I am honored and humbled to serve as the Chair of the YWCA Syracuse & Onondaga County, Inc. Board of Directors during an unprecedented time, not only in the US, but globally as well. We are experiencing extreme turbulence; a deadly pandemic, horrific racial and social injustices, failing economies, and in some cases, vacuous leadership. With this turbulence there is opportunity to make historic changes. The upcoming United States presidential election offers that moment of change which will have a major impact across the world. This is the reason why we need to vote in November! As women, we gained this right 100 years ago as part of the passing of the 19th amendment. Voting ensures that our voices are heard.

The pandemic has exposed the scope of the social injustices that impact our underrepresented communities; women, girls, people of color, and the vulnerable members of our society who rely on the services offered by YWCA. I will exercise my right and support those candidates who reflect my beliefs. I encourage everyone to do the same; let your voice be heard and vote this November!

- Ellen King
Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

In honor of the centennial anniversary of the 19th amendment, we are proud to welcome Assembly-member Pamela J. Hunter, representing the 128th district. On this day, August 18, 2020 we take a look back at the history of the right to vote for women in America and reflect on the work that is still needed to push forward. Pamela Hunter is an Upstate NY native and a U.S. Army veteran, honorably discharged with a commendation medal and two achievement medals. Pamela is the only female veteran in the state Legislature, giving her unique insight as chair of the Assembly Subcommittee on Women Veterans, working to expand access to benefits and services and improve job opportunities for women who’ve served our country.

*pictures from our event were not included for privacy purposes as requested by our participants

Learn more about Assemblywoman Pamela J. Hunter here.

A Look Back at the History of the 19th Amendment

The 19th Amendment of the US Constitution was ratified on August 18, 1920, granting American women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone was not an easy fight. It was a struggle that took nearly a century of protest and unrest. Despite the victory in 1920, the tireless contributions of Black women and other women of color to achieve suffrage not only went unnoticed, but also excluded them from this right. In most cases, Black men and women faced intimidation tactics when attempting to register to vote. It is even noted that during protests, Black women were asked to stand in the back. It took more than 40 years for all women to have access to the ballot box. In 2020, we acknowledge this history and encourage all eligible women to go out and VOTE!


Art with Nada Odeh: Inspiring our girls to vote

Here at YWCA, we encourage our camp participants to allow their voices to be heard and never silenced. Our young girls are the future. As we inspire them to be strong, smart and bold, we also remind them of the importance of remaining resilient during life's toughest challenges. During the summer, our girls have participated in weekly art workshops with Artist Nada Odeh.

Farewell Interns- THANK YOU!

Summer Interns:

Nakyra Cueto - Buffalo State College
Mya Case - University of New Haven
Tiffany Roughton - Onondaga Community College
Firdaus Nabwanja - Onondaga Community College

We are so thankful for our interns this summer. Without them, our programming would not be the same. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.
WELCOME OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS:

**Women's Residence Program Social Worker**
Katie Goodfellow, MSW
Katie is a social worker for the YWCA Women’s Residence Program. She currently holds her Master’s in Social Work from Syracuse University and is working toward obtaining her licensure. Katie completed her social work internship five years ago at the YWCA, and has since returned as a full-time employee, helping to develop and implement social work services within our Women’s Residence.

**Women's Residence CASE MANAGER**
Alia Anamaria
Alia is our newest Case Manager at the YWCA Woman's Residence Program. She currently holds a Bachelor's Degree in Woman & Gender Studies and is planning in continuing her studies soon. She is currently working part-time and is dedicated to helping the community as much as possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS: September 2020

**September 9th:** Join us live as we celebrate our Women’s Residence Program in partnership with Spectrum

**September 15:** Hispanic Heritage Month begins!

**21 Day Equity Challenge:** Join us for our 21 Day Equity Challenge to promote peace and equality. Stay tuned for more details to come...

More details to come for each announcement. For any questions about upcoming events, please contact our Director of Marketing & Development. Contact info listed below.