Festival** to Downtown Bay City in June and pair it with Drydock Beer Garden. **Thank you to everyone who came downtown that weekend!** Our first place winner for RAF was Faith Nesbitt of The Funky Fungi Ceramics. Thank you to sponsors: **Independent Bank, McLaren Bay Region, Waste Management, Sunrise Family Credit Union, Two Men and a Truck, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, and Lightnin Licks Vinyl Preservation Society!**



Executive Director Moira Branigan with just some of the donations from our Supply Drive

## STOCKED UP FOR SUMMER SUPPLY DRIVE SUCCESS!

This spring, a dedicated crew of volunteers assisted the YWCA GLBR with coordinating a period product drive to help girls during summer break who may not have products at home. We gathered thousands of individual items, bagged them up into care packages and distributed them to our partner schools. **In total, over 1000 individual bags were donated before the end of the school year.** Thank you to all who gave and to our supporter, the **Molina Cares Foundation**, and volunteers and donors who helped make this a reality.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

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## JUSTICE LIBRARIES



In April 2021, the YWCA GLBR, along with the Bay County Library System, the Center for Community Writing at SVSU, and Women in Leadership had a ribbon cutting at the newest Justice Library in Downtown Bay City. It is located in Waterfall Park, near Saginaw and 3rd Street. Its stocked with racial justice books for all ages and readers! In Saginaw you can find a justice Library at the Saginaw Art Museum.