

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

metropolitan chicago

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Expands Housing Access and Sustainability Services through Acquisition of Partners in Community Building

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (March 4, 2021)

With housing insecurity on the rise as a result of the pandemic, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago has acquired local housing support organization Partners in Community Building. The integration of these critical services with the YWCA's existing portfolio of comprehensive offerings will benefit individuals and families across the region who are experiencing a range of challenges.

Founded in 2002 by a diverse group of individuals with a shared vision of "community," Partners in Community Building, Inc. has worked to improve the lives of families with low to moderate income through housing and financial support programs. The vital work of Partners in Community Building will continue under the banner of the YWCA's Economic Empowerment Institute, including homebuyer education, foreclosure prevention coaching, and rental assistance.

Building upon the legacy of Partners in Community Building founder and recently retired executive director Bobbi Ball, the housing related services will now be led by Alexandria Cummings, Director of Financial Inclusion.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Chief Economic Inclusion Officer and General Counsel Robert Johnson said the acquisition is key to the organization's economic empowerment efforts.

"Housing stability and home ownership are key drivers of economic empowerment. When combined with our workforce development and entrepreneurship programs, the services we're providing are significantly contributing to closing existing wealth gaps."

Those interested in accessing these services can call 312-328-0873 or visit the former Partners in Community Building office, now YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's twelfth community center location. Situated in the historic Rosenwald Court development in Bronzeville, the address is 56 E. 47th Street, Suite 525C. The site is currently open with modified hours due to COVID-19.



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Over the past eight years, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago has transformed from a traditional social service organization to a 21st Century social enterprise committed to building an inclusive marketplace where everyone can thrive. Key to the organization's transformation has been work across the enterprise and the nonprofit sector to create efficiencies, improve access to services and deepen impact through expansion of programs. Some of the YWCA's programmatic expansion has come through acquisition and strategic integration of other direct service and policy organizations including Project HELP, DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration, Voices for Illinois Children, StreetWise, World of Money, YWCA Lake County, and now Partners in Community Building.

Since embarking on this transformation, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's operating budget has grown from a \$10.5 million in 2013 to an expected \$35 million in 2021.

This announcement follows last month's news that YWCA Metropolitan Chicago merged with YWCA Lake County. For more information on that merger, visit <https://ywcachicago.org/about/news/press-releases/>

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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.



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