COVID-19 has taught us so many things. For me, as the Executive Director of our YWCA, it has been the best for a lot of different reasons and for that I am grateful to God, the Universe, to Buddha and to all... whatever name you use to call the Creator of all. First and foremost, I am grateful for my team! Amid the constant changes, my team came together and made everything work for our YWCA, showing their ability to remain resilient. I was invited to participate in different committees including the NYS Re-Opening team. Through that committee, I have been able to provide and share my community’s concerns and ideas for consideration.

The Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism committee was put under heat when suddenly they needed to change directions. They put together an awesome virtual event, making sure that our mission of racial and social justice was addressed. We were actively involved locally, in the many protest around the world for the injustices that occurred to Mr. Floyd, Ms. Breona Taylor and more. I am grateful for my community! They were the first ones to call and ask if YWCA needs help. Thanks to the Strathmore neighborhood we were able to distribute free masks to our community members. The County and the City supporting us with the understanding that “We all are in this Together”.

It was and it is a new way to see and do things... before and after COVID-19... It is up to you and me to choose the lens we want to use to see what the future will bring to us.

- Fanny Villarreal
YWCA Syracuse & Onondaga County, Inc. is dedicated to fulfilling our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Your donation can make a difference to the community members we serve now and for years to come. With our many giving options, you can choose to donate one-time, monthly or even as a tribute to honor someone you know. Please help us meet our mission head on by making a gift to help us give the women and children we serve the care they deserve.

A gift of $25 = 5 meals
A gift of $50 = cleaning items such as soaps, clorox, lysol, etc
A gift of $100 = 3 boxes of gloves
A gift of $250 = 1 shipment of sanitizer

For additional information on ways to give, please contact our Director of Marketing & Development, Brianna Howard at bhoward@ywca-syracuse.org or (315) 424-0040

CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE:

Annual Giving Fund: Our annual campaign is our general source for fundraising. Donations are divided equally and allocated to each of our programs.

Planned Giving: Our planned giving efforts allow you to choose a specific program you wish to donate to. You can donate to our Girls Inc, Women’s Residence or Soccer for Success programs.

In-kind donations: We are always accepting in-kind donations, especially during this time.

Monthly giving: Want to give in small installments each month? Choose our monthly sustainable giving option!

Honor/Memorial: Is there someone you would like to commemorate through a donation? Choose our honor/memorial option to give!

Click here to Donate Today!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen King  Juanita Rivera Ortiz  Julie Burgess  Quanira Irby
Michele Dickey  Amy Cronin  Amy Rhinehardt  Ocesa Keaton
Mary Earl  Nikita Jakowski  Shelly Thompson

Introducing our newest members: Catie Jones, Samantha Harmon, and Tiffany Latino

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!
After Governor Andrew Cuomo gave the green light to open summer day camps, Girls Inc., at YWCA launched our annual Camp Discovery Program on July 8, 2020. Adhering to the CDC and Onondaga County Health Department guidelines, our camp may look a little different this year, nonetheless, we are still dedicated to completing our mission of inspiring young girls in the local community to be **strong, smart & bold**.

This summer, our campers engage in weekly activities including Art with Nada Odeh and Challenge Island with Terri Lowe. The girls have been learning skills for Economic Literacy, Leadership, Sisterhood and Community!

Thanks to our new Marketing & Development Director, Brianna Howard who co-founded a company called **PAANI**, all of our camp participants were provided with free water bottles to emphasize the importance of staying hydrated, especially during the summer time! PAANI, which means "water" in Hindi, is an organization dedicated to providing access to clean water in developing countries through culturally relevant and traditional methods of water filtration. [To learn more about PAANI, click here!](#)

**Weekly Food & Milk Drop-Offs**

In collaboration with the Human Services Leadership Council of Central NY and the Salvation Army, every week our team dedicates their free-time to collecting donations. From the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, YWCA has donated food including bread and fresh produce as well as milk to those in the community which we serve. These items are picked up and distributed to our Women’s Residence Program and any local churches accepting donations.

Now more than ever is the time for us to gather our resources and work together to see a better world post-COVID.

[Click here to donate to our Women’s Residence Program!](#)
**Soccer 4 Success - Summer Program Launch**

YWCA’s Syracuse City Football Club aims to make quality youth soccer programs accessible to city youth. Our Soccer for Success and Urban Soccer Development programs seek to close the gap in youth soccer development and give access to those who face barriers in accessing the sport.

Through innovative and collaborative efforts, our programs seeks to create a new urban soccer development model that gives children in the city of Syracuse an opportunity to learn and play, promote healthy lifestyles, increase pathways to college while proving there are alternatives to the pay-to-play model.

We just recently launched our new summer program and are actively accepting new applicants!

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**WELCOME OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS:**

**DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT**

**BRIANNA HOWARD**

Brianna is our newest Director of Marketing & Development. She currently holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Health and is studying to obtain her Masters in Public Health (MPH) at Syracuse University. After her internship with the YWCA was cut short due to COVID-19, she decided to continue her work with our organization as a full-time employee.

**NEW LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM LAUNCH**

**ANA MARIA VASQUEZ**

Ana is a Psychologist with a Master’s degree in Family Studies from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia. She also recently graduated with a Master’s degree from Syracuse University in Public Administration (MPA). Ana had experience working with families, clinical and health psychological intervention. Currently, she is working in the Women’s Residence as a Life Skills Development Trainer.

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For more information on any of the items listed above, please contact our Director of Marketing & Development, Brianna Howard, bhoward@ywca-syracuse.org or (315) 424-0040.

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