

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



A CELEBRATION OF GROWTH



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The theme of this year's annual report is *A Celebration of Growth*, and YWCA Halifax has embraced this wholeheartedly. YWCA Halifax continues to be an example of a not-for-profit organization and charity built on a strong financial foundation and is looked at as an inspirational example across the national federation of YWs.

We've seen progress in external partnership development, delivery of community programs, and presence in advocacy and policy development. For example, YWCA Halifax worked alongside the staff and Board of the Dartmouth Child Development Centre to gift the longstanding mission and mandate of DCDC to YWCA. This has been an example of how commitment to community and partnerships has resulted in a much-needed service being able to remain in a community that needs it. YWCA Halifax also played an integral leadership role in provincial and national policy discussions on the national child-care strategy. This blending of advocacy, policy, and program development was visible with the organization's leadership role in the Nova Scotia Trafficking and Exploitation Services System and the purchase of a safe house in October 2021.

The TESSNS Resource Guide is a progressive and comprehensive community-led resource that both centers on survivor experiences and offers valuable information for victims, survivors, families, caregivers, and service providers, while the safe house serves as a tangible resource for those who have survived sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Supporting those facing precarious and insecure housing has been a historical pillar of the work of YWCA Halifax. We have modernized this work through the Home For Good project which is an extensive, multi-level, partnership-driven initiative on housing development with a focus on the availability of supportive programming.

It goes without saying that partnerships are a cornerstone of how YWCA Halifax does its work. The organization, senior leadership, and Board approach every discussion, whether project planning on a napkin over lunch to multi-million dollar regional and national agreements, with the same vision: we are stronger together because of our partnerships. In a season of scarcity, this approach has not waived.

Thank you to all the staff and Board members who have contributed to this impressive growth and these incredible accomplishments.



YWCA Halifax Board of Directors
President
Meghan Cadue



YWCA Halifax Executive Director
Miia Suokonautio

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021

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MISSION

To build economic security, promote wellness and create opportunities for women, girls, two-spirited and gender diverse people and their families by providing a strong voice and integrated services.

VISION

We envision a world where women, girls two-spirited and gender-diverse people are empowered in a safe and equitable society.

OUR VALUES

Diversity
Inclusion
Respect
Equity
Security
Freedom of Choice
Responsiveness
Collaboration

PHILANTHROPY FEATURE

Like many organizations, 2021 was the year of the pivot, especially in fundraising! We hosted some face-to-face events and dealt with ever-changing gathering limits. It was wonderful to host the Fall Women's Leadership Collaborative in-person. And then in December, Homes for the Holidays was online for the second year in a row.

What we always celebrate regardless of gathering limits, is the commitment and generosity of our donors. You continue to believe in the YWCA's work and provide ongoing support to our programs. This support shows up in many ways.

A club that meets regularly supported the YWCA with monthly financial donations. Another organization hosted a summer event with the proceeds coming to the YWCA. A family decided together that the YWCA is their charity of choice. A group of students collected winter clothing for our residents. And long-time supporters remembered the YWCA and donated through their estates.

While we don't know what will happen in 2022, we do know the commitment of our donors is exceptional. And we know the need for our programming continues to grow. Thank you for choosing the YWCA and supporting our work. The many diverse women, girls, and families we work with thank you too.



WLC 2022 Speaker
Shakira Weatherdon



PARTICIPANT FEATURE: BUSINESS BUILDERS

Tanisha Ashpall-Brown **Blush Décor**

Growing up in Jamaica, Tanisha Ashpall-Brown was the person to call for all things décor. If someone was celebrating a birthday, an anniversary, a wedding, they would hear: “go get Nisha, she can make things pretty,” says Ashpall-Brown. “I was always involved in somebody’s celebration back home.”

Ashpall-Brown is now the owner of **Blush Décor** in Halifax, a decorating and delivery service to help you celebrate your milestones in style.

“I love to share in people's successes. I love to celebrate life with people. I love to celebrate their achievements with them. I love to see people happy — to see the smiles when I turn up on your doorstep, and you realize that what I brought is something for you and it's something really beautiful. I get to witness that.”

The arrangements at Blush Décor display Ashpall-Brown’s modern style, but they are always catered to the individual. (And they’re always Instagram-worthy.) “I’m inspired by other industry experts, but my personal touch comes from me talking to you,” she says. “It comes from a consultation, it comes from your smile. It comes from how I see you light up when you describe what you want to be sent to a loved one.”

Ashpall-Brown receives a lot of calls from out-of-province, which surprised her at first.

“The pandemic had created so many barriers — people couldn't connect,” she says. “We realized that even though we were in a pandemic, milestones were just not canceled. Blush Décor is all about keeping families connected through celebration.”

Although she finds incredible joy in her work, Ashpall-Brown has also faced challenges. From funding, to networking, to marketing, to supply chain issues — the grind of being a new small business owner can be a “lonely street sometimes,” she says. A fierce sense of determination and self-compassion has helped Ashpall-Brown overcome these issues. “I can do this – that was my mantra,” she says. “I also learned that ‘no’ does not mean no. It just means you have to do your own research, and that you have to take your time to grow and scale your business. My biggest takeaway is that you have to put the work in.”

Tanisha participated in the Business Builders program in 2021 and was able to learn skillsets such as brand building, marketing, taxation, and operations management. For more information on Business Builders, please visit **[Business Builders](#)**.



YWCA HALIFAX IN THE NEWS



[New directory aims to help Nova Scotia youths involved in sex trade](#)



[Halifax rated Canada's second fastest growing municipality.](#)



[RCMP make public appeal after child pornography charges laid against businessman](#)



[Homes for the Holidays](#)



[YWCA Homes for the Holidays Virtual Event](#)



['It's a hard thing to come forward': Calls for more action on human trafficking in N.S.](#)



[Minimum wage in N.S. is \\$12.95 an hour. A new report says that's not nearly enough](#)



[Government funding alone not enough to end human trafficking, say N.S. advocates](#)



[N.S. child-care fees to drop to \\$10 a day by 2026 under new \\$605M deal](#)



[N.S. sees highest rate of human trafficking in Canada, incidents tripled in 2019](#)



[Why human trafficking is a rural Nova Scotia problem](#)



[Fate of Nova Scotia's \\$10-a-day child-care deal hinges on federal election](#)

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

Early learning and childcare are important for women's equality and financial security, for children's well-being and development, the economic strength of our communities, and, when universally accessible, to building more equitable communities.

YWCA Halifax operates all our early learning and childcare programs from principles of inclusion and family-centered care. We work closely with parents and caregivers to ensure best outcomes for all children.

Early Learning Centre Spryfield

Spryfield Child Care has seen an increase of children and families entering the program in 2021. From 2020 to 2021, we have seen an uptick from 95 families to over 300 families participating in SCC's program. The increase in families served in 2021 is due to provincial COVID-19 restrictions loosening, childcare centres opening and allowing for staff, families, and children to return to a new normal following the 2020 childcare centre closures. COVID-19 policies continue to be upheld to provincial standards. We thank our staff for maintaining their consistency through COVID-19 policy evolution and changes.



SCC children participate in nature walks, visits to local museums, and even ferry rides! The SCC program strives to provide education, culture, and build community connections.



EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

YWCA's Early Learning curriculum follows the NS Early Childhood Education Curriculum Framework; Capable, Confident, and Curious: The learning goals used by our Early Childhood Educators. This framework focuses on culturally responsive/reflective pedagogy which leads the direction for the emergence of children's skills, interests, and developmentally appropriate activities as they pertain to the following objectives: Well-being, Discovery & Invention, Language & Communication, and Personal & Social Responsibility.



HiMama Launch

Efrem's Report

Tuesday, Mar 15, 2022

Naps

12:00pm - 2:30pm (2h30m)

Meals

Morning Snack - All - Bananas Multi Grain Cheerios Milk

Lunch - All - Tuna Casserole Whole Wheat rolls Milk

Afternoon Snack - All - Oranges Cookies Water

Bathroom

9:30am - Diaper - Wet

11:30am - Diaper - Wet

2:30pm - Diaper - Wet

Activities

Observation

Dramatic play: Being spooky ghosts

Age: All Ages

Domain: Personal and Social Responsibility

Skill: Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy, and respect

Indicator(s): This is evident when children show interest in other children and in being part of a group; this is evident when children empathize with and express concern for others; this is evident when children develop social skills and strategies to express their own feelings and opinions



Painting outside with friends :)

HiMama is a digital childcare app that completes children's daily reports, schedules, attendance, and communicates with parents.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

Before and After School Program

When the Province of Nova Scotia introduced the universal pre-primary program for four-year-olds, it was recognized that there was a gap for families who needed care before and after the regular school hours. As a result, the province introduced the BAP in schools that did not already have options for this age group. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and the Department of Communities, Cultures and Heritage (CCH) approached the YWCA Halifax Early Learning Program to implement BAP programs in the schools within the communities experiencing the most need.



Family Home Child Care

The FHCC Program was able to provide service to over 200 families over the course of 2021 offering full-time and part-time care in 30 home childcare locations.

In 2021, with professional development funding, FHCC was able to support two care providers in the newly established PLAR program at NSCECE to further their education and upgrade their licensing certification.

For the first time, Care Providers were inspected by licensing officers from the department. Supported by our consultant the FHCC team continues to maintain and improve the quality care provided to families.

FHCC continued its support to families and care providers while navigating COVID-19 mandates and regulations by providing PPE, continuing in-person home visits, and playgroups.



FHCC: 30 Home Child Care Locations and over 200 families served
BAP: 9 Children participated, with 7 families served

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

LAUNCH Atlantic

LAUNCH Atlantic has been able to facilitate a multi-provincial program that continues to assist youth with overcoming multiple barriers to employment, develop the skills and knowledge necessary to make a successful transition to the labour market, or return to school. LAUNCH Atlantic also offers financial support, hiring incentives, job coaching, support for local non-profit, and for-profit Maritime/Atlantic employers. In 2021 LAUNCH Atlantic grew from a \$1M project last year to a \$2.4M project this year. This is the largest funding project in YWCA Halifax history – and is a beacon of the growth to come!

In September 2021, LAUNCH Atlantic 2.0 was funded for a 15-month contract. Each site was able to hire two new Coordinators and host five separate intakes, serving 110 women and gender diverse individuals. Throughout the program, Coordinators accommodated new modes of working during the pandemic, and were able to support participants in a number of ways, including but not limited to; extended device loan-outs to allow participants to engage in “work from home” placements. Work Transition Coordinators supported both participants and employers during provincial lockdowns (in all three provinces).



Step Ahead

Step Ahead is a sixteen-week employment program for women connected to Income Assistance who want to enter or re-enter the workforce. In October of 2021, for the first time, YWCA Halifax was able to negotiate a multi-year agreement for Step Ahead. The Department of Community Services have agreed to fund the program until 2024.



- **56 participants served in 2021**
- **Employers who hosted placements through Launch Atlantic have saved approximately \$200,000 on employee labour and onboarding/training.**
- **Step Ahead: 10 Participants served in 2021**

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Business Builders

A fourteen-week business hub dedicated to helping newcomer women and gender diverse individuals discover and develop their entrepreneurial ideas into reality. Participants engage in class sessions (both in-person and online) to increase their understanding of basic business concepts. Participants learn from industry experts on key business topics such as taxation, marketing, building a network, and business plan writing.

In 2021 Business Builders organized five cohorts that have benefited from practical skills training. Each cohort has unique learning opportunities based on the season and present COVID restrictions. The strongest pitches in the first three cohorts were awarded prize money to help launch their new endeavours.



[▶ Business Builders Story](#)



34 people participated in the Business Builders Program in 2021.
25 Participants are currently pursuing their businesses on a full or part time basis

HOUSING PROGRAMS

Supportive Housing for Young Mothers (SHYM)

Families experiencing homelessness are mostly single parent families—led primarily by women. Women parenting on their own enter shelters at twice the rate of two parent families. SHYM provides supportive housing, parenting support, and life skills development for at risk young single mothers ages 16 to 24. SHYM is open to young mothers in their third trimester of pregnancy or who are independently parenting their child or children, and are in need of supportive housing.



Women in Supported Housing (WISH)

WISH provides safe, secure, supported housing to 34 single women. The women at WISH are 19 and older and have experienced homelessness, and have barriers to stable housing.

"Thank you for never giving up on me and for giving me the safe space I needed to regain my life. I could not have done this without the support of WISH."

~ WISH Participant

"Participants have shared how awesome it is when they receive housing support and are now feeling safe, ready to put their lives back together."

~ Shelly Ann
Housing and Intake Coordinator
YWCA Halifax



84 Women, Gender Diverse individuals, and Children were housed in YWCA programs in 2021

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING

Trafficking and Exploitation Services System (TESS)

In 2021, TESS partnerships have grown to a staggering 150 professionals from over 70 agencies across Nova Scotia, including a curriculum specialist from the NS Department of Education who was instrumental in the implementation of core learning outcomes related to CSEC in the Healthy Living 7 curriculum and inclusion in the Grade 7 Sex Book.



[New directory aims to help Nova Scotia youths involved in sex trade](#)

Safer Spaces

In 2021, YWCA took possession of a home for the Safer Spaces Program. The home is beautiful, spacious, warm, and comfortable! A live-in staff member are on-site during evenings but in their own unit; this affords residents on-site support but with space and independence.

In 2021 Safer Spaces policies and guidelines were reviewed and updated in preparation for the reopening of the house. In November 2021, Safer Spaces hosted an open house for community partners, funders, and YWCA staff. In December 2021 the Safer Spaces program was featured in Homes for The Holidays, a fundraising initiative bringing media attention and community awareness to Safer Spaces.

Nova Scotia Transition & Advocacy (NSTAY)

NSTAY provides exploited/trafficked youth with wraparound support and connects them with the services they need. NSTAY has been developed with a trauma-informed lens and takes a harm-reduction approach. It is a non-judgmental program and incorporates promising practices from across Canada and is informed by those with experience of exploitation within the sex trade.



Exploited | APTN Investigates: Human Trafficking in Nova Scotia

In collaboration with the Department of Community Services, a "Guidelines for Collaboration between NSTAY and Children in Care Identified as YSE" procedural document was created; this is now live and DCS staff are being onboarded for Spring 2022. During 2021, Peer Support Workers provided outreach at iMove, Sullivan House, North Branch Library, POSSE, Elizabeth Fry (Truro), The Jane Paul Centre (Sydney), and The Ally Centre (Sydney).



Safer Spaces **5 Participants Serve**
NSTAY **43 Youth Supported**

THE DECEMBER 6TH FUND PROGRAM

December 6th Fund provides non-interest bearing microloans of up to \$500 for housing-related costs, which may include damage deposit, rent, power payments/arrears, moving or storage costs, and phone/internet payments. Flexible and affordable repayment schedule based on individual means.

In 2021 short-term grant funding was received to provide participants direct financial support in the form of grants. December 6th Fund was able to add extended supports to the program in the short-term, such as gift cards, bus tickets, and mobile devices with 30-day limited plan. Funding was approved for a full-time dedicated staff member to coordinate the program.



The December 6th Fund Coordinator presented at several panels in 2021 including discussions on Gender based Violence and Domestic Violence. The Coordinator attended the Domestic Violence Training Facilitated Engagement Session hosted by the Department of Justice as a representative of the YWCA. They were selected to join the multi-group of stakeholders engaged in helping co-create this training. attended bi-weekly meetings to support the creation of the Domestic Violence Training Module.



The December 6th Fund

Participant Stories

For one individual the purchase of gas cards was able to support them in successfully They were able to accept an employment position and relocate out of province, away from violence and their perpetrator.

One participant shared with the December 6th Fund Coordinator that they became very isolated after leaving their former partner. Receiving a mobile device helped them connect with their previous social circle from which they were estranged. They noted that this helped them connect with others and feel less alone.

For one individual the micro loan was able to support them in connecting internet after leaving their former partner. After connecting their internet, they were able to resume their previous work-from-home position and regain financial security.

For several individuals the December 6th fund was able to help secure a damage deposit to access safe housing after exiting a violent situation. For some this enabled them to get their own independent residence, free from violence for the first time.

One individual left an abusive relationship and had to stay at a shelter in the interim. While they were staying at shelter, they were unable to see their children who were residing with a family member. The mobile device allowed them to maintain virtual visitations while they awaited next step housing.

99 participants
received grant
funding

\$46,483.16

62 participants
received
micro loans

\$30,067.20

63 participants
received December
6 Extension grant
funding

\$28,483.16

36 participants
received
Safe and Sound
grant funding

\$18,000.00



402 participants received support in the form of grocery cards, bus tickets, mobile devices/phone cards and/or resource navigation.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACY

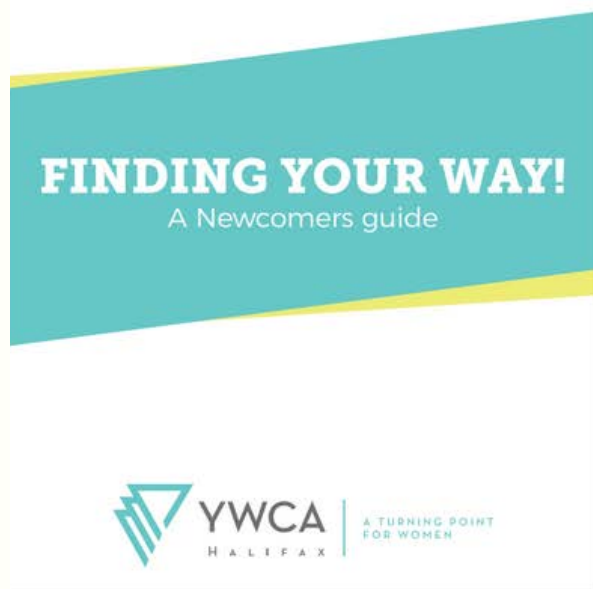
Financial Literacy for Newcomers (FLNP)

Financial Literacy for Newcomers Program directly serves the newcomer community with enhanced financial literacy workshops, tax filing, knowledge of Canadian financial systems, and government benefits.

The program creates a strong connection with the local community and economy, thus strengthening newcomer settlement and integration in Nova Scotia. FLNP also provides opportunities to participants to attend regular weekly conversation clubs, which allows participants to practice language and skills in a social setting with their peers

The program has been a blessing, and an immense benefit to the communities both in and outside of HRM, and in the whole of Nova Scotia.

FLNP was able to serve a total of 541 participants in the year 2021 through tax filing for families with modest income and financial literacy workshops, as well as through conversation clubs in Nova Scotia.



Experts by Experience (EX2)

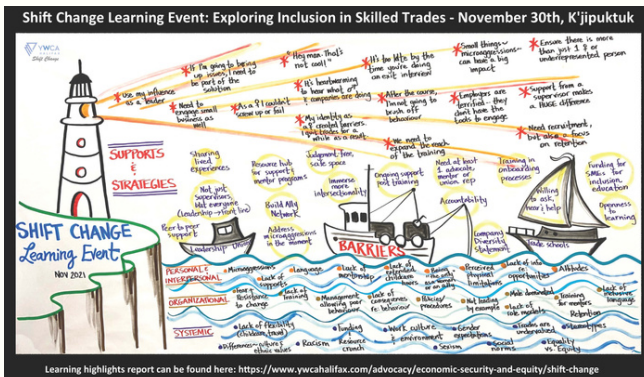
The Experts by Experience pilot program came to an end in September 2021. In 2021 EX2 served 110 newcomers despite pandemic restrictions. The program saw a 13% increase in the demography of participants with participants coming from Morocco, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Since the project was coming to an end focus was spent on developing a shareable resource and Aptitude Digital was contracted to develop a microsite housed within the YWCA Halifax website for this purpose (website is scheduled to go online in 2022)



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACY

Shift Change

The Shift Change project takes a systems-based approach that focuses on working with community agencies, industry agencies, employers, as well as lived experience individuals to change some of the workplace culture norms that get in the way of retaining and advancing women in trades in all their diversity. This is a course designed and delivered for male supervisors working in skilled trades and is set to transition in partnership with NSCC. The evaluation for the course can be found [here](#).



In 2021, Shift Change held a second cohort for the Gender Leadership Training course for male supervisors in the Skilled Trades Industry. This pioneer project has expanded in 2021 with 14 participants from leading industry employer partners, who all shared that the course benefited them tremendously and they were fired-up to implement their action plans and share with colleagues in the company/industry.

The Impact...in their words...

"It was eye opening, some of the things we talked about I would not think about or realize happens."

"How much extra work they have to put in to be recognized."

"Woman just want to be treated the same and be heard and validated."

"Open conversation at the ground level, it can be a difficult conversation to have, but attempting to make it a safe space for people to discuss this matter is the first step to improving the environment."

"I was happy to hear how well women can do in trades with good role models but it was shocking how much non work relate hardships they had to deal with."

"Being more engaged in conversation. Speaking up in situations I may have just walked away from if I was uncomfortable. I feel like I am much more prepared to have an uncomfortable conversation with others to help promote a positive workplace culture."

"It was probably one of the most effective courses I have been on. Most likely because I reflected on myself more than anything. The way it was delivered was good and effective as I felt it was designed to be personal."

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACY

Youth Programs

YSpace

YSpace is a cyberviolence prevention program delivered annually to female, trans, and gender diverse youth at local junior high schools and additional community locations throughout HRM. The program equips participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to safely navigate the online world, while encouraging leadership, building self-esteem, and fostering a safe and inclusive space where participants can be themselves and discuss issues that are important to them.



COVID-19 restrictions severely affected programming; However, from January to end of June YSpace still managed to organize programs at 3 Junior High Schools and 1 Elementary school.



GuySpace

GuySpace is delivered on a weekly basis at Junior high schools across Halifax/Dartmouth. GuySpace aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to safely navigate the online world. GuySpace encourages leadership, building self-esteem, and fostering a safe, non-judgmental, inclusive space where participants can be themselves and discuss issues that are important to them.

“I can’t wait till next week, this was so fun!”

GuySpace participant

“It’s cool that my gender is respected in this space”

YSpace participant

“I feel like I can be myself”

GuySpace participant



YSpace: 97 Participants per week
GuySpace: 90 Participants per week

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACY

Youth Advisory Council

Youth Advisory Council is comprised of volunteers ages 15 to 30 who meet on a monthly basis and assists in ensuring that our programs remain relevant and engaging. They have also established our presence with community action events – handing out 100 handwritten letters of appreciation to people who had to continue in-person work throughout the pandemic, and hosting a holiday celebration event for the youth at Phoenix Youth Shelter.

Youth Advisory Council was also able to create an Instagram Page which provides valuable life learning for youth by youth and creates a safe, non-judgmental online space.

Youth Advisory Council's newest endeavor is the Y-Talk podcast which allows youth the opportunity to voice their issues on social issues such as Black Lives Matter, Body Image and Trans Inclusion.



Powercamp

March Break and Summer youth empowerment camps that are offered free of charge for participants. These 4 day camps provide youth with the opportunity to address issues specific to them in a powerful action-oriented educational experience. It offers a fun-filled experiential week that aims to enable young people to discover and celebrate their inner power.



POWERCAMP



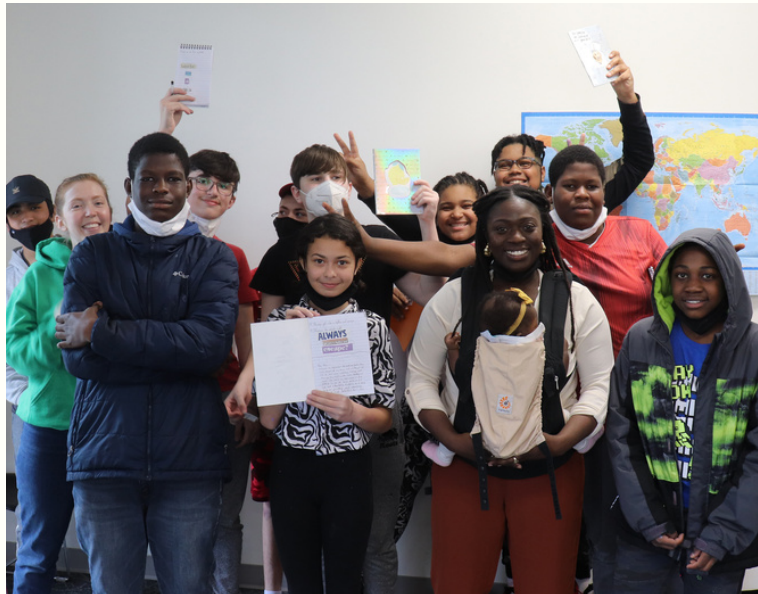
Youth Advisory Council: 10 Participants per month
Powercamp: 15 Youth over the summer

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACY

Open New Tab

Participant Story

March break camp is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn while away from school. These camps are a place of discovery, engagement, and creativity and this year we were happy to have 12 youth of all genders from various parts of the HRM. One particular participant came in with a rowdy, strong presence. Though only 13, he was approaching 6 feet tall and commanded an authoritative and dominant presence in the group, which was sometimes, admittedly, a bit disruptive.



However, one afternoon during a writing workshop with YWCA's Writer in Residence, Abena Beloved Green, the young man slowly and carefully wrote out a letter to his dad – often pausing to ask a leader how to spell key words as he put them down in his new notebook with a messy but confident script. Abena then invited the youth up to share their writing pieces and as this young man stood up at the front of the room he confidently and eloquently shared a letter of love and admiration for his father, detailing all that he had done for their family. Immediately after, when his younger sister could not find the confidence to share her own piece, he offered to read it for her as a compassionate older brother.

"In these moments we saw the power of leadership opportunities and spaces to grow."

This young man boldly held the attention of all the youth in the room and set an important precedent with his tender letter in which he showed profound vulnerability. The shift in the tone and mood of the room was evident to all, and when he followed it up with an example of care for his sister it was obvious that we were looking upon a leader.

Early teen years are very influential on the lives of young people and when the Open New Tab program creates spaces for young people to explore what leadership looks and feels like, we help build up the future carers, workers, advocates, and mentors of our community.



- Spring 2021 (in schools): **257 Youth served**
- Summer 2021 (camp): **9 Youth Served**
- Fall 2021 (in schools): **155 Youth served**

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACY

Leadership, Equity, Activity & Diversity (LEAD)

The participation of diverse women, girls, and gender diverse people in the field of sport and recreation continues to be a political act. YWCA Halifax's long roots in this area date back more than a hundred years when we were organizing women's basketball and baseball leagues before girls had access to physical education in the public school system. LEAD is made up of working groups across the province working in multiple areas, including supporting coaching certifications, Board membership, and a gender equity assessment tool for sport and recreation centres.

We LEAD Wednesday
Weekly newsletter for LEAD (Leadership, Equity, Activity & Diversity)

INSPIRED BY HER

- Thursday, May 6 @ 7 PM AST
- Tickets are \$25 with opportunities to win door prizes
- Invite a youth free of charge to help inspire the next generation!

Inspired by Her is a signature YWCA Halifax event that serves as an opportunity for organizations to recognize exceptional women in the area of sport and recreation. YWCA Halifax Women Active Nova Scotia (WANSAs) is proud to advance the participation of girls and women in sport, recreation and physical activity, and empower them to take on leadership roles across these sectors. [Purchase your ticket here.](#)

LANGUAGE MATTERS

- More Canadians will hear hockey called in their own language
- For the first time in the long-storied history of our nation's Saturday night hockey tradition, Molson Canadian, in partnership with Sportsnet, is presenting Hockey Night in Canada in 7 additional languages

Hockey can be a way to forge new connections for the nearly 350,000 people new to Canada each year. We recognize Canada as having a diverse population and initiatives like this create an environment which

LEAD joined the Gender Equity Collective whose goal is to establish a working group from various sectors (Sport NS, Rec NS, CCH, YWCA Halifax) and collaborated on best practices for gender equity in the province as it pertains to sport, recreation, and physical activity. By working in this fashion, we have a better opportunity to impact more women and girls through programming, information sharing, networking, and events. We LEAD Wednesday Newsletters were released on YWCA Halifax social media to showcase, highlight, and celebrate women in sport, recreation, and physical activity across Nova Scotia and beyond. This stemmed from directive of the Advisory Committee and is also an outcome from the WANSAs strategic plan.

Inspired by her at home

May 6, 2021
7pm
online

Kenzie Lalonde **Marie-Soleil Beaudoin** **Melanie Clarke** **Tara Slone** **Chandra Crawford** **Gabriela Estrada**

WALL OF HONOUR

Cynthia Keeping is a public health nurse (RN) who has been involved with SHYM for over 7 years. We have seen her go above and beyond her role to support the families and staff at SHYM and this has not been more evident than in the last 2 years, since the pandemic started. Cynthia is always available by text, phone, email or in-person visits whenever a new mom has a question about her baby. During the pandemic Cynthia made sure we had the most up to date information on restrictions, vaccines, mandates and helped us navigate through COVID-19 outbreaks at SHYM. We are very aware that SHYM is only a tiny sliver of the work that Cynthia does in community, we know that she gives the same level of care and support to every community member she encounters.



Laura Allan has been involved with the YWCA Halifax since 2018. She first got involved in supporting the YWCA's SHYM program as a member of the Women's Council of the Canadian Homebuilder's Association. Laura's involvement includes, but is not limited to, helping organize two softball tournaments and planning a third in September 2022 in support of the YWCA's SHYM program. Laura has organized and delivered countless in-kind donations for YWCA Housing participants at the holidays, including visits from Santa himself. Laura has coordinated several renovation projects with her Wacky's team within our SHYM buildings, including flooring at SHYM, kitchens at SHYM 2 and more!



Matt Smith first connected with the YWCA through a softball tournament fundraiser for SHYM. When YWCA Halifax received the go ahead to do the kitchen renovations at SHYM 2, Laura Allen knew just who to contact to do the demolition, [Matt Smith Contracting](#), who of course said yes. Matt stepped up immediately and completed the demolition of all five kitchens at SHYM 2 without any cost to YWCA, which allowed YWCA to do more with the funds. Because of Matt and his team, not only did the kitchens get redone with beautiful new cabinets and countertops, but new appliances and flooring as well. We cannot thank you enough!



MWO Justin Eastman and his team from CFB Halifax first came to the YWCA through a volunteer request that we made to United Way. We had no idea how much this relationship would take off and grow stronger. This team of Military employees have painted units, completed tons of yard work, dug trenches to help manage the water pooling situation, and have raised money for a virtual run. Over the past few years, they have taken on SHYM as their charity of choice and have provided Christmas gifts for all our families at both SHYM and SHYM 2. Justin and the team have donated diapers and so many other items to SHYM. YWCA is so lucky to have the good fortune of establishing this relationship and look forward to many more projects working with this team of outstanding volunteers. Thank you Justin and CFB Halifax, Base Logistics TEME (Transport, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering) your volunteerism is unmatched and unwavering.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Home For Good

In our 2019 Annual Report we shared our Home for Good Project: a three-year Status of Women Canada-funded project investigating the barriers women face when trying to access safe, secure, and affordable housing, once they have left transition and second-stage housing.

Two main things have come out of this project. The first was a strong vibrant partnership between the four non-profits involved in the initial project, including Alice House, Elizabeth Fry Society Mainland NS, The Marguerite Centre, and ourselves at YWCA.

The second was a vision to develop our own Home for Good Centre – long-term affordable housing for women and female-led families that would provide wraparound service on-site, addressing many of the barriers uncovered by the research. In May of 2021 the project received funds from the Department of Community Services to build our capacity for a project of this size. To bring this project to life, a Project Director was hired to oversee the funding, development and design of the Home for Good Centre and to work with legal support to develop this unique multi-partner relationship.

We held a “think tank” session in September 2021 and invited experts from relevant fields, such as law, real estate, development and construction, as well as key staff from Housing Nova Scotia and Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation. We had two main questions we wanted to group to answer: The first about partnership options for this type of project that would involve non-profit, private and governmental partners, the second involving what type of development project these experts would build. From this session we were able to make some big decisions to move the project forward.

Since, we have met with developers, architects, planners, project managers and non-profits with similar projects, including YWCAs in Toronto, Regina, Calgary, and Vancouver. We’ve collected best practices, considerations and innovative ways we can create community.

With a lot of foundational work under our belts and strategies in place for further capacity building we are looking forward to being able to provide safe and dignified long-term affordable housing and programming for our community.



[Home For Good - Video #1](#)

DONOR RECOGNITION

Aaron Smith
Addison Paetra
Affordable Housing Association of
Nova Scotia
African Nova Scotian Affairs
Alan Leard
Alana Patterson
Amanda Dean
Amy Risley
Andrea Forbes-Hurley
Andree Bran Pajevic
Angela Nicoletti
Ann Smith Boswick
Apple Self Storage
Aritzia
Barbara Tremaine
Basia Dzierzanowska
Brendan Maguire, MLA
Brigid Langill
Canadian Scholarship Trust
Foundation
Canadian Women's Foundation
Caralie Robert
Carol Sinclair
Carrie Cussons
Catherine Bagnell Styles
Change Lab Action Research
Initiative
Cheryl Fraser
Christ the King Parish
Colin Vibert
Community Foundations of
Canada
Community Foundation of Nova
Scotia
Conam Charitable Foundation
Costco
Cresco Construction Ltd
CP Barrett Financial Services Inc.
CUA
CWF
Cynthia MacDonald
Dale Noseworthy
Deam Rhodie
Devin Ruelland
Dianne Mombourquette
Doctors Nova Scotia
Donna Rubenstein
Duckish Natural Skin Care
Efficiency Nova Scotia
Elizabeth McIsaac
Ellen Gibling
Emily Tipton
Employment and Social
Development Canada
Faten Alshazly
Feed Nova Scotia
Flemming Charitable Foundation
Gary Newman
Geno Sajko

Geoff Regan
Gerald Goldenberg
Gina Dull
Hailey Brennan
Halifax Assistance Fund
Halifax Regional Municipality
Halifax Protestant Infants'
Foundation
Halifax Whiskey Club
Halifax Youth Foundation
Heather Hanson
Hitfar Concepts Limited
Home Depot Orange Door Project
Home First Productions
International Association of
Machinists and Aerospace
Workers Local Lodge 2
Irving Shipbuilding Inc.
J and W Murphy Foundation
Janie Catano
Jacqui Rostek Ltd
Jean MacDougall
Jennifer Angel
Jim Mills
JM Fraser- Brown
Joanna Perkin
Judith Shiers Milne
Judy Haiven
Kara Dempster
Karen Hutt
Karen Oldfield
Kathryn Blain
KBRS
Kent Building Supplies
Killam Apartment REIT
Krista Dempsey
Kristan Hines
K.W Select Realty
Laurel Broten
Lee Muir-Buckley
Lena Metlege Diab, MLA
Leslie Gascoigne
Linda Roberts
Lydia Bugden
Margaret Hughes
Margot Dietrich
Marion G Masters
Melanie Bremner
Mental Health Association of
Nova Scotia
Mental Health Foundation
Miia Suokonautio
Michele Williams
Michelle Clare
Mike's No Frills
Nicola Ray Smith
Nick Harris
Nikki Mills
Nova Scotia Advisory Council
on the Status of Women

Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency
Nova Scotia Department of African Nova
Scotian Affairs
Nova Scotia Department of Community
Services
Nova Scotia Community College
Nova Scotia Department of
Communities, Culture, Tourism and
Heritage
Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation
Nova Scotia Department of Labour,
Skills, and Immigration
Nova Scotia Department of Justice
Nova Scotia Office of Immigration and
Population Growth
Pam Berman
Patricia MacNeil
Pimco Canada Corporation
PR Party
Ralph Jacobs
Rezanne Lugar
Roberto Benavides
Robin McIsaac
Ronan Thompson
Royal Bank of Canada
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Roy Langill
RSCS Ltd
Sarah Bradfield
Sarah Young
Scotiabank
SDM/PHX Life Foundation
Shawn Christianson
Sheri Penner
Shoppers Drug Mart
Sisters of Charity
Sleep Country
Sonya Fraser
Spryfield Business Association
Stephanie Thompson
St. John's Ambulance
Susan Godwin
Tracy Bentley
TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
The Berkeley
The Christina And Hedley G. Ivany
Charitable Foundation
The Home Depot Canada Foundation
The PR Hive
The Windsor Foundation
Thornbloom
Toni Goree
United Way Halifax
Walker Wood Foundation
Wanda Hill
Wacky's Flooring and Lighting
Windsor Foundation
Women and Gender Equality Canada
YWCA Canada
YWCA Toronto

Thank you for making a difference through your compassion and generosity.

We have done our best to include everyone who contributed between January 1 and December 31, 2021. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us at communications@ywcahalifax.com if we have made an error in your acknowledgement.

FINANCIALS

	2021	2020
Revenue	\$5,677,104	\$4,896,262
Expenditures	\$5,541,014	\$4,558,833
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$136,090	\$337,429
Investments	\$63,269	\$10,769
Forgiveness of Debt		
Excess of revenues of expenditure	\$199,359	\$348,198

Revenue

Government funding and grants:	\$3,795,727
Program fees and earned revenue:	\$832,588
Foundations and charities:	\$755,341
Fundraising events:	\$37,750
Donations and bequests:	\$154,002
Miscellaneous:	\$101,696

Expenses

Salaries:	\$3,040,820
Facilities:	\$684,783
Program expenses:	\$966,310
Operational:	\$683,589
Fundraising:	\$13,753
Amortization of Capital Assets:	\$151,759

YWCA HALIFAX TEAM

Aiswarya Jayapalan
Alexa Baker
Amanda Marriott
Ariella Aburto
Ashley Tiller
Ashton Stephenson
Becky Nicholas
Belinda LeBlanc
Bridget Timmins
Caitlin Currie
Caitlyn Hiltz
Cassandra Krick
Catharine Fahie
Charlene Gagnon
Charu Kapoor
Chinwe Ngei
Christine Yates
Claire Seremba
Candice Grant
Dametre Peverill
Debra Hansen
Debra Perry
Donna Snair
Edward Elphick
Eleanor Richter
Erin Organ
Ha Anh Dinh
Haley Saunders
Hyunju Kim
Ibilola Arimih
Jake Shea
Jan Murphy
Jeanna Wagner
Jenna Roberts
Jennifer Ells
Jennifer Lohnes

Jennifer Mike
Jenny MacNeil
Jessica Bailey
Jessica Gordon
Jillian Clairo
Justine Alchorn
Katie MacDonald
Kayla Erskine
Kelly Bryan
Kelly Gaudet
Kelsey Eisner
Kerri Johnson
Kozak, Candle
Krista Dunn
Krista Maynard
Kristen Bergman
Lachlan Brown
Leanne Mok
Leshia Harris
Lindsey MacIsaac
Lysa McGrath
Madhuri Kundhi
Mallory Guthro
Marcus Baksh
Mariah Brooks
Martha Mutale
Mary-Angela Menzies
Meghan Mahajan
Melanie DesRoche
Miia Suokonautio
Mu Nee Min
Nicole Ferrier
Nicole Lydiard
Nicole Olguin
Nicole Yeadon
Patricia Ann Petite

Phonia Smith Madourie
Queen Oseriemen Ojiemudia
Rayan Eid
Roxanne Pereira
Sakshi Sadh
Samuktha Yelchuri
Sara Stone
Sara Wheler
Sarah Johns
Satbir Kaur
Shannon Steele
Shelly Ann Brown
Shernisha Colley
Simranjit Kaur
Stephanie Albert
Stephanie Gill
Sukhmandeep Kaur
Surbhi Sandhir
Susan MacDonald
Tamara Jennex
Tamara Jennings
Tanya Edgcombe
Tara Jamieson
Teaira Cain
Temidayo Agbola
Temitope Abiagom
Tracy Boyer
Tram Le
Trena Slaunwhite-Gallant
Twyla Nichols
Wanda Hill
Weaam Keshta
Yosef Vaida
Yuna Lee

**Thank you to the phenomenal and
inspiring YW Staff who continue to
passionately serve during these
unprecedented times. Your
dedication changes lives!**



NATIONAL ADVOCACY.
COMMUNITY ACTION.



YWCA Halifax

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