THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT...

THESE GIRLS WILL CHANGE OUR WORLD!

This year we tried something different... and, the results were fantastic!

The Young Women’s Leadership Corps (YWLC) Summer Institute is an extension of our school-based program that brings together teen girls (age 13 to 18) from greater Hartford.

ADVOCACY ACADEMY

Running for office instills a larger sense of community and confidence for girls aspiring to create social change. The YWLC Teen Governor is an opportunity to participate in a mock campaign. The girls developed skills like personal branding and public speaking. They explored how using their strengths, experiences and skills can position them for leadership.

We organized the girls into teams of two, so there was a candidate and a campaign manager. We designed it that way because we knew that in every group there will be introverts and extroverts. There will be a person who wants to be at the forefront. And there will be another who knows their thoughts are equally valuable, but their skills are assisting with the overall process. Both girls are leaders.

Story continues inside…

INSIDE: MOVING HOME » WHAT’S YOUR WHY? » COMING SOON
YOU HELP WOMEN FIND A HOME

At Soromundi Commons, we shelter 18 women at any given time. During their stay, your compassion gives them a trauma-informed place where they can come and be accepted for who they are.

Right from the start of each woman’s stay, our goal is to help them gain skills...that includes helping them with employment, therapy, learning to manage money, and how to make their way back to society.

We know there will be setbacks. Breaking old patterns is hard. But, we’re here to help – as are you, with your support.

The pandemic has made finding shelter hard. The end of the eviction moratorium will make it almost impossible for too many women. With your help, our goal is to find one women per week a new home.

Luciana DeGray is our Housing Program Manager. She mentions one woman who left Soromundi about six months ago. Then she returned – to tell the staff that she had a job as a property manager. And she’s doing well! Luciana says, “I’m so happy for her because I knew the potential she had. She just hit a bump in the road, and she needed help and support.”

"I like restoring faith in people. And until my last breath, I’m going to keep fighting and giving them the motivation to realize they can help others and their situation is temporary. We have to keep moving."

Luciana DeGray
Housing Program Manager

It’s your support that makes this program and so many others possible. You are changing lives!
I attended In the Company of Women for years. And every time, I walked away thinking, “I’m in awe of these amazing people! Look what can happen when like-minded people get together and change lives.”

Then I’d go back to my desk. And emails. And my day to day. Life went on until the next luncheon when I was inspired all over again.

I decided I had to do more. So I asked about becoming a board member. It was important to me to become one of the many voices coming together to change lives for young women. Together we’re committed to peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

I attended an inner-city high school and my dad died when I was 14. There were 5 kids in my family and scarce resources. But what I had were people who believed in me. Looking back on those times (with my big hair and platform shoes and buck teeth) it’s amazing that anyone could have seen my potential and help me build on it.

But that’s precisely what the YWCA does. They’re a talented group of believers who are passionate about seeing a better tomorrow for so many girls and women. They make their lives better by believing in women and young girls – and helping them believe in themselves.

If you’re thinking about supporting the YWCA, all I can say is, do it. We all want to make a difference in the world and the YWCA – with your help – can really make change happen. Together, we can touch lives and make people feel supported.

YOU CAN HELP THEM FEEL AT HOME

When women are ready to move to their own home, they usually arrive with almost nothing. While some other organizations help provide large items, like a bed, many women will find themselves eating on the floor – because they don’t have simple things like a chair or table.

WE’D LOVE TO MAKE THEIR WELCOME HOME MORE WELCOMING!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$30</td>
<td>Could buy a set of flatware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$54</td>
<td>Could buy a new set of linens for her bed and bath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$130</td>
<td>Could buy a chair for her living room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Could buy a simple kitchen table</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We’ll use your financial gifts to provide what’s needed most. Everything you contribute will support all the work we do together!
YWLC TEEN GOVERNOR

What are your issues?

The girls researched community issues they care about, created three-point platforms to address those issues, and made campaign PSA videos in coordination with their campaign manager.

How often do we ask teenage girls what they think about the important topics? The girls talked about everything from homelessness to hunger, from gender identity and inclusion in classroom settings, to global warming.

The girls created slogans, made public service announcements, and held a debate. Finally, they voted for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

"It was a joy to watch. And now they have a bag of tools in addition to the fire that was already burning in their hearts.

MELINDA JOHNSON
Director
Community Engagement and Advocacy

PLEASE DON’T MISS OUR 2020 GRATITUDE REPORT!

Our accomplishments from the past year could not have happened without your support. This gratitude report shows how important you are to the women, girls and families you helped throughout the year. Together, we’re empowering women and eliminating racism!

To see your copy, simply hold your phone’s camera in front of this code

YOUR CARING HEART IS MAKING REAL CHANGE!

From your generous gifts to your participation in events like In the Company of Women virtual event, we appreciate everything you do. And if you weren’t able to join us at In the Company of Women this year, you can still view it online.

To see this year's In the Company of Women virtual event, simply hold your phone’s camera in front of this code.

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 7, 2022!

Keynote Speaker: SONIA MANZANO
Actress “Maria from Sesame Street” & Author