

December 16, 2020

**YWCA Hartford Region Receives Historic Donation**  
*Funds to Support Racial and Gender Equity*

YWCA Hartford Region is proud to be the recipient of a \$9 million donation from author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. It is the largest single gift from an individual donor in the organization's more than 150-year history.

"We are overwhelmed with gratitude by Ms. Scott's support of our mission as evidenced by this extraordinary gift. Her commitment to racial and gender equity is in perfect alignment with the work we do every day to eliminate racism and empower women, girls and families in the Hartford region," said Adrienne W. Cochrane, Chief Executive Office of YWCA Hartford Region.

Scott recently announced more than \$4.15 billion in gifts to 384 organizations across all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. In addition to YWCA Hartford Region, YWCA-USA and 60 sister YWCA affiliates also received gifts. The donations focus on providing immediate support for people suffering the economic effects of the global pandemic, including addressing long-term systemic inequities.

"This has been an incredibly challenging year for nonprofit organizations. YWCA Hartford Region has been so fortunate to have received continued support from foundations, funders and individual donors who stepped up to ensure our programs and services remain vital resources for those most in need...women and girls in our community," added Cochrane. "Our donors are the backbone to supporting and sustaining the programs and services that were ultimately recognized by Ms. Scott. The incredible generosity of Ms. Scott and all our donors reaffirms our commitment to building and strengthening our work in racial and social justice and gender equity. It is work that is critical to creating healthy and vibrant lives for the women, girls and families we serve every day."

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The funds from Ms. Scott will go toward strengthening and transforming YWCA Hartford Region's programs and services, including providing affordable early learning and childcare to working families; ensuring single mothers remain in college in order to graduate and obtain jobs with family sustaining wages; and teaching young girls how to advocate for themselves and their communities.

Ms. Scott's pledge to expose inequities in our system that impact historically marginalized communities, like Hartford, allows nonprofit organizations the opportunity to truly transform lives.

"YWCA Hartford Region now has a greater opportunity to create a creative and safe space for women, girls and families in the Harford community. We are in the early stages of transforming our building into a center for race and gender equity in Hartford. Ms. Scott's gift serves as a starting point from which to make the center a reality more quickly than we could have anticipated," added Cochrane.

"The Hartford community has long been a tale of two cities, a city of the have's and have nots. The COVID-19 pandemic has served to shine a bright light on the disparities among historically marginalized women and girls of color; directly impacting access to healthcare, jobs, education, housing and economic opportunities. It is a painful reminder that our work is far from done. With continuous support from loyal donors, new donors, and now Ms. Scott, we are one step closer to bringing our vision to life and creating unlimited opportunities for the women, girls and the families we serve."

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**About YWCA Hartford Region:** YWCA Hartford Region is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Our vision is to become a community with unlimited opportunities to un-limit opportunity. For detailed information about our programs and services, please visit [www.ywcahartfor.org](http://www.ywcahartfor.org). Together, We're Unlimited.