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***YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's Corporate Partners Generously Support
Economic Empowerment Efforts***

Contributions allow expansion of programs and services that advance financial inclusion for women and close the racial wealth gap

Chicago— July 19, 2022 — [YWCA Metropolitan Chicago](#) gratefully acknowledges 32 corporate partners who have collectively donated more than \$2 Million to the organization's [Economic Empowerment Institute](#) over the past year. This support has allowed the YWCA to sustain and expand programs and services that include financial education, workforce development, computer and skills training, small business development and home ownership education.

As under-resourced communities, particularly Black and Brown communities, cope with the severe economic challenges and disparities exacerbated by the pandemic, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, through its generous donors, has mounted a comprehensive response. The Economic Empowerment Institute's programs are designed to close the racial wealth gap by helping individuals and families with securing new jobs, becoming entrepreneurs, and realizing the dream of homeownership.

"These generous corporate citizens are demonstrating their alignment to our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Their investments in our communities will yield a healthy return in the form of community resilience, greater participation in the economy, and the building of generational wealth," said Nicole Robinson, CEO, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago.

"We are beyond grateful to these partners for their leadership and look forward to our continued collective efforts to build the economic equity necessary for communities to thrive," she added.

The following corporate partners have contributed to YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's Economic Empowerment Institute in the past twelve months:

Allstate Insurance Company
Amazon Web Services
Baird & Warner
Bank of America
Black and Decker

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
BMO Harris Bank
CDW
CIBC
CTS Impact

-MORE-

Comcast / NBC Universal
Discover
Fifth Third Bank
Google
GTCR
Horizon Therapeutics
Huntington Bank
ITW
Michael Jordan and Jordan Brand
Kirkland and Ellis
Mars Food North America

Mastercard
Molina Healthcare
Molson Coors
Navistar
Nicor Gas
Paylocity
Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas
Ulta Beauty
U.S. Bank
William Blair & Company
Wintrust

Their contributions have enabled a number of YWCA program expansions and milestones:

- Partnered with BlackFem on a series of financial education workshops to assist the BIPOC community in “Moving From Fear to Financial Security”
- Supported more than 500 Illinois households in applying for rental assistance and mortgage assistance programs so they remain stably housed
- Conducted outreach to 250 Cook County residents to inform them of free legal services through a partnership with Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt
- Launched the Respect Bank Account and Respect Debit Mastercard, in partnership with black-owned FinTech company Mobility Capital Finance (www.respectcard.com) to provide banking, credit building and wealth coaching services for Chicagoans living on the economic margins
- Provided training and technical assistance to 15 Black women-owned businesses through the YWCA’s Breedlove Entrepreneurship Center. One entrepreneur was profiled in the Washington Post and featured on the NBC Nightly News. Now accepting nominations for the third Breedlove cohort in fall 2022
- Supported more than 100 small business owners through our Small Business Development Center
- Served 150 individuals across various workforce development programs including CONSTRUCT, Transportation Distribution and Logistics, and our Innovation and Technology Institute

“While we are grateful for our corporate partners’ support, we are reminded that more is needed to help attain the goals of the Economic Empowerment Institute and our Thrive 2025 Initiative,” said Robert Johnson, Chief Economic Inclusion Officer and General Counsel for YWCA Metropolitan Chicago.

“We continue to seek new partners to allow the organization to bring financial stability to more individuals and families, while uplifting local communities,” he added

The Economic Empowerment Institute’s Thrive 2025 Initiative aims to accomplish the following, by 2025.

- Bring the dream of homeownership in appreciating neighborhoods to 1,000 Black Chicago men, women and families
- Launch 1,000 salable, scalable Black-owned businesses in underserved communities

- Train and place 1,000 career-seekers into high-paying jobs in high-demand industries

To learn more about the Economic Empowerment Institute, please visit:

<https://ywcachicago.org/our-work/economic-empowerment/>.

[Click here](#) to donate to programs that lead to long-term personal and financial empowerment.

About YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Founded in 1876, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a social enterprise committed to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. As a leading association among a national network of more than 200 YWCAs, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago touches tens of thousands of women and families annually through comprehensive human services provided across the region. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a leader in the areas of sexual violence support, early childhood and child care provider services, family support, youth STEM programming and economic empowerment. A commitment to racial justice, equity and inclusion is foundational to all YWCA programs and services. Located in the third-largest American city, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago serves as a national incubator for innovative programming, outreach and engagement strategies. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago works at both the individual and systems levels to create the truly inclusive marketplace necessary for a diverse and balanced economy. The organization is an active member of many national, state, county and city-level coalitions, advocating for policies that combat racism and positively affect women and families. Learn more at www.ywcachicago.org and follow @ywcachicago on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube.