

# YWCA TORONTO

YWCA Toronto is committed to a radical transformation of society where all women, girls and gender diverse people can thrive. We have a 150 year history of creating positive change in our community. As the city's largest multi-service women's organization, we help women escape violence, move out of poverty, and access safe, affordable housing for themselves and their children. We work tenaciously to break down barriers that hold individuals back from achieving equity. Annually, our Association serves over 13,000 people including trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary community members.

We continue to adhere to all COVID-19 provincial and city guidelines to ensure the safety of our staff and program participants.

## ● HOUSING AND SHELTERS

YWCA Toronto has provided affordable housing since 1873. As one of Canada's leading housing providers for women and their families, we believe that access to safe, affordable housing is a human right, and we advocate at all levels of government for investment in affordable and supportive housing. Our housing portfolio includes emergency shelter beds for homeless single women, emergency shelters for women and children fleeing violence, a transitional housing project, and over 820 units of permanent, supportive housing as well as a licensed child care centre that offers a child-centred program for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The lack of affordable housing across the country remains one of the most significant barriers for survivors of gender-based violence to move into security and safety.

## ● CLINICAL PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS

We help women heal from the trauma of abuse. With our December 6th Fund, we distribute interest-free loans to women rebuilding their lives in safety. In our Breakthrough program, we provide art-therapy support to survivors of gender-based violence, as well as women coping with mental health challenges. We also offer healing-based programs such as Here to Help, which supports child witnesses of violence, as well as their mothers. Lastly, the Choices for Living program offers free support groups for women who want to explore mental health wellness, build skills and share knowledge to address loneliness, depression, anxiety, low self-esteem or other mental health issues. YWCA Toronto is committed to facilitating community healing in a safe and caring way.

## ● EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Each year, we help thousands of women and gender diverse individuals across Toronto build sustainable economic futures through our employment and training programs. We have partnered with certified colleges for technical training and certification to provide

women with a path out of entry-level positions and into careers with good salaries, benefits, and opportunities for advancement. We also offer newcomer women settlement services such as English language training, one-on-one job search support, career and vocational assessment, and educational and employment counselling. We honour newcomer women's resilience and recognize the gifts and skills they bring to Canada.

## ● GIRLS' PROGRAMS

To support the growth of girls and gender-diverse youth, we offer girl-focused programming at our Girls' Centre in Scarborough and at Camp Tapawingo on the shores of Georgian Bay. At our Girls' Centre, girls and youth aged nine to 18 can try new activities, develop leadership skills, and explore relevant issues to them in a safe place. Girls are encouraged to think critically about social issues and are given an opportunity to develop meaningful friendships with other girls from different cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. At Camp Tapawingo, girls and gender-diverse youth become leaders through our counsellor-in-training program, team-based activities, mentorship opportunities, and other camp-wide activities during the summer. We recognize the leadership potential in all girls, trans and non-binary youth.

## ● ADVOCACY

Our advocacy is driven by the experiences of the communities we serve and the expertise of front-line staff. We work closely with community and coalition partners, including nine other YWCA Member Associations across Ontario, to advance substantive gender equality and racial justice in our city, province and country. We strive toward a society where every woman and child is safe, where access to housing and child care is a right, not a privilege, and where all women, girls and gender diverse people are empowered to advance politically, socially, and economically.



YWCA  
TORONTO

NATIONAL ADVOCACY.  
COMMUNITY ACTION.



United Way  
Greater Toronto  
FUNDED AGENCY