

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

North Central Washington

YWIRE

JUNE 2016

YWCA
IS ON A
MISSION



LGBTQ Pride Month

A Message from our Executive Director

June has arrived, and with it sweltering heat, and much work to do here at the YWCA surrounding our mission and advocacy items. Here's a peek at what's going on here at the YWCA:

Since we launched our brand awareness campaign in January, we have been working hard to give the public greater clarity about who we are and what we do. Our mission is squarely focused on eliminating racism and empowering women.

The 225 YWCA's around the country serving more than 2 million women and families annually work hand-in-hand with people as they take steps to improve their lives, and specifically here at YWCA NCW through homeless housing services, and job training.

With YWCA Advocacy coming up in August, we are working to increase awareness of YWCA's priorities by key policymakers will help us continue to influence change. Nationally, we are working to ensure racial equity, get guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, create fair workplaces, and safeguard a woman's access to healthcare. These are such important priorities, and we need to make sure those in power are listening when we call out for change. If you are one of those who like to MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN, join our Community Engagement and Advocacy Committee. With just one meeting a month and some online/at home advocacy once in a while, it's a great way to learn about the YWCA and how we not only offer services, but we work to make change happen at the most important level.

Finally, in the coming months, we look forward to connecting with new donors and volunteers as well as re-connecting with previous donors. I know that there are individuals, corporations, and foundations out there who are aligned with our mission. By better explaining our work, we can make it clear that YWCA is the right partner to give back and create change. We would love to see you at our next ***Beyond the Orange Doors: Monthly Luncheon Tour!***

We will see you on Tuesday, June 14th at 12 noon here at YWCA NCW for our monthly Beyond the Orange Doors Luncheon Tour. Come see firsthand how we change lives everyday!

In Gratitude,





JUNE: LGBTQ Pride Month

LGBT PRIDE MONTH

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month (LGBT Pride Month) is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the **1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan**.

The Stonewall riots were a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible.

In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposium and concerts, and LGBT Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world.

Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

In 1994, a coalition of education-based organizations in the United States designated October as LGBT History Month. In 1995, a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the National Education Association included LGBT History Month within a list of commemorative months. LGBT History Month is also celebrated with annual month-long observances of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, along with the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. National Coming Out Day (October 11), as well as the first "March on Washington" in 1979, are commemorated in the LGBT community during LGBT History Month.

Get your tickets to the 2nd Annual Hallow-Queens Drag show NOW!

Mark your calendars! The 2nd Annual YWCA Hallow-Queens Drag show is set for Saturday, October 29th 2016 at the Numerica Performing Arts Center in downtown Wenatchee!

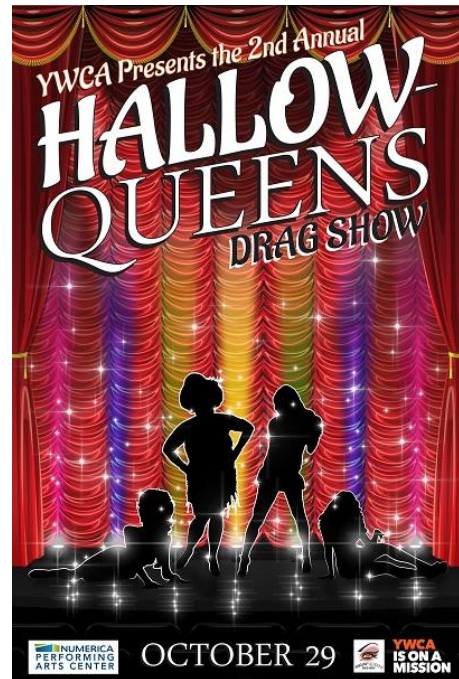
Don't miss out, this year's show is going to be spectacular!

Because you are subscribed to our E-News, you can NOW purchase your tickets! Be the FIRST to select your seats!

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS NOW!](#)

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates or visit our website: www.ywca-cw.org

[View our calendar here!](#)



ESTATE SALE THIS THURSDAY!

Don't Miss out on the amazing YWCA Estate Sale, THIS THURSDAY 6/9 from 8am-2:30pm!

**36 Warehouse Loop Rd.
Orondo, WA**

(Take a right at Auvil Fruit Sign, Follow Signs)

ITEMS include: Leather Couches, Dresser, Art, Camping Gear, Stereo, Kid's Toys, Shelving, Snowblower, Tools, Kitchenware, Linens, HUGE swing set-you haul. Don't Miss Out!



Beyond the Orange Doors

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the YWCA's iconic orange double doors?

Interested in getting a firsthand look at our facilities, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and learning about the life changing work that happens within our walls?

SIGN UP today for our "Beyond the Orange Doors" luncheon tours! We will provide you with a light lunch and refreshments, an "inspirational" tour, and an opportunity to learn what YWCA NCW is all about!

These short 50 minute lunch events are absolutely **FREE**, and there will be no soliciting of any sort. We encourage individuals, community groups, clubs, as well as service



organizations to attend. The following tour date is currently available*:

- Tuesday, June 14th, 2016 at 12 pm

To sign up or for more information about "[Beyond the Orange Doors](#)", please contact:

Alyssa Martinez

YWCA NCW Community Relations Manager

Phone: 509.662.3531 ext. 115

Email: alyssa@ywcancw.org

**Dates & times may be subject to change*

Attention: Amazon Shoppers!



Do you LOVE shopping on Amazon? Great News: Sign up for Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to YWCA NCW! This is an excellent way to help us continue to Empower Women & Eliminate Racism!

[Click Here to Sign Up For Amazon Smile!](#)



YWCA & Fred Meyer Community Rewards: RE-ENROLL TODAY!

[Click Here To See How to Re-Enroll and Make Sure Your Shopping Continues to Help YWCA NCW](#)

Support the YWCA NCW just by shopping at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card! Fred Meyer donates \$2.6 million each year - up to \$650,000 each quarter - to local schools, community organizations and nonprofits: including YWCA!

All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and scan it every time you shop at Fred Meyer.

You are now able to **link your Rewards Card to the YWCA NCW by following the link below**. Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy's, you will be helping the YWCA earn a donation from Fred Meyer. If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store.

IF YOU ARE ALREADY ENROLLED, YOU WILL NEED TO RE-ENROLL. FRED MEYER WILL BE DROPPING ALL THOSE CURRENTLY ENROLLED ON JULY 1ST. CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO RE-ENROLL.

[Link your rewards card to YWCA NCW Now!](#)

Maria's Story

YWCA NCW is **On A Mission**: to empower women and families through assistance, support, and

education. Maria is just one of many inspiring examples of this mission being accomplished right here in our community. Here is her story:

"We all have trials in life and mine led me to the YWCA Second Beginnings Treasures. The reality of my life had become cruel to me, and I could not escape the truth. For so long I have put up walls on fear of people seeing the truth of me for shame had controlled my life, and those who have seen my mask. I had lost myself that I that I didn't even know where to begin. So, as you can see I wasn't sure what I was expecting from this experience, all I knew was that I needed some help to get back in to the world.

When I first walked into the store I was completely intimidated by my surroundings. I was afraid to even speak. But someone greeted me with a friendly handshake and smile.



During my interview I kept calm and quiet, but on the inside I wanted to run away, but I hung in there. The first couple of days of working here was nerve wrecking. I was afraid of making a mistake on every little thing I did, but the YWCA was patient and always said 'we learn from our mistakes'. They let me work at my own pace and allowed me to be trained by those who felt could help me.

I had several more trials while working here, but I have been able to confide in my boss and together we were able to find solutions to my problems. Over the past several months, I was able to gain a lot of work ethic and self-confidence that I didn't know I had.

I am no longer in the program, but I can't seem to stay away. I love the store and what it does to help people in need so I volunteer some of my free time in helping out.

I'm not sure what my future holds for me, but what I do know is that I'm ready to take on the world with new found confidence and a smile on my face.

I'm thankful to have been in the Service Alternatives program and allowing me to build my work skills and I am grateful to the YWCA for allowing me to be trained in their store and supporting me every step of the way. And with a last note, I would like to say that I would not change a single moment that I have spent here in this store.

*Thanks always,
Maria Perez"*

Maria is just one of the many individuals who walk through our orange doors just needing someone to believe in them, someone to support and encourage them on their journey, and who find the support and resources they need to put the pieces of their lives back together again. This is what we're all about here at YWCA NCW. We're in the business of changing lives.

If you or someone you know has a story about someone whose life has changed because of YWCA NCW, or if there is someone that changed your life or empowers others, we want to know! Please email us any stories and/or pictures to Alyssa@ywcancw.org or send them by mail along with your contact information to:

YWCA NCW
Attn: E-News
212 1st St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

YWACT
Advocacy Corner

Art for Advocacy: The Face of Family Homelessness



*Written by Catherine Hinrichsen,
Project Director, Seattle University
Project on Family Homelessness*

8 THINGS WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT USING ART FOR ADVOCACY

Here's what we've learned about

using the power of art and emotion to spark change:

1. Use art to reach people in unexpected ways. Bringing art into public or offbeat spaces, and bringing advocacy into galleries or display spaces, breaks down barriers and allows us to reach new audiences. We may be surprised to see a 22-foot-high spiral sculpture about homelessness gradually rising out of the gravel in our neighborhood park. A fan of cutting-edge animated film might see for the first time a peek into the life of a homeless teenager. A fun field trip to the local children's theater can mean a class of fourth-graders sees the experiences of an imaginative and resilient homeless boy who could be one of their classmates.

2. Make the art an interactive experience. Find ways to bring together the artist, the subject, and the audience whenever possible so that it's not just a one-way, passive experience. Ask visitors to react visually or verbally to the art, then incorporate that feedback into a display. When the formerly homeless teen artist Inocente came to Seattle for our screening of the Academy Award-winning documentary about her, she also agreed to be the featured artist at the Gates Foundation Visitor Center's Family Day. Instead of being behind a podium, she worked side-by-side with children at an art station. This type of interaction also allows the audience to process their feelings and can cement their intent to act.

3. Use art to tell a complex story succinctly and concisely. Art captures humanity, acknowledging that humans are emotional, not rational, decision makers. Infographics can become works of art, drawing us in with vivid visuals to connect us to the people behind the numbers.

4. Share the stories and art via social media. The internet practically begs for an ongoing stream of shareable images, videos, graphics and art. Social media is also a great entry point for the budding advocate, someone who's not quite ready to write to Congress but who will eagerly post a video, infographic or photo on Facebook.

5. Keep re purposing the art and use it in different ways. Our Journalism Fellow Dan Lamont, an accomplished photojournalist, created a beautiful photo collection of six homeless families in Washington state and was extremely generous with how they could be used. Those photos have lived a long, robust life and are still in demand all over the region. Don't have the resources to create art? Ask to borrow some. Remember that especially for social media, the creation of content is only a small part of our task; the stories and art must be promoted and re-shared repeatedly.

6. Empower the people telling the stories. The most compelling stories emerge when people who may have been marginalized have the power to choose how they want their own stories to be told. Through partnerships with storytelling experts like StoryCorps and The Moth, we've been able to put the storytellers front and center with dignity and authenticity.

7. It's okay when art makes us uncomfortable. I don't mean that we should deliberately provoke negative reactions, or use exploitation to be provocative. Quite the opposite; art needs to respect the dignity and privacy of all human beings, especially vulnerable people. But honest, authentic art may present a realistic depiction of poverty that makes us want to turn away. When that happens, we must first acknowledge our own biases and then lead our community into a discussion about it.

Finally, and most importantly for making change:

8. Pair the art with clear calls to action, and repeat the ask. Even the most blatant advocacy art is not enough in itself. Have you ever seen a hard-hitting documentary that opened your eyes and changed your views, but then taken no action afterwards? After you activate an

emotional response, always give your audience a few simple action steps. Then keep following up with them. The Facing Homelessness organization, with its photos by Rex Hohlbein, is especially adept at this, pairing striking photos with personal stories and clear, easy ways to help.

Along with determined direct advocacy and increased media attention, this art for advocacy helped make the case for a new law increasing resources and support for homeless students, recently signed by Gov. Jay Inslee.
WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- Watch our four animated "American Refugees" short films.
- See the video of a longer version of Sharon Williams' performance-art piece on homelessness.
- Listen to stories from our projects with StoryCorps and The Moth.

We *Always* Need Your Help! (Pun-Intended)

Did you know that menstruation is one of the hardest challenges that homeless women face? This is something that often times is little thought of but is of utmost necessity. Please consider donating **feminine hygiene products** to our women's shelter! Items can be dropped off at **212 1st St. in Wenatchee, Monday thru Friday from 10am to 3pm.**



Volunteer Your Time & Talents Today!

Make the decision TODAY to make a difference In the lives of others. How can you do this? It's simple: volunteer with YWCA North Central Washington Today! We have a vast array of opportunities available for volunteering:

****We are seeking handy volunteers who are in the know about building maintenance. If you have an hour or two to spare, we could use some occasional help in the following areas:**

-Changing lightbulbs

-paint touch up

-basic plumbing (leaky faucets, slow to go sinks).

-This is a great idea for service clubs, church groups, and youth looking to gain service badges and experience!

We also are looking for community members to join in one (or more) of our standing committees!

1. Community Engagement & Advocacy
2. Fundraising & Development
3. Finance & Sustainability

4. Nominating & Personnel

For more information or to fill out a volunteer application, please visit our website:

www.ywcancw.org or come see at 212 1st St. in Wenatchee, Monday thru Friday from 10am to 3pm.

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

Save the Date: YWCA Women's Leadership Conference & Empowerment Luncheon!

What: 1st Annual YWCA Women's Leadership Conference & Empowerment Luncheon with Keynote Speaker: Debbie Whitlock!

When: September 21st, 2016 (Day Conference)

Where: Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee

Why: Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to attend YWCA's 1st all-day leadership conference where you will be able to choose from a variety of learning tracks on everything from financial planning to entrepreneurship, technology, business, and more!

Can't attend the whole day? No Worries! You can still register for the Empowerment Luncheon and listen to our amazing keynote speaker, Debbie Whitlock!

Registration information soon to come. We are now accepting speaker proposals as well as vendor applications. Please visit our website or contact us at 509.662.3531 for an application or more information.



THANK YOU Waste Management & Junior Service League!

The YWCA Store & YWCA NCW would like to thank Waste Management for their donation of garbage totes, as well as Junior Service League of Wenatchee for their generous donation of clothing from this year's "My Girlfriend's Closet" event! We here at YWCA deeply appreciate your generosity and giving spirit. It is what allows us to continue to change the lives of women and families in our

communities!

YWCA North Central Washington | 509.662.3531 | info@ywcancw.org | www.ywcancw.org

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