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YWCA METROPOLITAN CHICAGO RECEIVES \$9 MILLION GIFT FROM BILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST MACKENZIE SCOTT

Major Gift Will Catalyze Growth and Impact

[CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, December 2020] – YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is proud to announce it has received a \$9 Million unrestricted contribution from billionaire venture philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. This major gift will catalyze continued growth and impact for the organization working to empower women and families and advance racial justice. Having significantly expanded programs and services to meet evolving community challenges, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago’s annual operating budget has increased from \$10.5 Million in 2013 to an anticipated \$35 Million in 2021.

This major gift is part of more than \$4 Billion in philanthropic contributions made by Ms. Scott over the past four months. Looking to invest in organizations helping those most impacted by the pandemic crisis, Scott and her team of advisors “*took a data-driven approach to identifying organizations with strong leadership teams and results, with special attention to those operating in communities facing high projected food insecurity, high measures of racial inequity, high local poverty rates, and low access to philanthropic capital.*”

Board President Joyce Winnecke called the MacKenzie Scott gift affirmation of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago’s strategy.

“Her donation will allow critical investments to expand services and ultimately help more people as we innovate to solve big problems. We are growing and evolving, from a traditional social services agency to a market-driven social enterprise.”

Planning is underway to most effectively deploy the funds, including an enterprise-wide outcome measurement and data management project, technology upgrades, real estate investments, expansion of direct services and strategies to support organizational financial sustainability.

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Ms. Scott's gift coincides with YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's growth capital campaign to raise \$50 Million to support critical investments in human capital, marketing, technology, program and service expansion, research and development, real estate and facilities, and financial security.

Dorri McWhorter, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago CEO, said that Ms. Scott's gift will allow more rapid advancement of the organization's growth strategy.

"Ms. Scott's gift demonstrates the confidence that she has in our work and strategic use of the resources to further our impact," McWhorter said. "The unrestricted nature of the gift provides us with flexibility to accelerate our efforts by investing in key areas where funding sources are often limited."

[Ms. Scott announced \\$4,158,500,000 in contributions to 384 organizations](#) from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. In addition to YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, 60 other local YWCA associations received funding from Ms. Scott, underscoring her belief in the mission of the YWCA to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, dignity and freedom for all, and the strong work being delivered across the national network of YWCAs. Other Chicago-area organizations that received support include Chicago Community Loan Fund, Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois, United Way of Metro Chicago, and the YMCA of Metro Chicago.

An award-winning author, Scott was married to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and was among the company's first employees. She became one of world's wealthiest women when they divorced in 2019 and soon after signed the Giving Pledge, committing to give at least half of her wealth to charity.

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 impacts 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.