A WINTER UPDATE FROM THE YWCA UTAH

In a recent personal message to our social media account, a previous child resident said “Thank you for taking in my mom and siblings when we needed it most. I learned a lot there... living at YWCA Utah from 4th to 11th grade.” Domestic violence can have effects on children from behavioral issues to missing school and other obligations. YWCA Utah intercedes at the right time for many children survivors, ensuring healing, safety, and a stable future.

CHILD SURVIVOR SUCCESS STORY

Thank you for your continued support of YWCA Utah. Your generosity enables our organization to serve marginalized communities in Utah with life-saving services, programs that elevate their profiles, and thoughtful policy advocacy for a better future. As you read our winter update, please consider the real lives and faces behind the stories coming from the programs and services we offer. From folks spanning the gender and racial spectrum to childhood survivors who have lived to tell the tale of successful intervention, these are the individuals we continue this important work to support. Follow us into the new year as we focus on policy priorities like childcare, domestic violence, housing, equity, and beyond. With your help, we are making strides to move forward in solidarity.

LIZ OWENS, CEO, YWCA UTAH
FACTS & FIGURES OF POPULATION SERVED

60% Identify as person of color, refugee, or immigrant
MORE THAN HALF seeking services have children under the age of 6
HOUSING ADVOCACY is the top service needed among service recipients

SIGNATURE EVENTS AT YWCA UTAH

INCREASED CRISIS CALLS

2020 1226
2021 1956+

DONATE TODAY ON OUR WEBSITE!

STORIES OF SURVIVORS - CRISIS CALLS ARE LIFE-SAVING CALLS

Crisis calls are often times the first step in helping domestic violence survivors understand their resources, establish emergency plans, and get help in life-threatening situations. In 2021, crisis calls increased by 60% as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate violence in the home.

The Salt Lake Area Family Justice Center is a first line of defense for survivors seeking help, and we partner with community organizations across Utah to get survivors on the path to housing stability and a steady income to support themselves and their families. While the work we do and the services we provide to our neighbors is challenging in itself, the global pandemic, lack of affordable housing, increase in domestic violence and homelessness and a global labor shortage – have all increased the difficulty in meeting survivor’s needs.

However, we continue to be proud of our skill and ability in adapting to meet the needs of our community, a skill which has enabled us to remain fully operational and open to all survivors, throughout all of the extraordinary challenges the past couple of years has presented. Even more extraordinary are the survivors and the safety and security they continue to achieve in the midst of so much adversity. Here is a recent example of a survivor success story: A single father contacted the Family Justice Center (FJC) in crisis. His abusive partner had just been released from jail, where she was being held after attacking him and their infant son. While on the crisis call, the abusive partner came to the door and began trying to break in. Using a safety plan created earlier in the call, the FJC guide was able to calm the father, call 911, and remain on the line. When the abusive partner left, the FJC guide supported the father as he grabbed his “go-bag”, left the apartment, and stayed in a safe place until police arrived.

The father was brought to the Family Justice Center and sheltered by our Women in Jeopardy program. While staying with YWCA Utah, the father was able to complete a protective order for him and his child, gain custody, establish income, work with the housing team, and eventually move him and his child into an affordable apartment. YWCA Utah was able to offer him short term assistance while he stabilized his new home and became self-sufficient.

YWCA 24 Hour Crisis Line 801-537-8600 or Toll-Free 855-992-2752

THANK YOU TO COMCAST

Over the next 10 years, Comcast is committing $1 billion to connect 50 million people from low-income families to the internet at home, equipping safe spaces with free WiFi, and locally working with Utah’s network of nonprofit community organizations, city leaders, and business partners and clients to create opportunities for low-income Utahns.

ywcautah.org
BUSINESS LINE: 801-537-8604
CRISIS LINE: 801-537-8600