

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

SUMMER 2022



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Charleston, WV

A Survivor's Story Achieving the Impossible

Ivy came to Hope House straight from the hospital emergency room following a fight with her abuser. She said the nurse recognized that she needed help. Ivy said that she never even knew that Resolve Family Abuse Program even existed. The nurse and the hospital social worker told her that she could get help if she wanted to leave her abuser. At six months pregnant, Ivy felt that Hope House was the right place for her to be.

As with many survivors of domestic violence, Ivy said “At first everything was awesome.” But as the relationship progressed, she could see little things, like how he would take her everywhere, have her call to check in when she went out and eventually isolated her from her friends and her family. While she was with her boyfriend, she became pregnant.

As the abuse and violence escalated, Ivy decided that it wasn't safe for her daughters to stay with her. She left them with a family member because she never knew what might set off her abuser. She didn't want to expose them to harm or witness the abuse happening to her. Her abuser was so violent, she slept outside a few times.

At Hope House, Ivy said was scared and lonely when she arrived, but she was made to feel at home and that she was safe. The case manager at Hope House told her that her children were welcome to join her. To Ivy's surprise, the staff coordinated the reunion with her children that same night. “They helped me with everything—pullups, clothing, getting them whatever they needed.”

To others who are experiencing domestic violence, Ivy said, “I would tell them that the Hope House is a safe haven. The staff are loving and caring and want to help you achieve what you think is really impossible—but it isn't impossible because they help you.”

Ivy spent around 30 days at Hope House. During that time she began to realize, “everything was just flowing. As soon as I went to Hope House, things started to get better. It got better every day.”

As for finding Resolve, Ivy said, “If I had wanted to see it, I could have. I was too locked up and confined in my own disaster. I didn't see Hope House because I didn't think I needed help. Once I decided that I needed help, it was there. It's an amazing program.”

Ivy and her daughters eventually moved to the YWCA Alicia McCormick Transitional Homes. “I went from being around a lot of people at Hope House to being just me and my kids. It was nice to be in our own space and cook our own food as a family. I got to learn how to be on my own, but I wasn't really alone because of the program.”

Looking back, Ivy said she would tell others that there are signs to look out for. “That anger is there. If I had recognized it for what it was along with the controlling, it might have made a difference. Him telling you what to wear, who to talk to, where to go—all the signs were there. Those things happened and that's in the past. Now I'm just moving forward. The things that you've been through, you just don't forget them.”

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, please call YWCA Resolve Family Abuse program at 1-800-681-8663 or 304-340-3549.

24/7 free chat hotline: [ywcacharleston.org](https://www.ywcacharleston.org)

introducing

PATRICK V. O'MALLEY

WV Market President of Truist

Patrick V. O'Malley is the Regional President for West Virginia at Truist Financial Corporation. Named to this position in September 2021, O'Malley is the senior leader in the market and responsible for directing the commercial business and delivering the full complement of the firm's services to clients. Patrick is also passionate about giving back to his local communities, and that passion has been extended to YWCA Charleston with a \$20,000 gift to our programs.



We are grateful to Mr. O'Malley and his team at Truist for their continuous support of our mission. Thank you, Truist!

AUGUST 13TH, 2022 | CHARLESTON COLISEUM & CONVENTION CENTER

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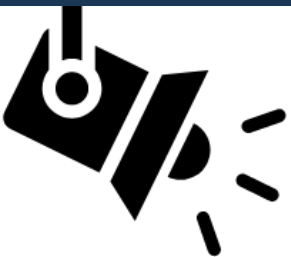


Visit gnowv.com to purchase your tickets, become a sponsor, volunteer your time or make an in-kind donation.

Questions? Call (304) 720-0541

Fundraiser to benefit the:

YWCA RESOLVE FAMILY ABUSE PROGRAM | Providing shelter and support to victims of domestic violence



VOLUNTEER *spotlight*

RECOVERY POINT WV

Since 2016, Recovery Point Charleston has been operating as a long-term recovery facility for women, focusing on helping place children back with their mothers after recovery. Recovery Point Charleston provides non-medical detox, an Off the Street's Program, and an array of services to remain faithful to their mission work of providing hope for women pursuing help from substance use disorder and supporting women on their pathway to recovery.

The hard-working women at Recovery Point Charleston have provided many volunteer hours at YWCA Charleston this year. They have helped prepare packets for our Race to End Racism, assembled boxes for our #StriveFor5 baked goods sale with Rock City Cake Company, and assisted with Over The Edge! We are so grateful for all their tireless efforts!

Women of Achievement

2023
eliminating racism
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**DO YOU KNOW A
WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT?
NOMINATE THEM TODAY!**

**NOMINATION
DEADLINE:
JULY 21, 2022**

Visit ywcacharleston.org/woa for nomination forms and more information!

**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT JENNIFER PHARR
jpharr@ywcacharleston.org
(304)-720-0541**

West Virginia American Water Donates \$125,000 to Support YWCA Charleston's Racial Justice Endowment Campaign

On May 5, 2022, West Virginia American Water announced its donation of a multi-year pledge totaling \$125,000 to support the YWCA Charleston's Racial Justice Endowment Campaign. The campaign seeks to raise \$500,000 to match an anonymous donor.

"Supporting the YWCA Charleston's Racial Justice Endowment Campaign was a clear fit for us, and we look forward to the progress that will be made through the Racial Equity and Inclusion Program," said Robert Burton, president of West Virginia American Water.

The Racial Justice Endowment Campaign will provide programming funds for the new YWCA Center for Racial Equity and Inclusion at 412 Elizabeth Street. This center will be the first of its kind in Charleston, Kanawha County and possibly the State of West Virginia! The vision for the center includes:

- Professional Development and Welcoming Communities
- Accessible Learning Environment
- Community Engagement
- Programming for Children

"We are so thankful for like-minded businesses such as West Virginia American Water that show the value of inclusion, diversity and equity through their charitable giving. It means the world to our efforts, and we're incredibly grateful for their generous support," said Debby Weinstein, CEO of the YWCA Charleston.

Contributions for the \$500,000 campaign, #StriveFor5, are still being collected. Anticipated grand opening for the center is by December 31, 2022.

introducing



Jennifer Fleshman
Sojourner's Shelter Program Director

Jennifer Fleshman joined YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women & Families as the Assistant Director in December 2019 - and then COVID-19 changed everything. For her dedication, innovation, and hard work, she was honored as the inaugural recipient of the "YWCA Charleston Employee of the Year" award in 2021.

In January 2022, Jennifer was named the Director of the program following Margaret Taylor's retirement.

Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and her career has been dedicated to working with children and families for over 21 years! "Being able to help people really humbles you and I'm happy to be in a position to see people rise to every challenge imaginable and move forward in their lives", she said.

Jennifer has a dog and two cats, and is immensely proud of her son who is a firefighter.



Jennifer Pharr
Development Director

Jennifer Pharr joined YWCA Charleston as the Development Director in January 2022. Jennifer is a West Virginia University alum, former executive committee member of the Board of Directors of the YWCA Charleston, former Taste of All Charleston Chair, and a Charleston City Council Woman at Large. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jennifer was the recipient of the Charleston Main Streets Becky Ceperley Urban Leadership Award.

Jennifer's passion is deeply rooted in development, revitalization, and being a voice for marginalized individuals. "I don't take lightly the work done at the YWCA Charleston and take pride in raising necessary funds to support the vital programming offered by this incredible organization", she said.

Jennifer has two rescue dogs, Penny and Sampson, and is so incredibly proud of her son, Zion, who is a student athlete at Wheeling University.

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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.*

peace

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