

# YWCA of Northwest Ohio

## Spring Newsletter

YWCANWO.ORG

**YWCA IS ON  
A MISSION**



## Welcoming Our New Vice Presidents



We're excited to announce the promotions of two outstanding leaders at YWCA of Northwest Ohio. Rachael, a six-year team member and current Director of Victim Services, will step into the role of Vice President, Programs. Taryn, who has served the agency for 16 years in financial leadership roles, including CFO, will become Vice President, Facility Operations. Both will transition into their new roles on April 27. We also welcome Patti Nowlan, our new Operations Director, to our management team!



## Meet the VPs, Rachael + Taryn!

Rachael Gardner is a social worker who has been serving our community for 21 years. She earned her undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University, her master's degree from the University of Toledo, and achieved her LISW licensure two years ago. Rachael joined the YWCA in June 2020 as Shelter Director and, in October of that same year, she stepped in to lead the Rape Crisis

**Rachael Gardner**  
Vice President, Programs



**Taryn Payne**

Vice President, Facilities



**Patti Nowlan**

Operations Director

Center during a time when VOCA funding cuts deeply impacted victim services.

"My life reflects the impact of being invested in; when people are supported and resourced, they rise beyond their circumstances and strengthen the very communities that believed in them. I draw inspiration from leaders like Bryan Stevenson and RBG, people who absolutely refuse to quit, give up, or become complacent about making the world a better place," Gardner states.

Rachael shared, "Above all else, I believe in who we are and what we do at the YWCA. I am honored to step into the role of VP of Programs and to support our team in shaping our tomorrow together".

Taryn Payne received her degree from Lourdes University and joined the YWCA in August 2009 as Finance Director. She was named Chief Financial Officer in July 2021. Taryn expressed, "I have been honored to be part of such a vital organization within our community for the past 16 years and am very excited to serve as the VP of Operations moving forward".

## Meet Patti Nowlan, Operations Director:

Patti has worked in maintenance, as a Journeyman Maintenance Repairer, for almost 30 years. After volunteering for a while and getting to know the wonderful folks at the YWCA, she decided to come on board as the Operations Director. Patti brings a servant's heart to this role and looks forward to working with everyone to help ensure that the YWCA is the best, safest, and most enjoyable place to work and live.

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## Milestones Highlights Dedication in NW Ohio

For more than 30 years, our community has come together to uplift and celebrate the achievements of women across Northwest Ohio, and this year's 31st Annual YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon was no exception. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us, supported us, and continues to believe in the importance of this event; it exists because of you.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised more than \$86,000, including \$11,500 contributed during the event itself. These funds directly support our mission and ensure we can continue providing critical services to women and children in our community.

We are honored to share this moment with you each year and to grow a community that stands for equity, empowerment, and opportunity. Thank you for showing up, for lifting others, and for being part of this enduring legacy.



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## Generosity Brings Dignity to our Emergency DV Shelter

Thank you to the community members who came together to provide 13 TVs and Fire Sticks for our 24-hour Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter. Your generosity brings comfort, choice, and a sense of normalcy to adults and children during an incredibly difficult time. Because of you, survivors can watch what they want, when they want; restoring a small but meaningful sense of control, dignity, and independence. Your kindness is felt in everyday moments of healing, and we are deeply grateful.



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## Youth Development's Teen Outreach Program (TOP)

The Lima Youth Development Department was awarded \$10,000 through Activate Allen County's Chili for Charity event. Selected as one of six organizations to present, the team quickly mobilized to share their impact with the community. TOP students were also in attendance, showing their support. Following presentations, audience members voted on funding recipients, and YWCA of Northwest Ohio was proud to be among the winners.

In March, TOP students combined service and learning by creating more than 50 blankets for individuals experiencing homelessness through the Linus Project. With unpredictable weather, these donations arrived at a critical time. Alongside their service work, students engaged in thoughtful discussions about relationships and peer pressure, including conversations around consent. They then explored both negative and positive influences seen in friendships, highlighting positive pressures such as staying active, pursuing jobs, and succeeding in school. Students went on and identified which strategies they felt most confident using to navigate pressure in their own lives.



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## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a time to raise awareness about sexual violence and uplift survivors in our community. At YWCA, we recognize that sexual assault impacts individuals across all backgrounds, yet disproportionately affects those already facing systemic barriers, including women of color, low-income individuals, and those experiencing housing instability.

Our Rape Crisis Center is here 24/7, providing confidential support, advocacy, and resources to survivors and their loved ones. Services include crisis intervention, hospital and legal advocacy, counseling referrals, and community education.

This month, we invite you to stand with survivors, help break the silence, and help create a community rooted in safety, dignity, and respect.

[Donate Today >>](#)

# Support Survivors During Sexual Assault Awareness Month



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## YWCA Ohio Skate Community Event - Rolling Into Resilience

Join us for a fun, family-friendly event where you can skate, eat, and connect with community resources from local agencies. Hosted by YWCA's Rape Crisis Center, this event takes place Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Ohio Skate from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

- ✓ **FREE admission**
- ✓ **FREE skate rental**
- ✓ **FREE food**

This event is open to the public and designed for families to enjoy a safe, supportive space while learning about available community services.

All children must be accompanied by an adult (18 and older).

**Ohio Skate**, [5735 Opportunity Dr, Toledo, OH 43612](#)



## Save the Date! 35th Annual Pollyball: August 22, 2026

Mark your calendar now for the 35th Annual Pollyball Tournament: August 22, 2026, at International Park. All proceeds go directly to YWCA Healthy Connections, which provides education, support, awareness, and mammograms through our Breast Cancer Awareness and Early Detection Program.

Donating throughout the year helps increase the number of women who receive early detection and related support services. In 2024, 237 women were served. Thanks to your donations, we serve more women every year. Registration opening soon!



35th Annual  
**Pollyball**  
Tournament  
Presented by the  
Hylant Family Foundation  
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**AUGUST 22, 2026**  
TOLEDO VOLLEYBALL COURT

**YWCA IS ON  
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POLLYBALL.COM

*Registration opening soon!*

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT YWCA NWO BREAST CANCER  
AWARENESS & EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM



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