



HOPE Lives Here

\$19M Campaign to ensure women, girls, and their families are empowered in a safe, equitable community.

MY NAME IS HEAVEN

But I've Been Through Hell

I first came to the YWCA in 2017 through their Crisis Shelter & Residence for a 30-day stay. At that time, the staff introduced me to the Turning Points Program, but I was in a hurry to find my own place for the first time, because I thought I could abstain from my addictions to people, places, and things. In 2018, I finally got myself into rehab knowing that I would never return to my old apartment. I had finally made the decision. I was ready to start my new life.

After treatment, I was admitted into the YWCA Turning Points Program in 2018, where my life slowly started to change for the better. The staff welcomed me back and made me feel as if I would never be forgotten or abandoned again. **It was a genuine sense of support and love.**

Ultimately, learning how to communicate gave me the voice I needed to find my true identity. With support, I was able to get back into school, celebrate my accomplishments, and find the self-care I was so desperately needing. Moreover, I felt like I had found my home. Something that I hadn't had before.

I am living proof that the YWCA's Turning Points Program is a life-changing opportunity for women who are in situations like my own. When I arrived, I felt like I didn't deserve to be there, but as I began to heal from the inside, I realized that it was the exact place where I needed to be. I found my chosen family at the YWCA, and I now understand that those who truly love you want you to thrive. I want other women who are feeling broken and hopeless to know that they too can find their inner power and rise from the ashes to be a stronger woman than they believed was possible.

Anyone can find themselves in a situation where they need the help of the YWCA. It could be a friend, a family member, it could even be yourself. Trauma and hardship have the ability to affect each of us, and my experience is shared with countless other women in our community.

The YWCA Turning Points Program gives women in situations like my own, **HOPE**. It gives us purpose, drive, resilience, and a second chance.

I speak for many when I say that the support the YWCA gave me directly attributed to the woman I am today, and the reason I am able to share my story. If you had asked me four years ago where I thought I'd be today, I would never have envisioned my current life for myself. **My future is bright and only getting brighter.**

Heaven Leigh
Past Turning Points Client
YWCA Saskatoon



HOPE LIVES HERE

In 2022, the YWCA Saskatoon Crisis Shelter & Residence turned away a staggering 2699 women, 169 youth, and 1385 children who needed a safe place to stay. Not only are these women and their families in need of a place to sleep, often they are fleeing abusive situations, looking for a hot meal, or needing support for addictions. The homelessness crisis in our community further affects women and children. This is the reality for so many in our city - and the number is growing.

The women and families who enter the doors of the YWCA are at low points in their lives, and access to support is a necessity for their well-being. Even though their hardships bring them through our doors, we are often reminded of the amount of hope that these women have. Hope is what drives them forward, and continues to motivate the YWCA Saskatoon to strengthen our care, capacity, housing, and opportunities for our residents. There is a critical need for a building expansion to provide shelter and services to more women and children in need.

2699
WOMEN

169
YOUTH &

1385

CHILDREN WERE
TURNED AWAY
(AND WE DO NOT KNOW
WHERE THEY GO)



THE YWCA SASKATOON IS THE ONLY SHELTER THAT ACCEPTS WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR ANY REASON



28

DAYS
AVERAGE
STAY

54

EMERGENCY
& LONG
TERM BEDS,
ALWAYS
FULL

7808

CRISIS CALLS IN 2022

THE YWCA SASKATOON IS ALWAYS FULL. THE LONGEST TIME A ROOM IS EMPTY IS FOR HOW LONG IT TAKES TO CLEAN IT.



FROM 1910 TO NOW A Brief History

1900's

We provided safe and affordable housing to women entering the city from rural areas.

1985

Our current facility opens. Our focus begins to shift to meet the needs of women and their families of the day.

1990's

We had to respond to a need for emergency housing for women in crisis.

Today

The global pandemic has shone light on the further marginalization of our community's at-risk members who already face poverty and socio-economic inequality.

3 PRIORITIES FOR HOPE, HEALTH, AND HEALING

The YWCA Saskatoon will address the need in the community to continue to help more women and children on a path to hope, health, and healing with 3 priorities.

1 Increase the long-term transitional housing beds by building an additional wing to the existing building

Once exposed to a cycle of violence, it takes 7 to 8 tries for a woman to leave. Addressing domestic violence is an ongoing advocacy piece for the YWCA Saskatoon. Another wing to the existing Crisis Shelter & Residence will help families stay together by increasing long-term shelter beds and space for women and their children.

Cost: \$12.38M

- 3** Long-term Floors
- 35** Units (Single & Family)
- 71** Additional Beds (35 women can be housed, along with 36 children. Some bedrooms can accommodate bunk beds for multiple children)

131% Increase in Bed Capacity



\$2865

Cost to House 1 Woman for 1 Month



2 Repair and renovate the existing YWCA building

The existing facility has a list of much-needed repairs and renovations, prioritized by urgency over 5-10 years.

Timely repairs for the Crisis Shelter & Residence to meet building code standards include safety systems such as lighting in the building, security systems, fire safety alarms, sprinkler systems, smoke and carbon dioxide detectors, sidewalk repair, shelter window replacements and painting. The current facility's roof needs replacement and is the most pressing and costly repair.

Cost: \$4.17M



It takes time and it takes courage to leave a dangerous situation. So when women have found the courage to leave and we don't have a space for them, we don't know if they will find that again. It is critical for us to do what we can to keep them safe, and in a way that ensures we can continue to operate to serve our clients best.

Jodi Manastyrski
Past President,
YWCA Board of Directors

3 Expand Employment & Learning Centre

The YWCA Saskatoon strives to support the community so all can flourish. Along with the expansion and renewal of our housing shelter and residence, the YWCA's committed staff remain dedicated to helping all shelter residents create new paths to resilience, personal development, and a stable lifestyle for themselves and their families. The Employment and Learning Centre supports our clients, and many others in the community, to develop skills and pursue their career goals – ultimately helping families achieve sustainable livelihoods.

For the last 20 years, space has been rented elsewhere to deliver the employment and learning services, using valuable resources and time that can be reallocated. Repurposing a main floor area into an in-house Employment and Learning Centre makes it easier for clients and others to access services to gain employment skills, participate in workshops, and pursue a better future.

Cost: \$2.45M

EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING CENTRE SUCCESS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS:



263 ACCESSED SERVICES FOR HELP WITH RESUMES, JOB SEARCHING, AND REACHING JOB GOALS IN 2021

402 REPORTED OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT IN 2021

Total Campaign Goal: \$19M

YWCA
HOPE
\$19M Lives Here CAMPAIGN

Your gift will help provide more women and children a safe place to stay. You will ensure this place is safe, up to code, and is the welcoming, warm home these women and children deserve. Your generosity will support women and their families, right here at the YWCA Saskatoon. You can make a difference in the life of a woman today.

Please support the Hope Lives Here Campaign.



Jo Custead
Co-Chair

Hope Lives Here Campaign



With YWCA Saskatoon support, women can move from surviving to thriving, from facing barriers to finding freedom and equity.



Ryssa Alarcon
Co-Chair

Hope Lives Here Campaign



This campaign is the catalyst we need to advance women's opportunities for education, housing, and safety.



Stella Spanos
Co-Chair

Hope Lives Here Campaign



When you help women, you help the children, the family, the community.



Women still face a tremendous amount of barriers in all aspects of life. We work to remove those barriers, to promote equity, to help stabilize women and assist them. We are the soft place to land when they experience tragedy, homelessness or trauma. We are supporting them to be the best they can be - to heal, to recover, and live a full life. That, of course, has a ripple effect upon their families, on their children and on the broader community.

Cara Bahr
Chief Executive Officer



Your gift will ensure more women, girls and their families are empowered in an equitable community.



“ The support the YWCA gave me directly attributes to the woman I am today.

My future is bright and only getting brighter.

- **Heaven**, Past Turning Points Client



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