

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

FALL 2022



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Charleston, WV

CELEBRATING DEBBY WEINSTEIN, CEO

Thank you for 39 years of passion and service to our mission!

How do we summarize CEO Debby Weinstein's nearly 40-year career of dedication, advocacy and passion? How can long days, tireless service and laser focus on the mission of eliminating racism and empowering women be expressed? Debby Weinstein began her career with YWCA Charleston as a volunteer in 1982 and became an employee in 1983 as an overnight advocate at Resolve Family Abuse Program. She answered crisis calls and worked closely with the women who were seeking refuge from violence and a way toward peace. Deb's passionate advocacy and big heart are two of the many qualities that make her a relentless champion of social justice.

The woman who is a seemingly tireless embodiment of compassion, hard work, energy and activism, is retiring in December. Long days, endless meetings, tens of thousands of people served and many millions of dollars raised all culminate in support of the YWCA's mission to which Deb is devoted.

From Resolve Family Abuse Program, Deb was promoted to program director at Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families. At the time, Sojourner's was a dormitory within the YWCA building on Quarrier Street. She worked tirelessly to aid homeless women and their children. Deb was promoted to the role of program director. She helped grow the program from 8 beds in two different locations on Shrewsbury Street until it moved to its current location on Washington Street in 1981.

A contemporary of Alicia McCormick, the director of Resolve Family Abuse Program, Deb later advocated for and developed a transitional housing program in her friend's memory. McCormick's legacy still lives on in a program that provides up to two years of housing, case management and support to women who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking.

Deb and her family moved to Missoula, MT in 1996 so she could become that community's YWCA CEO. After a successful

time out west, Deb and family returned to Charleston when she was named the YWCA Charleston's Executive Director in 1997. Deb's leadership and vision have blessed the community with programs that have meaningful and measurable outcomes for the people we serve.

Seeing a need and creating solutions is one of her many talents. Over the years, many women and families have passed through our program doors. As patterns and trends emerged, Deb tackled the underlying problems. For example, she realized that many single elderly women were languishing at Sojourner's Shelter. There were places for the women to go, but because many elderly women were experiencing homelessness because they were victims of elder abuse at the hands of their families, they were not safe. So Deb spearheaded the development of the Shanklin Center for Senior Enrichment and Empowerment Homes for Women. This lovely community gives hope and permanent homes to elderly women who have experienced abuse, homelessness and who have disabilities.

Deb has led the organization through capital campaigns to ensure that the work continues through good and bad financial times. She has partnered with other non-profits and businesses so that all of the programs of YWCA Charleston meaningfully serve the needs of participants. Deb leaves no stone unturned when she seeks resolution to a challenge. Her example fosters collaboration and problem-solving across the organization.

Deb will be retiring as the YWCA Charleston CEO in December and we hope that she can enjoy the next chapter of her life knowing that she leaves a legacy steeped in dedication, compassion and advocacy. Deb's career culminates in celebration for all that she has done in this community as a leader. Many organizations have recognized her leadership and her accomplishments. Our best is to simply say thank you and we are ready to carry on this legacy.

A YWCA SOJOURNER'S SUCCESS STORY

Support for the Family Unit

Lacey, her spouse, Mike, and their daughter, Emily struggled with finances when Mike got laid off from his job at a hotel in Statesville, North Carolina. Mike had been employed at the hotel for 5 years when they decided after Thanksgiving, to lay off all employees and close their doors for renovations. Mike had relatives in Charleston, West Virginia who urged the family to relocate and even assisted with applying to local apartment complexes in the area. This family arrived at YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women & Families the week of Christmas.



Lacey, Mike, and the Housing Coordinator worked immediately to verify housing applications, including all required documentation that was on file, and applied at other housing developments. The Case Manager worked with Lacey and Mike to verify that they had no outstanding utility or rental bills. The Children's Program assisted with enrolling Emily in Kanawha County Schools, after-school programs, and transferring records from North Carolina. Lacey and Mike began working with the YWCA Sojourner's Margaret Taylor Education Job Readiness Center to seek and secure employment. Mike successfully became employed full time at a local hotel while Lacey secured part time employment working at a restaurant during school hours. The housing section moved quickly for Lacey and Mike as they so quickly secured employment. They were able to sign a two-bedroom lease and are still there to this day.

An aftercare specialist followed up with this family, and they are doing fantastic! Emily eventually changed schools to be closer to home, and is doing amazing in her new school. Mike is still employed full-time and Lacey is still working part-time while going to college to finish her degree! Lacey also recently got a Driver's License! The family loves West Virginia and has felt very welcomed by everyone they know. They wanted to share with staff how thankful they are for everything YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women & Families assisted them with in such a dire time.

In the last year alone, YWCA Sojourner's provided shelter and services for more than 347 homeless children and adults. By supporting YWCA Sojourner's through fully tax deductible donations, donating items to the shelter, or by participating in Guys Night Out or Foodie Feast, you are providing a hand up, not a hand out! Visit ywcacharleston.org for how to get involved.

Girls Night Out
ALL THAT SPARKLES

THANK YOU

TO ALL OF OUR 2022 GNO
SPONSORS, DONORS, AND ATTENDEES

Together, we raised funds to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors from our communities in the coming year.

YOU HAVE GIVEN THE GIFT OF HOPE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



NOV
7-13



For the third year in a row, Foodie Feast is proud to present Where Foodies Can Feast! Dine in or order out at local restaurants during the week of November 7-13 where a percentage of sales will benefit YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families.

To learn more, visit foodiefeastwv.com

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VOLUNTEER *spotlight*

UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON

GOLDEN EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

This year, the YWCA Racial Equity & Inclusion Program was a receiver of the University of Charleston's massive service initiative during Labor Day titled *Labor of Love*. This effort requires that all students engaged in community service activities in the state on September 4 & 5, 2022. Coaching staff and players from the University of Charleston's Golden Eagles spent the morning prepping the building for construction and beautifying the front of the building with retaining walls and flower beds.

The United Way's 17th annual *Day of Caring* will finish the work with a team of volunteers from the University of Charleston's Radiology department. Each year, United Way's Day of Caring event brings together teams of volunteers to help non-profit organizations like ours across Kanawha, Putnam, Boone, Clay, and Logan counties.

The University of Charleston's students have given us the start we need to begin work on the new Center for Racial Equity & Inclusion, and for that we are **thankful!**



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*Corporate partners whose support sustains **YWCA Charleston** so that we can continue to serve the most **vulnerable in our communities.***

*Together, we work to promote **peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.***

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As part of a competitive application process, YWCA Charleston was awarded a limited number of Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) tax credits for eligible gifts of \$500 or more!

To reserve your credits, contact Jennifer Pharr (304) 720-0541, mail a check, or donate online at ywcacharleston.org.