



YWCA
SASKATOON

| 2024 / 2025 Annual Report

Hope

For Tomorrow





MANY HEARTS, ONE COMMUNITY

For more than a century, YWCA Saskatoon has walked alongside women and their families through moments of challenge and transformation. We are a welcoming, community-driven organization that provides emergent and preventative services while fostering resilience, growth, and a renewed sense of possibility.

VISION & VALUES

- Women, girls, and their families are empowered in a safe, equitable community.
- Though our facilities, staff, and resources have changed since we began, our vision and our goals have not – and we remain just as committed to them today as we were when our doors opened. We are dedicated to continued growth, education, and reconciliation in order to provide equitable, trauma-informed care.

MISSION

Honouring our commitment to women and their families, we provide services and programs to advance and advocate for reconciliation, independence, wellness and equity in an environment where everyone feels safe and respected.



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**2025 Women of Distinction Awards,
Presented by Graham**

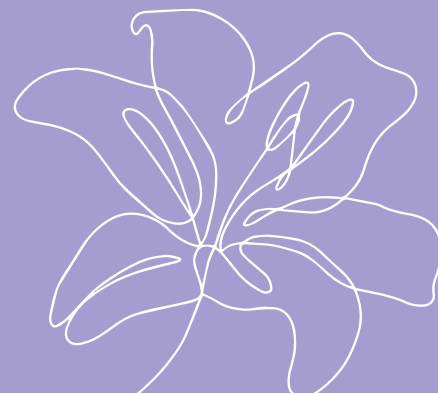
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MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR & CEO



The past year at YWCA Saskatoon has been nothing short of transformative. Just one year ago, we were striving to reach the finish line of our capital campaign. Today, we stand together in celebration of its remarkable success. The completion of our new Transitional Housing Wing, Hopeful Hearts, has brought that vision to life — offering 35 units and 75 beds that now serve as a lifeline for women, and children across our city.

But our work extends far beyond bricks and mortar. At YWCA Saskatoon, we know that a safe place to stay is only the beginning. Stability, dignity, and opportunity are what truly change lives. That is why the next phase of our Hope Lives Here campaign is focused on strengthening and expanding the services that create lasting impact.

This includes much-needed renovations to our main crisis shelter, and the expansion of our Employment and Learning Centre, where clients gain the skills, training, and confidence they need to achieve sustainable employment and independence.

We are also thrilled to share that the Ministry of Education has approved 90 new licensed daycare spaces for our community. With nearly 600 families currently on our waitlist, this is a vital step forward in addressing the pressing childcare shortage. Our team is actively working to secure a downtown location that will bring these new spaces to life.

None of these milestones would be possible without the people who bring our mission to life each day. To our dedicated employees — your compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment are the heartbeat of YWCA Saskatoon.

We are equally grateful for the generosity of our donors, the leadership of our Capital Cabinet and Board of Directors, and the steadfast support of our community. Together, you make hope tangible.

While we celebrate these accomplishments, we also remain deeply mindful of the challenges that persist. Homelessness in our city has reached an all-time high, and too many families continue to struggle without safe housing or supports. In this reality, our resolve only strengthens.

At YWCA Saskatoon, we believe in the power of hope. Hope is what gives a woman the courage to leave a dangerous situation. Hope is what sustains a family when the path forward feels uncertain. And hope is what drives us all toward the belief in a brighter, more just tomorrow.

Together, we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a community where every woman and child is empowered to live with dignity, safety, and purpose.

With gratitude,

Cara Bahr
Chief Executive Officer

Jocelyn Zurakowski
Board Chair



LEADERSHIP TEAM



Cara Bahr
CEO



Riley Baxter
VP, Finance &
Operations



Carla Huntington
VP, Development &
Engagement



Shumi Zaman
Director, Early
Learning



Rahim Ramji
Director, Fitness



Kim Fisher
Director, Residential
Programs



Lee Pion
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& Learning

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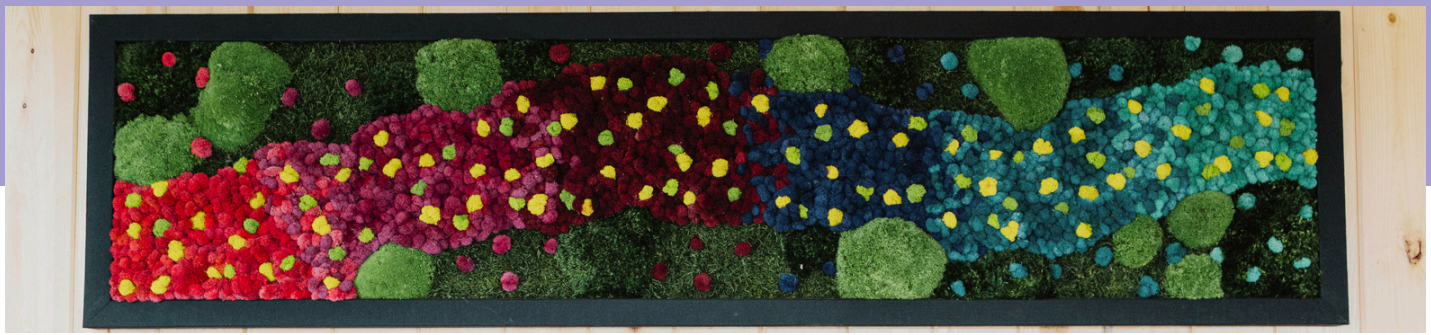
Sekai Musoki

Kasya Naidu

Rachael Sutherland

Treena Wynes





It takes a village. Thank you to our generous Hope Lives Here donors.

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CRISIS SHELTER & RESIDENCE

We are thrilled to announce the official opening of Hopeful Hearts, a new 35-unit, 75-bed transitional housing wing that will significantly enhance our ability to provide refuge for women and children escaping violence and trauma.

By investing in this additional space, we hope to address the rising demand for shelter, ensuring more women and families have a secure, supportive environment to rebuild their lives after tragedy.



YWCA Saskatoon is dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all our residents. As we begin renovations of our existing shelter space, we look forward to seeing improvements not only in structural integrity of the facility – but in creating warmer, more welcoming spaces that foster a sense of community and comfort.

Success Story from our Crisis Counsellor:

This year, our team partnered with an out-of-province community organization to support a young lady fleeing a dangerous situation. Working closely together, we arranged for her to stay in our shelter, helped her secure essential identification, and guided her through the process of accessing financial supports.

With stability in place, she was accepted into our transitional housing program, where she now has plans to complete her education and continue planning her next steps. This collaboration required extraordinary effort from both organizations and demonstrated how far-reaching partnerships can change the course of someone's life.

WE SERVED

471

WOMEN & CHILDREN



4801

WOMEN & CHILDREN TURNED AWAY DUE TO LACK OF SPACE

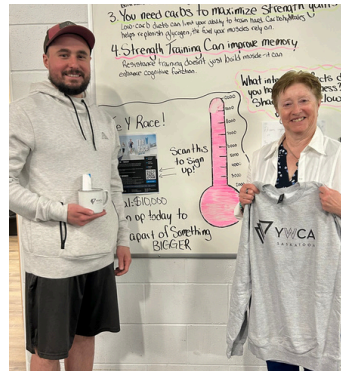
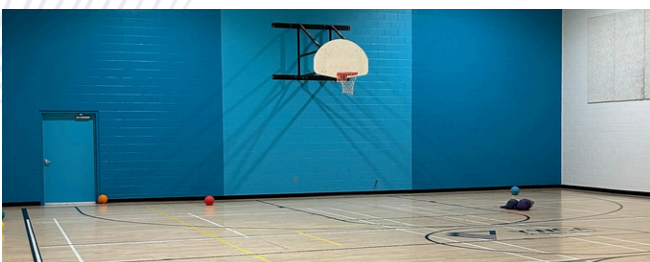


FITNESS ON 25TH

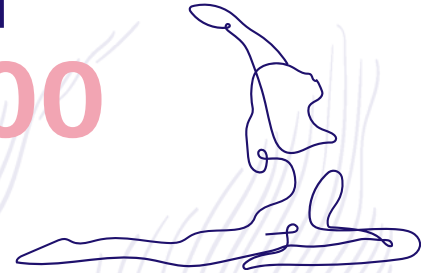
This past year has been nothing short of exceptional, marking a record-breaking period for rental usage and revenue. Our inaugural kids summer camps (2024) were a resounding success, and this year's programs are looking even better! We were proud to welcome a diverse group of youth, including many children on the spectrum with unique needs – highlighting the dedication and skill of our outstanding staff.



In our ongoing efforts to enhance our facilities and offerings, we've given our gymnasium a fresh coat of paint! Additionally, our community has grown with the welcome addition of a nurse practitioners group opening an office in our lobby.



MORE THAN
\$10,000
RAISED FOR
THE Y RACE



Our BoneFit class, focusing on osteoporosis exercise, is gaining momentum with up to 15 participants attending four times a week.

As sales in the café continue to rise, plans are underway to hire a café manager and further broaden our services and expand our menu.



175%



INCREASE IN CAFE SALES

303 MEMBERS

UP FROM 286 THE
PREVIOUS YEAR.





EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING CENTRE

YWCA Saskatoon's Employment & Learning Centre continues to thrive as a place for community members to gain employment skills, take part in workshops, build marketable skills and create networking connections.

As we accept applications for Fall Cohorts in both our Trade Journey and Women Shifting Gears programs, we look forward to meeting and mentoring a new group of participants.

The Job Search Program continues to build momentum, recently hosting an Employer Information with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. We look forward to more collaborations like these, offering incredible and sustainable career opportunities to our clients.

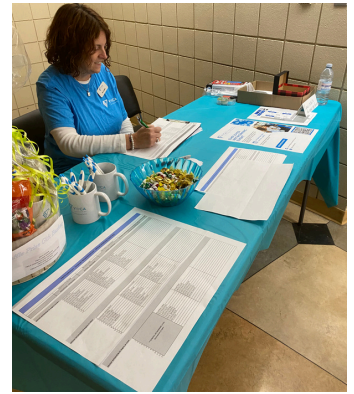
"What truly made the experience special was the genuine care and support I received. The training went far beyond the basics, it opened doors for me, including the incredible opportunity to do a job shadow as a Client Service Clerk."

– Career ReSet Participant

We are proud to announce the successful completion of our PowerUP and Career ReSet programs. These programs have been instrumental in empowering participants, providing them with critical skills and opportunities that have enhanced their professional journeys, and left our province 34 small businesses richer!

"The PowerUP program, and even more so the facilitators, created opportunities for learning, self-reflection, creativity, networking, and empowerment."

-PowerUP Participant



449

INDIVIDUALS ACCESSED SERVICES FOR HELP WITH RESUMES, JOB SEARCHING, AND REACHING JOB GOALS

COMPUTER LAB SUPPORTED

195

Program Students

93

Computer Lab Appointments

POWERUP PROGRAM LIFETIME IMPACT

07

Cohorts Completed

34

Program Graduates



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

YWCA Saskatoon's Child Development Centre (CDC) has been buzzing with laughter and joy. Our dedicated team of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) have been instrumental in enhancing our programs to ensure each child that comes through our doors experiences a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment.

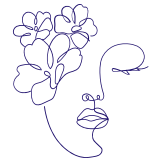
OPERATING AT CAPACITY, **62** SPACES ARE ALWAYS FILLED WITH MORE THAN **500** FAMILIES ON THE WAITLIST.

The year was filled with adventures for the kids, including rides on the train at Kinsmen Park, outdoor activities, and gardening. A new awning was installed which has created a cozy spot to cool off. The children are enjoying our Music Program that not only entertains them, but also fosters a sense of creativity. When it is too cold to go outside, you will find them engaging in various indoor activities in our gymnasium.

We're excited to share that the Ministry of Education has approved 90 new licensed daycare spaces. Plans are underway to secure a downtown location, which will be a major step toward supporting more families on our waitlist.

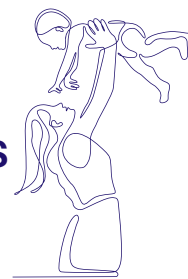
37%

NEW CANADIANS



19%

INDIGENOUS FAMILIES



12%

CHILDREN WITH DIVERSE NEEDS

"To say childcare at the YWCA CDC has meant everything to our family is an understatement. We have been lucky to have our three children in the care of the amazing early childhood educators at the YWCA for the last 4.5 years... Kind, patient, loving caregivers were the rock we needed as we grew our family. Each day our children were happy to be dropped off, excited for the day's activities and looked forward to seeing their friends. This consistency enabled us to flourish in our careers, never having to worry about the care our kiddos were receiving."

-CDC Parent



YWCA SASKATOON Women of DISTINCTION

PRESENTED BY

GRAHAM

For the last 43 years we have gathered to celebrate the remarkable women in Saskatoon - the women shaping our community with courage, compassion, and conviction.



This year we recognized women in nine categories: Lifetime Achievement, Business & Entrepreneurship, Community Building, Education, Health and Wellness, Leadership in Athletics, Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM), Women in the Trades and Young Trailblazers.



The Women of Distinction Awards gala, held in the heart of Saskatoon, was an unforgettable evening filled with joy and admiration – and showing the diversity of fields in which women continue to have a remarkable impact.

This year's group of nominees were nothing short of extraordinary, leaving an indelible mark on all who attended. Their accomplishments helped us shine a spotlight on their individual brilliance, but also served as a powerful reminder of the collective strength and potential of women.

We are so grateful to our Title Sponsor, Graham and to all of our Award Sponsors, Event Sponsors and Partners. Without their support, this celebration would not be possible.

Congratulations to all of our recipients and nominees! You are inspiring the next generation of female leaders.

Award Recipients

Lifetime Achievement



Elder Mary Lee

Business & Entrepreneurship



Christine Marie

Community Building



Namarta Kochar

Education



Kim de Laforest

Health & Wellness



Dr. Michelle Pavloff

Leadership in Athletics



Shannon Chinn

STEM



Dr. Ingrid Pickering

Women in the Trades



Alison Solmes

Young Trailblazers



(Namrata) Nami Sharma & Brianna Dodd



THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

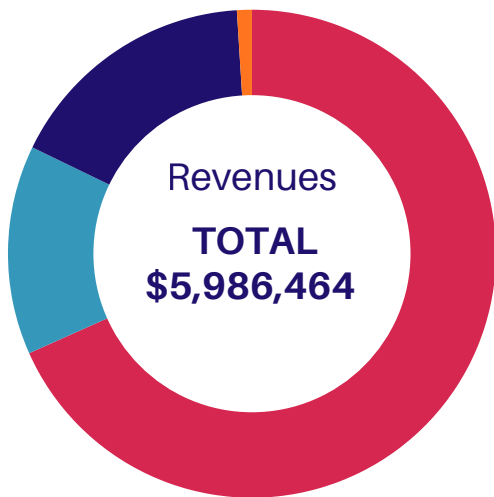




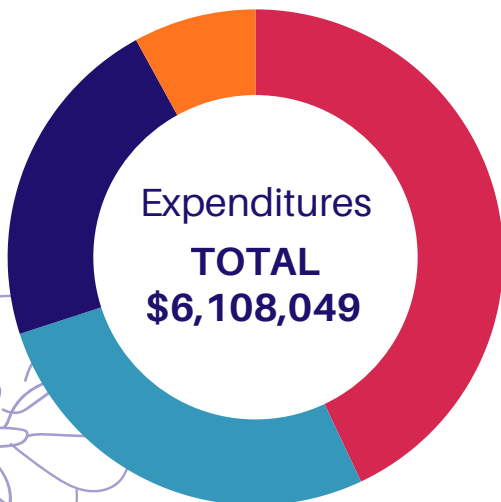
SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL RESULTS

The YWCA Saskatoon is committed to offering its clients the greatest possible variety and quality of programs and services. This is achieved through efficient operations, conservative administration costs and effective use of core funding and donor support.

Summarized results are for the YWCA Saskatoon Operating Fund.



- **69%** Government Contracted Programs **\$4,108,600**
- **14%** Fee for Service & Facility Rentals **\$824,741**
- **17%** Fund Development & Grants **\$1,002,354**
- **01%** Other Income **\$50,769**



- **43%** Crisis Shelter & Residence **\$2,604,779**
- **27%** Employment & Learning **\$1,626,399**
- **22%** Child Development **\$1,360,331**
- **08%** Fitness on 25th **\$516,540**

Administration costs as a percentage of total expenses were **10%.**

Development costs as a percentage of total expenses were **8%.**

Thank you for your support

\$100+

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Allen Geeraert
Allyce Strudwick
Amy Cole
Angela & Randy Schmidt
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JUNE 26, 2025

I JUST WANNA SAY THANK YOU!
THANK YOU FOR BEING A STEPPING
STONE IN MY LIFE. I WAS IN
THE LIVING PROGRAM IN 2010/11,
NOW I'M AN ENGINEER WORKING
IN VANCOUVER. I WANT YOU TO
KNOW THAT YOUR WORK AT
THE SHELTER DOES MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!





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