This Mother’s Day will be the second that we celebrate in the midst of a pandemic, after an incredibly difficult year especially for women, mothers and caregivers. We know that the majority of caregiving responsibility in our society still falls on the shoulders of women and mothers, and many have struggled to stay afloat while managing work, school, job loss, remote learning for their children, and astronomical child care costs. For some, keeping up the juggling act wasn’t possible. This year has seen the largest exodus of women leaving the workforce in history, with women more likely to work in jobs and industries that were hardest hit by layoffs, and many mothers and caregivers across the country forced to choose between work and their family. This setback in economic advancement for women will have a devastating financial ripple effect for years to come.

When the pandemic hit, YWCA Boulder County knew we must do everything we could to keep resources like Persimmon Early Learning available to mothers and families in Boulder County, so they didn’t have to make the difficult decision between work or family, or school and family.

One of those mothers was Brenda, a local CU grad student finishing up her PhD program in Elementary Literacy. She knew she would not be able to continue her program if she did not have safe, affordable care for her infant daughter Kyla. Other than Persimmon Early Learning, her family did not have access to any other child care options. With her partner in a post grad program as well, they did not make enough on a monthly basis to afford a full-time child care facility, and yet they made too much to qualify for child care assistance from the state—by only $200/month!

“During the pandemic, the YWCA is our only village. I knew these teachers would become Kyla’s other ‘mother’. The staff assured me that we could choose a schedule that worked for me and around my schedule. This flexibility allows me to be both a mother AND a scholar while I work towards graduation.” –Brenda

As an educator herself, Brenda also has high standards for Early Learning for young kids, especially her daughter. Brenda was not only impressed by the curriculum and thoughtful staff but also the inclusive environment of the center. She states, “It’s in the details. When my daughter can see herself in the brown-skinned baby doll in her classroom, that’s important to me. Department stores don’t put racially diverse baby dolls front and center, but the YWCA does. I love how the mission of the YWCA is stated explicitly on the front door and infused throughout its programming”.

We are proud to offer the quality, flexible and affordable child care that helps families like Brenda’s, and as our community recovers from the pandemic, we will be here to help other women, mothers and caregivers navigate the often-impossible juggling act that is motherhood. But we don’t do this work alone. This Mother’s Day, take a moment to recognize your mother, and all the incredible mothers and care-giving women in our community, by contributing to YWCA Boulder County in their honor. Together, we can continue to help women like Brenda achieve their goals and not have to choose between their family and their dreams.

“During the pandemic, the YWCA is our only village.”
2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

LATINA ACHIEVEMENT SUPPORT
16 LAS students met for academic tutoring, stress management, mentoring and trainings with topics ranging from career readiness, how to manage school during a pandemic and Black History Month.

READING TO END RACISM
55 students & 39 teachers participated in Reading to End Racism (RER) sessions at Boulder County elementary schools, learned more about what racism is, and how to be an ally to someone experiencing racism or discrimination.

58 parents and caregivers attended YWCA trainings to learn how to talk to your kids about racism helping to facilitate informative, safe and engaging discussions about the ways to identify, discuss and combat racism in school, at home and in our hometowns.

STEM E3
21 students of color from St. Vrain Valley School District participated in STEM E3 virtual summer camps when most summer activities, camps and plans were cancelled due to the pandemic.

67 Boulder County students, primarily girls of color in grades 5-8, participated in STEM E3 introductory jam sessions featuring panel discussions of female STEM professionals on career entry and developing STEM skills.

32 STEM E3 students chose to continue development of their computer science/coding skills by participating in the STEM E3 Level 2 Cohort Sessions, a seven-week extracurricular activity.

PERSIMMON EARLY LEARNING
19 parents and caregivers participated in Incredible Years parent workshops held in English, and 9 in those held in Spanish, to learn effective and practical parenting skills.

2 new classrooms, 3 outdoor learning environments, 1 new commercial kitchen — were completed in building renovations last year for Persimmon Early Learning students and staff.

35 children attended Persimmon Early Learning.

196 fitness sessions were held for students through our Wellness Program.

216 healthy nutrition activities and 4,788 nutritious meals and snacks enjoyed by students.

RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY
194+ individuals participated in our flagship training series “Being an Anti-racist” to learn about racism in all its forms and how to take informed action.

Open Enrollment - Flexible Long-Term and/or Short-Term

Persimmon Early Learning (formerly Children’s Alley) offers high-quality, flexible and affordable child care, serving Boulder County children and families for 40 years.

Start the enrollment process today!

• Persimmon Early Learning offers high-quality, affordable child care, and a nurturing, creative space for children eight weeks through six years of age to learn and grow.

• We offer low teacher-to-child ratios in all classrooms (Infants 1:3, Toddlers 1:4, Preschool 1:5).

• Persimmon Early Learning provides a nutritious meal program with a full-time nutritionist and chef on site, as well as active play, yoga, gardening, and cooking and nutrition lessons.

• We’re a Level 4 Colorado Shines Rated Early Childhood Program.

• Persimmon Early Learning provides enrollment opportunities for low-income families through Boulder County CCAP.

Visit our website to learn more, schedule a virtual tour, or begin the enrollment process for your child. For additional questions, please email Kate Hise at: khise@ywcboulder.org.

Learn more at: ywcboulder.org/persimmon
THE YWCA IS ON A MISSION.

Over this past year I’ve often revisited part of our value statement as an organization—the YWCA will not stop until the world sees women, girls and people of color the way we do: Equal. Powerful. Unstoppable.

I was and continue to be inspired by the YWCA staff, board, volunteers, people we serve, donors, and community partners who have all demonstrated a powerful perseverance. Together we were more powerful and unstoppable than any of us could’ve imagined.

The past year has been difficult for everyone, and the challenges we’ve been facing for some time—including finding affordable child care; health and safety for women, girls, and communities of color; the pay gap; and racism—have reached alarming levels. With these challenges, it’s never been more important for us to collectively stay focused and committed to the critical work of eliminating racism and empowering women and girls.

During the past year, we overcame several barriers so we could continue to offer essential services and programming. We were unstoppable. We moved forward with programs like our Latina Achievement Support (LAS) program, Reading to End Racism (RER), STEM E3; rebranded Children’s Alley as Persimmon Early Learning; and expanded our Racial Justice & Equity program to include educational programming for the community. Check out some of our impact in the 2020-2021 School Year on the previous page.

As you can see, this past year we were able to move forward despite many unforeseen challenges and continue to grow and help our community in many ways. We’ll continue to pivot and stretch and grow until the world will see women, girls and people of color the way we do, EQUAL. POWERFUL. UNSTOPPABLE.

With Deepest Appreciation,

Debbie
CEO, YWCA Boulder County

Becoming a monthly donor helps nonprofits like YWCA Boulder County by providing a reliable, sustainable revenue stream. Monthly gifts, while sometimes smaller than a one-time gift, also provide the donor with an option for greater giving spread out over time. YWCA Boulder County thanks monthly donors Claire and Andrew Clurman for their generous consistent monthly giving.

“We are proud supporters of the YWCA’s mission and the agility they display as an organization to both center community need and be a catalyst for social justice. Our monthly donation allows us to consistently contribute over the course of the year and honor the vital role that the YWCA’s programs and services play in providing access, opportunity and education here in Boulder County.”

—CLAIRE & ANDREW CLURMAN

Consider joining our monthly giving program and making the YWCA part of your recurring giving by registering at: ywcaboulder.org/donate

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YOU CAN SUPPORT YWCA'S MISSION TO_eliminate racism & empower women