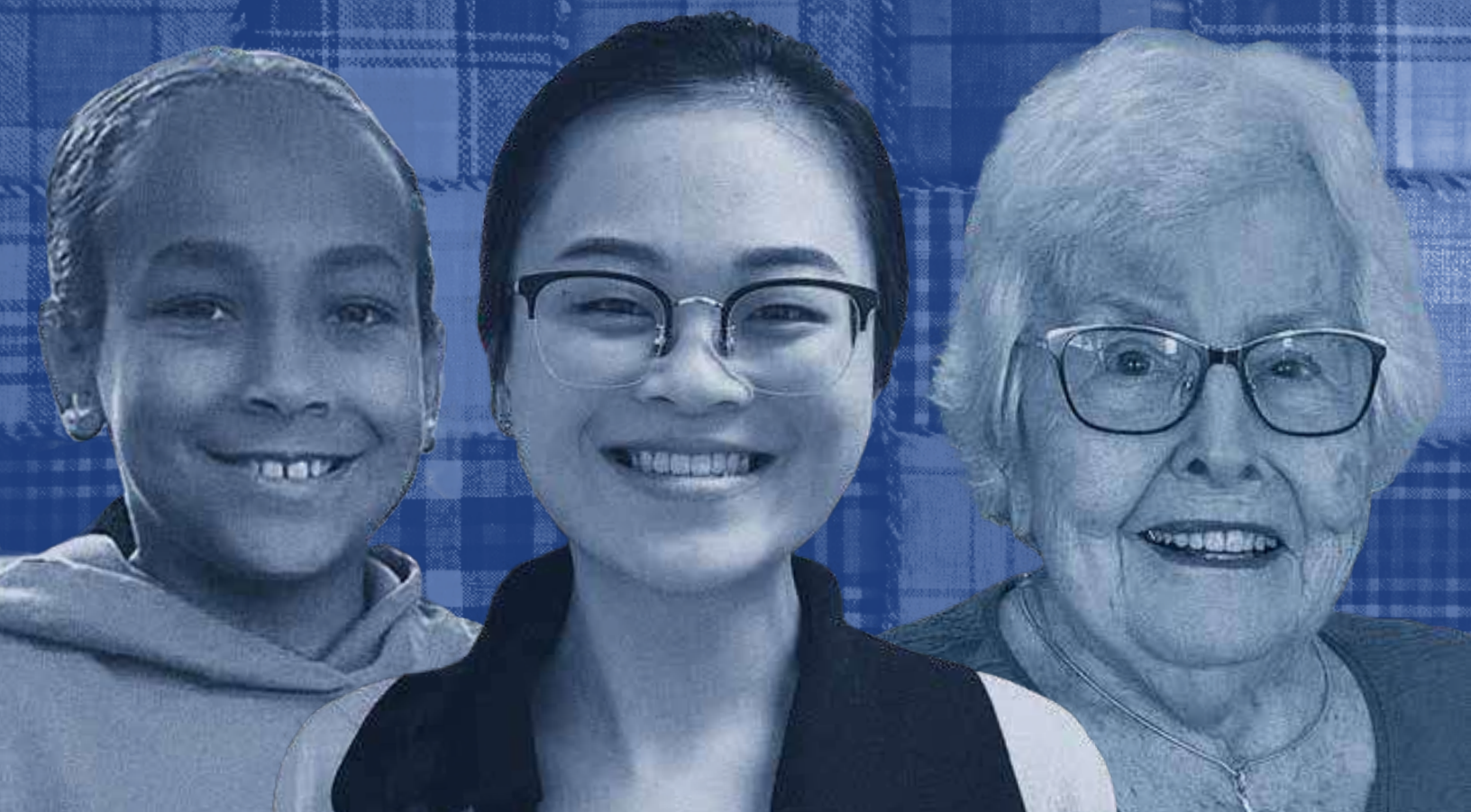




YWCA
HALIFAX

NATIONAL ADVOCACY.
COMMUNITY ACTION.

THRIVING ACROSS GENERATIONS



2024/2025 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

YWCA HALIFAX IS SITUATED ON THE UNCEDED TERRITORIES OF THE MI'KMAW PEOPLE.

This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi'kmaq Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet) and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. We are all Treaty people.

YWCA Halifax is committed to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report and remains dedicated to active allyship. YWCA Halifax recognizes that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies, and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years. We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people with collective rights tied to over 52 landbased communities.

**YWCA HALIFAX SEEKS TO HAVE THIS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BE USED TO EDUCATE AND
INCITE IMPLEMENTATION OF SHORT-TERM AND
LONG-TERM ACTIONS WHICH AIM TO BREAK
DOWN SYSTEMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM.
YWCA HALIFAX DESIRES THAT THESE SEPARATE
AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
BE SEEN AS A STARTING POINT IN OUR WORK
TOWARDS RECONCILIATION.**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS OF YWCA HALIFAX,

As we reflect on having celebrated 150 years in community this past year, we continue to be grateful for the steadfast support of our community, partners, and staff for the empowerment that we've made possible over the decades. Together, we've continued to impact meaningful change for women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender-diverse individuals across our region that will continue to provide a fundamental impact on generations to come.

THIS YEAR WAS FOUNDATIONAL IN MANY WAYS.

YWCA Halifax strengthened its role in shaping policy on gender equity, housing, and childcare with our CEO, Miia Suokonautio, and her team working with coalitions and government to ensure the voices of women and marginalized groups informed decisions. From municipal housing consultations to provincial advocacy for accessible childcare, lived experience remained central to our work.

Recognizing housing as fundamental for well-being, the team expanded programs focused on those facing systemic barriers—particularly women of African ancestry, First Nations, newcomers, lone parents, and survivors of violence. We've opened new transitional housing units with holistic support. We've launched a housing navigator role. We continue to advocate for policy reforms addressing affordability and gender-specific needs. Our work goes beyond shelter: it's about stability, safety, and renewed confidence.

Quality, affordable childcare empowers families. Over the past year we expanded spaces in underserved areas, introduced culturally relevant programming and championed greater public investment in early learning. These initiatives support both children's development and parents' ability to pursue work and education.

We are honoured to work alongside such passionate, skilled individuals both on our board and staff teams, and we are pleased to share more about our work and achievements in this year's annual report.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to equity, empowerment, and advocacy with your continued support, and together we'll keep building a more inclusive community for today, and generations to come.

WITH GRATITUDE,



NIKKI MARTIN,
VICE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nikki Martin".



SYLVIA PARRIS-DRUMMOND,
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sylvia Parris-Drummond".

BOARD LIST 2024



NAME	POSITION	PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS	ELECTED
Sylvia Parris Drummond	President	CEO, Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute	2020
Nikki Martin	Vice-President	Writer, Yoga Teacher, Brand Ambassador at Lululemon	2022
Kate Shewan	Treasurer	Director, Finance and Administration, NS Barristers' Society	2021
Leslie Bishop	Secretary	Chairperson of Family Assembly, Scotia Investments	2019
Chika Chiekwe	Director	Partner, Cox and Palmer	2020
Sumaya El-falah	Director	Assistant Economic Development Officer, Communities & Inclusive Growth	2021
Barrinique Griffin	Director	Program Manager, Dalhousie Emera ideaHUB	2022
Daniella Sam	Director	Executive Recruiter, KBRS	2022
Eva Parada	Director	Senior Director Design and Construction, Crombie REIT	2023
Camilla Quaglia	Director	Senior Executive Recruiter, KBRS	2023
Sharon Ishimwe	Director	Founder, Engero Productions	2020
Ceilidh Bray	Director	Industrial Engineer & Senior Associate, Infrastructure Advisory	2024

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

DEAR FRIENDS,

The truth about inclusion is that it needs to happen at every age and for every generation.

Quality housing and childcare have profound impacts on children's wellbeing. Opportunities for young people to be involved in their communities opens doors as they make their way into adulthood. And the presence of gracious and responsive supports for elders is our privilege and responsibility.

By taking on ever increasing childcare and youth programming, expanding our housing for families, and working to support elder women through the Victoria Hall Society, your YWCA Halifax was again present in the lives of women, girls, Two Spirit and gender diverse people in 2024/2025.

Our programs ebb and flow to meet the needs of our community members. We show up when we are needed but also step away when our presence becomes a hindrance.

It is my deep privilege to share with you these pages that highlight just some of our many stories from the past year.

Thank you to our phenomenal staff team who show up every single day of the year to be present for our community. Thank you to our inspiring Board of Directors who are bold and visionary leaders and faithful champions of the YWCA mission. But most of all, thank you to you, our community. For believing in us, for investing in us, for trusting us.

The work of the YWCA is not done. As the world around us continues to twist and turn, we remain steadfast in our belief that a committed group of thoughtful citizens can bring about the justice for which we are so thirsty.

**IN SOLIDARITY AND IN SERVICE TO THE MISSION
ALWAYS,**



**MIIA SUOKONAUTIO,
YWCA HALIFAX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

IN 2024/2025, YWCA HALIFAX WORKED
DIRECTLY WITH MORE THAN
6000 NOVA SCOTIANS. THAT'S MORE THAN THE
POPULATION OF ANTIGONISH!


CHILD CARE


1,000 OUR LICENSED EARLY
LEARNING AND
CHILD CARE CENTRES
SUPPORTED OVER
FAMILIES.


350 FAMILY HOME
CHILD CARE
PROVIDED CARE FOR
CHILDREN.


267 BEFORE AND AFTER
SCHOOL PROGRAMS
SUPPORTED
CHILDREN ACROSS
SIX SCHOOLS,
GIVING THEM SAFE,
INCLUSIVE, AND
FUN PLACES TO
LEARN AND GROW.

HOUSING


42 THE WAVERLEY
WELCOMED
PARTICIPANTS
INTO SUPPORTED
HOUSING.


32 WISH 1 & 2
PROVIDED SAFE
HOMES FOR
PARTICIPANTS.


17 CARLTON
BECAME
HOME FOR
RESIDENTS.


102 MOUNT HOPE
VILLAGE
PROVIDED
HOUSING FOR
RESIDENTS.


SHYM₁
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
FOR YOUNG MOTHERS
(SHYM) 1 SUPPORTED
13 YOUNG PARENTS & THEIR
16 CHILDREN. TOGETHER,
5 THEY CELEBRATED
FAMILIES MOVING
INTO PERMANENT
HOMES.


SHYM₂
SUPPORTED
9 YOUNG
12 PARENTS &
4 CHILDREN,
WITH
FAMILIES
SUCCESSFULLY
TRANSITIONING
INTO PERMANENT
HOUSING.


COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



406 DECEMBER 6TH PROGRAM REACHED PARTICIPANTS, INVESTING **\$347,770** TOWARD HOUSING EXPENSES FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.



90 LEADERSHIP, EQUITY, ACTIVITY & DIVERSITY (LEAD) INSPIRED YOUTH



122 INSTAY PEER OUTREACH WALKED ALONGSIDE YOUTH IN TIMES OF NEED, WHILE FAMILY & COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUPPORTED **19** PARTICIPANTS.



48 POWERUP CELEBRATED GRADUATES STEPPING INTO THEIR FUTURES.



9 SAFER SPACES CREATED HEALING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN, TRANS, & GENDER-DIVERSE YOUTH.



350 OUR UKRAINIAN PROGRAM FOR NEWCOMERS SUPPORTED OVER INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES AS THEY FOUND SAFETY AND BELONGING.



96 THROUGH OUR COORDINATED ACCESS SYSTEM TEAM, WE MET WITH PARTICIPANTS TO SHAPE HOMELESSNESS POLICY.



ANCHOR YOUTH SERVICES LAUNCHED, CREATING NEW SPACES FOR YOUTH TO CONNECT AND THRIVE.



15 READY FOR LAUNCH HELPED YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE FOR THEIR CAREERS.



1,569 OUR NEWCOMER SUPPORT PROGRAM WELCOMED PARTICIPANTS!



24 ACCESS PROVIDED SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS.

OUR YOUNGEST GENERATION: YWCA'S WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES



STRONG FOUNDATIONS

At YWCA Halifax, our childcare programs give children a joyful start and support families with care and kindness. As one of Nova Scotia's first licensed providers and part of a national YWCA network, we're now Canada's second largest childcare provider.

Our diverse team, representing 14 countries, shares heritage through food, language, music, and celebrations. Children experience new traditions and see their own cultures reflected, creating joy and belonging. Our programs reflect our values of respect, inclusion, and community, helping children grow confidently and families thrive.

INVESTING IN FAMILIES

By providing both accessible childcare and stable housing, two essentials for building strong, thriving communities, YWCA Halifax is supporting foundational growth.

Our childcare programs empower parents, especially women, to pursue work and education, while their children thrive in safe environments. Housing initiatives like Supportive Housing for Young Mothers (SHYM), The Carlton, and Mount Hope Village provide families with secure, stable homes.

Together, these supports build generational strength and economic empowerment.



ANNA'S STORY

Before her family moved to Beaver Bank, Anna began researching child care centres in the area. "I put my daughters on lists everywhere," she says, remembering a trepidatious time. She was elated when the Director of the YWCA Beaver Bank Centre called her and was so excited to welcome her.

Anna, the lead for the pre-primary program at a local school, was eager to return to work after her maternity leave. She loves (loves, loves!) her work and the role she plays in supporting other families. But returning to work was only possible if she had quality care for her two children.

"IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ME TO HAVE SOMETHING IN MY OWN COMMUNITY," CITING THE VALUE OF CENTRES OUTSIDE THE URBAN CORE. "AND SEEING THAT IT IS CLEAN, WELCOMING, AND WITH A STRONG LICENSING HISTORY GAVE ME CONFIDENCE I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE."

Anna also values inclusion in the program. "My children are biracial, and fitting into a community isn't always easy. I worry about that stuff." The diversity of the staff, the art on the walls, the recognition of African Heritage Month – she felt immediately at ease. In December, her daughter's teacher gifted her a book by an Indigenous author. "All these things count. It makes you feel like your children aren't just accepted but that they're celebrated."

Having her children at a centre run by the YWCA is also important to Anna.

"I LOVE THE YWCA AND THE WORK DONE TO EMPOWER WOMEN. IT MAKES ME PROUD TO SAY THAT MY CHILDREN GO TO THE YWCA AND HOW THE ORGANIZATION FOCUSES ON SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING WOMEN. THAT'S WHAT I WANT MY GIRLS TO BE – STRONG WOMEN."

IN 2024, THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND THE FEDERAL CANADA WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PLAN, THE YWCA PURCHASED THE BEAVER BANK CENTRE AND ITS 139 LICENSED SPACES FROM THE RETIRING OWNERS. WE ARE PROUD TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.





THE BEAUTY OF YOUTH: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO RISE

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

YWCA Halifax's **Youth Advisory Council** ensures young voices shape our work. Through two groups, the Junior Cohort (ages 14–17) and the Senior Advisory Committee (ages 18–26), youth advise programs and lead campaigns that matter to them.

These young leaders drive civic engagement, organize events, and spark community change. In a world facing rapid shifts, they're building resilience for themselves and others.

We're proud to support their growth, helping youth find and use their voice to become confident changemakers for a better future.

CUSP: EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH SERVICE AND MENTORSHIP

This year, we launched CUSP, a bold new initiative funded by the Canada Service Corps to empower youth through service, leadership, and skill-building. The program engages diverse participants, including Black and racialized youth, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, newcomers, and those in low-income or rural areas of HRM.

Since January 2025, we've built a dedicated team, developed lesson plans, and partnered with local organizations to offer volunteer placements, workshops, and virtual training. Youth are gaining key skills, social, financial, digital, physical, and mental literacy, while making a real impact in the communities they live in.

With mentorship, peer support, and one-on-one guidance, CUSP is more than a program; it's a growing movement for youth-led change. The momentum is strong, and we're just getting started.

"OUR GENERATION HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER, BUT WE NEED SPACES THAT ALLOW US TO STEP UP AND LEAD. VOLUNTEERING BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER IN WAYS NOTHING ELSE CAN. IT CONNECTS US TO PEOPLE WE MAY NEVER HAVE MET, INTRODUCES US TO EXPERIENCES WE NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD HAVE, AND REMINDS US THAT NO MATTER OUR BACKGROUND, WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE."

KAISEN MACKINNON, LAW STUDENT AND YOUTH COMMUNITY LEADER





NOVA SCOTIA TRANSITION & ADVOCACY FOR YOUTH PROGRAM (NSTAY) & SAFER SPACES

YWCA Halifax stands with youth facing immense challenges, offering safety, advocacy, and consistent support.

In a year of worsening housing insecurity, **Nova Scotia Transition & Advocacy for Youth (NSTAY) Peer Outreach** supported over 120 youth at risk of exploitation and homelessness. Peer workers, many with lived experience, provided hands-on help with housing, income support, and crisis intervention, building lasting, trust-based relationships.

From helping someone flee abuse while keeping their pet safe, to supporting graduation or addiction recovery, NSTAY showed that change starts with connection.

Safer Spaces offered trauma-informed care to nine women and gender-diverse youth (ages 19–29). Through harm reduction, life skills, and culturally relevant programming, participants regained confidence and worked toward independence. One youth moved from crisis to stable housing and therapy in just six months, demonstrating the power of safety and belonging.

Across both programs, resilience is nurtured, youth voices are uplifted, and each step forward is celebrated.

YOUTH IMPACT AT A GLANCE

A safe place to call home, skills for independence, or spaces where youth voices lead the way...together we are creating pathways for young people to thrive.

Our Supportive Housing for Young Mothers (SHYM) program offers more than housing; it provides stability and hope. This year, 22 young mothers and 28 children received support. Nine families transitioned to permanent housing, and five Child Protective Services files were closed, marking new beginnings in safety and independence.

Through our **ACCESS** program, 24 youth gained confidence, independence, and job skills; some even joined the YWCA Halifax team. With workshops, certifications, and community projects, they showed that with the right support, youth can lead real community change.

Supporting youth aged 18–30, **Ready for Launch** prepares them for meaningful careers. This year, participants built skills through First Aid, Workplace Safety, and LinkedIn Learning, while growing confidence and professionalism.

"MWAMINI...HAS ALREADY MADE A WONDERFUL IMPRESSION. HER COMPASSION, INTELLIGENCE, AND APPROACHABLE NATURE HAVE MADE HER A FANTASTIC ADDITION TO OUR TEAM." READY FOR LAUNCH EMPLOYER



AMELIA'S STORY

Ever since she was young, her father knew she needed a bigger arena to make her mark. And although it hurt him to have her leave, he kept it to himself. As she was boarding the plane, 17-year-old Amelia's father said, "I know you won't be coming back." With that, they said their goodbyes and she began the journey her uncle started in the 1970s when he left Vietnam to begin a life in Canada.

In 2024, Amelia was studying full-time and working as an Early Childhood Educator. "I saw CUSP advertised and jumped at the chance." CUSP, a Canada Service Corps youth engagement program, provides opportunities for young people to learn from each other, from facilitators, and to experience real world environments through volunteer placements.

"MY PLACEMENT WAS WITH THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. IT WAS A PERFECT MATCH FOR MY FIELD OF STUDY. I HELPED LEAD A MULTI-DAY CONFERENCE IN TATAMAGOUCHE JUST LAST MONTH. THE PLACEMENT DEEPLY TRANSFORMED ME THROUGH HANDS ON WORK."

Now 25 years old, Amelia has a lot to say about the place of young people. "We are concerned with climate anxiety, housing, the very polarized political environment. This is all amplified by social media disinformation. But youth can guide solutions and be a part of these conversations. We have meaningful contributions to make on the issues we care about."


She challenges decision makers to make room for young people. "There is a lot of emphasis on youth being resilient. But youth also want to take action. We need a platform and space to be involved and showcase our interests."

Providing a platform for young women and gender diverse people is a hallmark of the YWCA movement. For example, with a minimum of 25% of Board members under the age of 30, the YWCA demonstrates its commitment to the leadership of young people.

"I think this goal sends a very clear message, you feel seen and there's space for you to be there. At 25, that's genuinely encouraging to me."

IN 2024, YWCA HALIFAX LAUNCHED CUSP, A YOUTH VOLUNTEERING AND COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKING PROGRAM FOR 12-30 YEARS OLDS. CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.





STRONG ADULTS LEADING STRONG LIVES: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE AMONG ADULTS

AT YWCA HALIFAX, WE BELIEVE STRONG COMMUNITIES GROW WHEN ADULTS HAVE THE TOOLS AND SUPPORT TO LIVE HEALTHY, INDEPENDENT LIVES. OUR PROGRAMS FOSTER GROWTH, CONNECTION, AND RESILIENCE, EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES AND SHAPE THE FUTURES THEY ENVISION.

WORKFORCE READY

Through our **Child Care programs**, we support children and the adults in their lives.

With 1,000 licensed spaces, 350 home-based spots through our Family Home Child Care Programs promoting women's economic empowerment, and Before and After School programs serving 267 children, we help families find the stability they need to pursue their goals.

ACCESS helps neurodivergent women and gender-diverse people gain skills and confidence in a supportive, creative space. With trust and word-of-mouth referrals driving participation, the program uses art therapy and community projects to build connection and purpose.



PARTICIPANT HIGHLIGHT: DHARATI LED DIGITAL SECURITY WORKSHOPS, THEN HELPED DEVELOP A VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, EMBODYING ACCESS'S MISSION OF EMPOWERMENT AND OPPORTUNITY.



WELCOMING NEWCOMERS

This year, 48 newcomers graduated from our **PowerUp** programs, launching businesses with mentorship and strategic planning. Six entrepreneurs received \$13,200 from the Flourish Fund to grow their operations, boost revenue, and build financial confidence.

The Ukrainian Support Program assisted over 350 individuals and families with workshops on employment, finances, tenant rights, immigration, and taxes, along with personalized support. Everyone received help or referrals.

The Newcomer Support Program served 1,569 individuals, improving language, employment, and financial skills. 90% advanced a language level, and 40% gained jobs. Over \$1M was recovered through tax filing services. From business launches to baby showers, newcomer successes reflect resilience and community.

HOUSING FIRST FOR WOMEN

Much more than simply a roof and shelter, housing is the foundation for safety, stability, and a better future. Most homeless families are led by mothers. YWCA Halifax provides secure, affordable housing with wraparound supports, helping women and gender-diverse people break the cycle of homelessness and build healthier lives.

The Waverley opened in early 2024, providing housing for 42 women this past year, many achieving major milestones, including employment, education, recovery, and reuniting with family.

WISH 1 & 2 provided housing for 32 people between the ages of 24–66, with two residents able to welcome their children into safe, affordable homes, preventing generational homelessness.

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Our **Violence to Resilience** team supported over 400 survivors through the **December 6th Fund** to leave unhealthy situations, providing \$347,000 in housing-related help and nearly 600 resource referrals. Survivors often share how much it means to feel seen, supported, and believed.

“YOU HAD MY BACK FROM DAY ONE WITH A MILLION OPTIONS AND RESOURCES... YOU BROUGHT ME AND MY BOYS TO SAFETY. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS.”

DECEMBER 6TH FUND RECIPIENT





AGEING WITH DIGNITY

"AGEING WITH DIGNITY IS NOT JUST ABOUT CARE, BUT ABOUT CONNECTION. REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION AND INCREASING BELONGING IS WHAT WE ALL WANT AND NEED FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES."

LAURA SWAINE, YWCA HALIFAX COMMUNITY PROGRAMS MANAGER

WISH 2 supports eight retirement-age participants with stable housing, regular check-ins, transportation, food, and access to healthcare, in partnership with the Red Cross and the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Two participants were able to house their adult children during the housing crisis, preventing homelessness for the next generation. Three women have now maintained sobriety for over 300 days, a testament to their resilience.

YWCA Halifax is committed to ensuring elder women have safety, community, and dignity—living each day with connection, respect, and love.



ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF ELDER WOMEN AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE

At YWCA Halifax, we believe every woman deserves to age with comfort, security, and connection. Through programs like **Victoria Hall Society** and **WISH 2**, we support elder women with the relationships and rights needed to thrive.

When we began delivering the Victoria Hall Society in May 2024, we welcomed six elder women. After the loss of one beloved member, we've continued to offer consistent care and connection to the five women in the Victoria Hall Society community.

Coordinator Rachelle Mombourquette joined part-time in October 2024, providing weekly social supports such as lunches, games, and outings. In 2025, her role became full-time, enabling her to contribute to provincial research and advocacy.



PHYLLIS' STORY

There is a sparkle in her eyes when she talks about young people. "I love teenagers. I love getting behind that defiant look in their faces when they're scared to death and so lost. Being able to get behind that front. I loved doing that. I still do."

Phyllis, a social worker and nurse, spent a career fighting for families in Nova Scotia. Whether at the Children's Aid Society, the Children's Hospital, or Foster Families of Nova Scotia, she did all she could to keep families together and help children thrive. "I loved my job," she remembers.

"I WOULD LIKE SOMEHOW FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A LIFE THAT IS SIMILAR TO MINE. I KNOW "THE SAME" ISN'T WHAT EVERYBODY WANTS BUT TO HAVE EVEN A RACHELLE TO PLAY BINGO AND MAKE YOU LAUGH. TO HAVE A CONNECTION SO THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE."

When she was young, Phyllis dreamed of having a dozen children. "In many ways, I got my wish. I have two by birth, my husband had five when we married, and then there are my many chosen children. Well, they're all my chosen children, really."

The Victoria Hall Society (VHS) previously occupied a beautiful red building on Gottingen Street and Phyllis remembers it fondly. She once served on the Board of Directors and noted that when she needed alternate housing, she wanted to live there. When that time came, about three years ago, VHS had relocated to the Caritas Residence in Bedford. Still, Phyllis became a VHS resident and found the warmth and care she was seeking.

She also understands the transition of the VHS to the YWCA in 2024. When the YWCA's first VHS coordinator, Rachelle, began working with the women of the VHS, Phyllis was profoundly impacted. "Rachelle is a beautiful, warm, welcoming individual. And she would stand on her head to do whatever she could to get me what I needed."

IN 2024, THE VICTORIA HALL SOCIETY GIFTED THE YWCA WITH ITS MISSION AND MANDATE AS WELL AS ITS ENDOWMENT AS A RESTRICTED GIFT TO CONTINUE TO ADVANCE THE WELLBEING OF ELDER WOMEN IN POVERTY. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE VHS WOMEN AT CARITAS AND HAVE BEGUN PLANNING THE NEXT ITERATION OF THE VHS LEGACY.





OUR LEGACY, OUR FUTURE

**FOR OVER 150 YEARS,
YWCA HALIFAX HAS
CREATED PATHWAYS TO
SAFETY, OPPORTUNITY,
AND BELONGING.**

**TODAY, WE'RE BUILDING
ON THAT LEGACY WITH
BOLD, TRANSFORMATIVE
PROJECTS THAT WILL SHAPE
OUR COMMUNITY FOR
GENERATIONS.**

HOUSING

Mount Hope Village is expanding in a \$62 million, three-phase project. In partnership with all levels of government, we will build 148 new affordable units over three years, providing safe homes for 500 more people.



CHILD CARE

By 2026, we'll open two new centres, including one inclusive site for 104 children, with 25% of spaces reserved for children with disabilities, and another for 32 children. Our Family Home Child Care network will grow from 50 to 60 homes.

We're also expanding Before and After School Programs, adding one new site this fall, growing capacity at current sites, and launching three more in early 2026. These changes will support nearly 200 additional children.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

In partnership with IWK Health, YWCA Halifax is co-developing Anchor Youth Space Halifax Chebucto, a trauma-informed, youth-led centre built with direct input from local youth and communities.



HERE SERVICES

Started in 2024, HERE Services is our new social enterprise providing consulting and research in housing and gender-based violence. All profits go back into our programs, driving impact through lived experience and community knowledge.

**OUR LEGACY IS ONE OF ACTION.
OUR FUTURE WILL BE, TOO,
BECAUSE INVESTING IN PEOPLE,
HOUSING, AND COMMUNITY
CREATES CHANGE THAT LASTS.**

WALL OF HONOUR



JANE SILBERT

Jane has been volunteering with YWCA's Dartmouth Childcare Development Centre for over 15 years in our infant classroom, her commitment and dedication making her a cherished part of our community. With a warm welcome to children and families each day, Jane goes about her day setting up for morning snack, helping little ones throughout the day and assisting staff with clean up routines.

Jane has built wonderful relationships with both educators and children. The children know her by name, often asking for her when she is not around, and staff describe her as a tremendous help. Her presence in the classroom brings joy and comfort to those she greets, and her consistent support and caring nature have made a lasting impact on our program. We are grateful she chooses to lend her talents to YWCA!



LINDA WENTZELL

In 2020, soon after Jessica joined SHYM, she introduced us to her grandmother, Linda Wentzell. Newly retired and eager to give back, Linda began volunteering, starting with meal prep and cooking programs for the moms. Despite initial delays due to COVID restrictions, she jumped in wholeheartedly once she could.

Since then, Linda has supported SHYM in countless ways: preparing meals for group nights, cooking at holiday gatherings, organizing donated furniture, giving gifts during the holidays, and even connecting us with Margaret's House for ongoing meal container donations.

Today, she's affectionately known as "SHYM Nanny", a name that reflects her warmth, generosity, and deep connection to our community. Linda has become a beloved grandmother figure not just to her family, but to everyone at SHYM and the YWCA. We're incredibly grateful for her lasting impact.



SARAH FOSTER

Sarah has been volunteering with YWCA's Dartmouth Childcare Development Centre for over 15 years in our infant classroom in many meaningful ways. She warmly welcomes children and families each day, sets up chairs for morning snack, assists with clean-up, helps children get ready for activities, and takes care of the classroom laundry.

Sarah's presence makes a noticeable positive difference in the classroom each day, and she is truly adored by our staff and families alike with her dedication, consistency, and caring spirit, making her an invaluable part of our community.



THE MARGARET AND WALLACE MCCAIN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Margaret McCain has been a longstanding champion of quality, universal early childhood education. Together with her husband, Wallace and their four children, they founded the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation to promote access to early childhood education for all children in Canada.

Over the past three years, the Foundation has supported YWCA Halifax in our efforts to create an inclusive early learning centre for children with complex and medical disAbilities. We know that these children have the hardest time accessing care and the wraparound supports they need.

Because of the support of the Foundation, the YWCA was able to do the important “lift off” work in designing a truly inclusive Cornerstone Centre, a first of its kind in Nova Scotia. In 2024/2025, the YWCA was successful in our \$2.9M application to create this very centre.

Margaret is a true champion of the youngest members of our community. In a year when we are celebrating the many generations of YWCA Halifax, we are honoured to have Margaret part of this journey.



TED TUPPER

It is no secret that YWCA Halifax has grown its operations, and throughout our many changes, Ted has been in the mix of it all. He first began working with the YWCA in 2011 as the owner of his own full service IT company and was instrumental in ensuring that the YWCA continued to receive uninterrupted IT support when he joined VMG and again in 2025 as the YWCA embarked on hiring in house IT personnel, ensuring a smooth transition.

A true ally in our work, Ted has also involved his family in volunteer roles, sought ways to build connections in innovative ways, and has been instrumental in designing and implementing new IT solutions as YWCA Halifax has grown.

While the mission of the YWCA is often seen as being delivered by staff in direct service roles, the operations team works behind the scenes to ensure they have the tools and systems they need to be successful. As the YWCA's primary go-to IT support, Ted has been instrumental in supporting both the operations and service delivery teams as a whole. We are grateful for his commitment to our mission.

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

TO OUR CARING COMMUNITY- THANK YOU. YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES EVERYTHING WE DO POSSIBLE. BECAUSE OF YOU, WE CAN PROVIDE THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT UPLIFT WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. YOU ARE THE HEART OF OUR MISSION, AND YOU INSPIRE US EVERY DAY.

INDIVIDUALS

Aaron Smith*
Alan & Sheila Leard
Alison Bird*
Allison Fitzpatrick
Amy Schwartz
Andrew Pulsifer
Andy Karr
Angie Tran
Ann Marie Pate
Ann Turner
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Beth Grady
Bonnie Salsman
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Brandon Book
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Laura Rowe
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 Trish Belliveau

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Cooley Family Fund
 Co-operators Community Funds
 Crombie REIT
 DeLeon Affordable Roofing
 Deloitte
 Emera
 Events East
 EY
 Feed Nova Scotia
 Flemming Charitable Foundation
 Girls Link Society Halifax
 GOJI Properties Inc.
 Grace United Church
 Grant Thornton Foundation
 Halifax Assistance Fund
 Halifax Protestant Infants' Foundation
 Halifax Youth Foundation
 Holloway Lodging
 IKEA Halifax Staff Team
 Interlude Spa
 International Women's Forum
 Atlantic Chapter
 J & W Murphy Foundation
 KBRS
 Killam Apartment REIT
 Living Stone Ltd.
 Manulife
 Margaret and Wallace McCain
 Family Foundation
 McInnes Cooper
 Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia
 O E Smith Trust
 Orlando Media Company
 OSheplin Inc.
 PCL Constructors Canada Inc.
 RBC
 River Philip Foundation
 RSCS Ltd.
 Scotiabank (ScotiaRise)
 Shannex
 Sobey's
 Spryfield Shopping Centre
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic
 Womens League
 Stewart McKelvey
 TD Community Engagement
 The Arthur and Audrey Cutten Foundation
 The Christina and Hedley
 G. Ivany Foundation

The Henry and Berenice
 Kaufmann Foundation
 The Middleton Group
 Trampoline Branding
 United Way Maritimes
 Walmart
 Windsor Foundation

GOVERNMENT

Municipal, Provincial, and Federal Partners
 Affordable Housing Association
 of Nova Scotia
 Canadian Service Corps
 Department of Opportunities
 and Social Development
 Employment and Development Canada
 Government of Canada
 Halifax Regional Municipality
 Immigration, Refugees
 and Citizenship Canada
 NS Department of Communities, Culture,
 Tourism and Heritage
 NS Department of Education and Early
 Childhood Development
 NS Health Community Health Boards
 NS Labour, Skills and Immigration
 NSACSW - NS Advisory Council on the
 Status of Women
 WAGE - Women and Gender
 Equality Canada

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHOSE
 TIME, TALENT, AND GENEROSITY
 HAS EMPOWERED OUR MISSION.
 YOUR SUPPORT IS INTEGRAL TO
 OUR WORK.**

**THIS LIST REPRESENTS THOSE WHO
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*** REFERS TO MONTHLY DONORS**

OUR DEDICATED TEAM

AT MARCH 31, 2025

THANK YOU TO THE INCREDIBLE STAFF TEAM AT YWCA HALIFAX. YOUR COMMITMENT, PASSION, AND HARD WORK MAKE OUR MISSION POSSIBLE, FROM SUPPORTING WOMEN, GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE, AND FAMILIES TO STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES. WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT YOU DO, EACH AND EVERY DAY.

Aarti Sharma
Abigail MacPherson
Abigail Price
Abimbola Shoboiki
Adebukola Shogbamu
Afia Twumasiwaa-Ankrah Osei
Afisemi Ngei
Aiswarya Jayapalan
Akashdeep Singh
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Amanda Marriott
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

MARCH 31, 2025

Programs	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024
Revenues	13,602,489	11,174,641
Expenditures	13,658,204	11,150,192
Excess Revenues over Expenditures	(55,715)	24,449

Victoria Hall Society		
Revenue Tenant Rent	113,614	
Revenue Portfolio Returns	800,093	
	913,707	
Expenditures	437,011	
Excess Revenues over Expenditures	476,696	

Investment Income	222,589	254,558
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Other Items*		
Funding for Acquisitions	1,461,000	
Gain on Bargain Purchase	407,024	

Total Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	2,511,594	279,007
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902.423.6162 WWW.YWCAHALIFAX.COM

**FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT SANDRA PINEDA (SHE/HER),
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT S.PINEDA@YWCAHALIFAX.COM**

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