

## Historical Perspective



**1940's Resident Meeting at  
The YWCA of WNY  
245 North Street, Buffalo, NY**

The YWCA has been helping women with housing for over 100 years. It is with this historical insight that the YWCA has developed a transitional housing program that provides support services that allow women and children to live in safe affordable housing while realizing their potential.

The problems facing women today are not all that different from those of 100 years ago. While we have made significant inroads, there is still wage disparity, absent fathers, and lower levels of academic achievement compared to men.

These and other societal ills have contributed to the growing poverty and homelessness among women and children. In fact, one out of every three families living in poverty are headed by single women.

The YWCA OF WNY Transitional Housing program is more than just housing, it promotes educational and career-based activities as a way to lift families out of poverty and homelessness.

## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Workshop Sponsor

The YWCA OF WNY Housing program holds six education workshops for clients. This workshop is also open to people in other transitional housing programs.

### Adopt a Family for the Holidays

Adopt a family of 2, 3, 4, or 5 for the holidays

### Adopt a Family of Birthdays

Adopt a family of 2, 3, 4, or 5 to be sure that everyone in the family is recognized on their birthday.

### Resident's Awards Banquet Sponsor

In December we hold an awards banquet for residents in the Transitional Housing Program to celebrate their accomplishments throughout the year. Awards can be gift certificates, or items.

### Jeans Day!

This is a fun way to assist others in need. Jeans day donations may be for something specific, or a general donation to assist women & children in the program.

For more information on sponsorships contact

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**eliminating racism  
empowering women**  
ywca

**YWCA OF WNY**  
**Transitional  
Housing Program**

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## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

The YWCA OF WNY offers transitional housing services for homeless families headed by women.

The YWCA of WNY currently owns and operates 18 scattered site non-furnished apartments in the City of Buffalo and 4 in the Town of Amherst. Ten of these apartments are dedicated to victims of domestic violence.

Families entering the program can remain from 6-24 months, with a minimum stay of 5 months, depending on need. Rent is based on 30% of income. All apartments come with appliances, some with washers & dryers, plus all utilities are included in the rent.

### *Case Management*

Our case managers are able to provide one-on-one assistance because of the favorable client to staff ratio of 11:1. Residents will work with their case manager to develop an Independent Living Plan directly related to their needs.

***Family Reunification:*** Case managers will work with CPS (Child Protective Services), or Preventive Services, to reunite mother and child(ren), or to keep the child(ren) in the home.

***Support Services:*** Some support services include: job search assistance, transportation, educational links, permanent housing, life-skills training, budgeting, parenting, childcare, etc.

## PROGRAM FEATURES

### *Workshops*

- Six educational workshops will be provided throughout the year including: Permanent Housing, Utility Consumption, Employment, Education/Financial Aid, 'Household Maintenance', 'How to be a Good Tenant and Knowing Tenant Rights'.
- At each workshop there will be a drawing for a \$50 Gift Certificate to TARGET
- Clients are required to attend 4 of out 6 workshops.

### *Tenant Meetings*

- Attended by Supervisor or Director and case manager
- Focus: Maintenance issues, programming recommendations and/or discussions, services, self-sufficiency, any problems with neighbors or neighborhood
- Clients are required to attend 3 out of 4 tenant meetings.

### *Groups*

- Group discussions will be held once per month
- Topics include: Healthy relationships, Women in the Media, Nutrition, Anger Management, How to Cope with Stress, Preparing for Independence, etc.
- Clients are required to attend 9 out of 12 group sessions.

## ELIGIBILITY/HOW TO APPLY

### *Eligibility:*

- Must be homeless. Living with relatives or friends, even in crowded conditions, is not considered homeless.
- Female head of household, 18 years of age or older
- Must have minor child in custody, joint custody, or trying to regain custody
- Pregnant, at least 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester

### *Tenant Obligation*

We expect our residents to be good neighbors to each other as well as to neighbors in their community. Women and their families live independently in apartments in the community with supportive services. They are expected to keep their apartments clean, and meet regularly with their case manager to focus on goals. Residents are also expected to attend workshops.

All tenants sign a one year lease, but if residents have achieved their goals during the course of a lease, the lease will be mutually terminated.

### *Applying*

Contact Sabrina Musson, Housing Supervisor at 852-6120 x121. Sabrina will set up a time to meet with you and go over the details of the program, and discuss what individualized services are available. The application process is easy and quick.