"Alicia’s life was tragically cut short, but her legacy will truly live on through those she helped and to all of us whom she inspired."
- U.S. Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV

If you search through the list of our programs here at the YWCA Charleston, you’ll notice one named the YWCA Alicia McCormick Homes. Consisting of ten transitional housing apartments, these homes are reserved for women and children who are moving toward independent lives after overcoming homelessness due to domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, or sexual assault. The Alicia McCormick Homes work hand-in-hand with the YWCA Resolve Family Abuse Program, which serves victims of domestic violence in Kanawha, Clay and Boone counties. When victims are ready to leave the emergency shelter but still need time to heal, they can transition to the McCormick Homes.

Serving all the needs of survivors takes time, funds, dedication, and an insatiable appetite to end domestic violence - and no one embodied that more than the woman these homes are named after, Alicia McCormick.

Unfortunately though, not even the greatest advocates are safe from violence. In July of 1991 at thirty-two years old and just three brief years after becoming Program Director, Alicia McCormick was found murdered in her Charleston apartment. Shocked with grief and anger, the community came together to honor her life and the legacy she left behind. Working alongside her at the time as the Sojourner’s Shelter for Homeless Women and Families Program Director, Debby Weinstein was a close friend of Alicia’s. Debby is now the YWCA Charleston CEO.

"Alicia was tireless and courageous beyond belief. She was one of the funniest and most compassionate people I’ve ever met. If she was alive today, she would be the CEO - not me. It was my deepest privilege and honor to work with her and start transitional housing for victims of domestic violence in her name," said Debby.

Alicia’s legacy continues today as the domestic violence victims she so tirelessly advocated for are granted safe housing in her name for up to 24 months. The Alicia McCormick homes have been instrumental to helping many women and children become independent individuals with a renewed sense of self-esteem.

"One thing that was really missing in this community was transitional housing for victims of domestic violence. Expecting victims to go right into housing after being in the emergency shelter was not realistic with the amount of healing they needed to do. This community knew we needed that and the YWCA was the organization. It has been incredibly successful to help victims become survivors and not only survivors, but women and children who thrive," said Debby.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

CHARLESTON-INSTITUTE CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

An organization that includes some of our dearest friends, committee members, and board members, The Links, Incorporated have been generous volunteers to the YWCA Charleston time and time again.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of over 15,000 professional women of color in 288 chapters located across 42 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and the United Kingdom. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

Most recently, The Links dropped off personal holiday goody bags for each of our residents at the YWCA Alicia McCormick homes, which serve victims of domestic violence and their children. They also gave a donation of supplies to our Sojourner’s Shelter for Homeless Women & Families and a cleaning supply donation to our Mel Wolf Child Development Center!

These women are constantly giving and we appreciate their tireless support of our programs here at YWCA Charleston!
As we’ve entered this new era, we’ve seen a lot of change, but that hasn’t stopped our growth. With the success of our training, "Implicit Bias: Unpacking Hidden Prejudices", we now have presented our training to over 1,200 individuals. As we continue to open up conversations regarding race, we ask that you walk alongside us. The Racial Justice Program not only provides training, but we provide eye-opening racial justice resources and significant opportunities to discuss and reflect upon the topic of race.

If you’d like to learn more about the program and how you can get involved, please contact Racial Justice Program Director Deedra Keys-Switzer at dkeysswitzer@ywcacharleston.org.

Women of Achievement
Each year in the beginning of March, YWCA Charleston honors five women for their outstanding personal and professional achievements, as well as their contributions to the community at the annual Women of Achievement luncheon. Along with these women, a woman who has overcome obstacles and life challenges through participating in one or more of the YWCA’s programs is selected as the Empowerment Award winner.

In order to properly celebrate these women and their accomplishments with the utmost respect and consideration of health and safety, the YWCA Charleston and the Women of Achievement Committee has made the decision to officially postpone the 2021 Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon to the 2022 year.

This decision was not made lightly as Women of Achievement also serves as a major fundraiser for the YWCA Charleston’s critical operating funds. We thank everyone for understanding and look forward to honoring these amazing women in the 2022 year.

SAVE THE DATE FOR WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT!
FEBRUARY 25, 2022
SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021
DOWNTOWN BB&T BUILDING
9AM - 5PM
To support the YWCA Campaign to End Racism!

eliminating racism empowering women
ywca
Charleston, WV
ywcacharleston.org/OverTheEdge