

Short Look at YWCA Rhode Island's Long History

1867 - 2017

Providence Women's Christian Association was formed.

1867

Cottages were opened in Conimicut Park as a summer resort for working women.

1879

Providence Women's Christian Association merged with the Providence Evangelist Young Women's Christian Association, which added an employment bureau, and junior and industrial departments.

1888

With a greater emphasis on younger women, the organization's name was formally changed to the Young Women's Christian Association.

1889

YWCA Founded Traveler's Aid, later to become Crossroads, RI.

1894

YWCA of Providence founded the International Institute of Rhode Island, later to merge with Dorcas Place.

1921

YWCA of Woonsocket was formed and becomes the 1st YWCA in the country to allow membership to all women regardless of religious affiliation.

1923

YWCA of Woonsocket opens a preschool.

1932

Providence and Pawtucket/Central Falls YWCA's merged, forming the YWCA of Greater Rhode Island. Programming focus moves from recreational to social services and political activity.

1965

YWCA Greater Rhode Island founded the RI Rape Crisis Center, later to become Day One. Program scope expanded to include eliminating racism, crime intervention, rape counseling and child abuse services.

1973

YWCA Greater Rhode Island and Women's Center founded the Blackstone Shelter for Battered Women.

1980

YWCA Northern Rhode Island creates Parenting in Progress, a GED program with wrap around services for teen mothers.

1984

YWCA Greater Rhode Island founded "The Way Out" a weekly support group for LGBTQQ youth, which later became Youth Pride Inc.

1993

YWCA began offering ENCOREplus®, a breast and cervical education and support program for low-income women.

1996

YWCA Northern Rhode Island leads the way bringing The Silent Witness Project Rhode Island a national initiative that honors and remembers victims of domestic murder.

1997

YWCA Greater Rhode Island initiated HIV outreach and education for at risk women.

2001

The Sarah Francis Grant Homestead was opened, providing housing for homeless women with disabilities.

2004

YWCA Northern Rhode Island creates She Shines™ Magazine, a statewide multimedia publication celebrating the aspirations and accomplishments of women.

2005

YWCA Northern Rhode Island hosts 1st Women of Achievement Awards.

2005

YWCA Northern Rhode Island hosts 1st Women Holding Office Celebration.

2009

YWCA Northern Rhode Island takes leadership role in creating The Rhode Island Alliance (RIA), a statewide collaborative effort dedicated to reducing teen pregnancy and empowering pregnant and parenting teens.

2010

YWCA Northern Rhode Island and partner organizations, host 1st Race Against Racism.

2011

YWCA Greater Rhode Island and YWCA Northern Rhode Island merge to form a single statewide organization - YWCA Rhode Island.

2012

YWCA begins oversight of The Gini Fund, a scholarship fund for female student/athletes in memory of East Providence High School teacher and coach Gini Duarte.

2012

YWCA Rhode Island sponsored Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, a public charter high school, is granted preliminary approval by the Rhode Island Department of Education to serve 360 at-risk youth.

2012

YWCA offers Rosie's Girls non-traditional trade skills programming.

2013

YWCA offers Fantastic Girtastic Code Company coding skills programming.

2013

YWCA purchases assets of Nickerson Community Center in Providence.

2014

YWCA provides transitional housing program serving over 100 veterans annually.

2015

YWCA intensified its racial justice efforts training educators, community workers, and others on historical context of race in our country and effective ways to build resiliency in girls of color.

2017

YWCA purchases assets of Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living.

2017

YWCA celebrates its 150th anniversary with Senator Donna Nesselbush (District 15, Pawtucket, North Providence) and Providence City Council President Sabina Matos serving as honorary co-chairs.

2017

**YWCA IS ON
A MISSION**