

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

WINTER 2022



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Charleston, WV

A Light at the End of the Tunnel

Women of Achievement honoree Shimaya Jones shares her story of empowerment.

Overcoming homelessness while a full-time college student and working 20 hours a week is not an easy feat, but for Shimaya Jones, one of six children living with her mother and grandmother, it was the catalyst that would start her on the path to becoming the 2022 YWCA Women of Achievement Empowerment Award recipient. This award recognizes a woman who, with the help of a YWCA program, becomes empowered and enabled to pursue and achieve economic, education, and professional goals.

Shimaya was born and raised in Charleston, WV and grew up living with her siblings, grandmother, and mother. Her mother worked two jobs to try to make ends meet, but after being evicted from their apartment, Shimaya and her family found themselves staying at the Best Western on Washington Street with no hope to save up a deposit and first month's rent for a new place. At this time, the family split up and Shimaya, her grandmother, and little sister went to stay at the YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women & Families.

Shimaya, who was only 22 at the time, was enrolled full-time at West Virginia State University to become a social worker. After living at Sojourner's for two months, her case manager recommended her for the

YWCA Alicia McCormick Homes Transitional Housing program and she was accepted. In turn, Shimaya's grandmother, who was her source of strength and greatest supporter, entered the YWCA Shanklin Center for Senior Enrichment Empowerment Homes for chronically homeless, disabled women.

During her time at the Alicia McCormick homes, Shimaya worked tirelessly to move forward. In addition to attending college full-time, she managed to pay off utility debt enabling her to secure permanent housing, and willingly took custody of her younger sister in order to provide her with a more stable home. Despite all odds and with the encouragement of her grandmother, Shimaya proudly graduated from West Virginia State University in December 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, becoming the first in her family to attend and graduate from college.

Today, Shimaya's story has come full circle as she serves as the new part-time Transitional Housing Advocate for the YWCA Alicia McCormick Homes, in addition to being the full-time Housing First Case Manager for Covenant House. She is honored to help others who are in some of the same places as she once was, and encourages them that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Check inside to read about all 2022 Women of Achievement honorees!

Women of Achievement

2022
eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

Dr. Sherri A. Young is currently the Associate Chief Medical Officer to the CAMC Health Network and the Interim Executive Director of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. Dr. Young and her Unified Health Command Team have been nationally recognized for their tireless on-going work through the COVID-19 pandemic response in publications such as *TIME Magazine*, the *New York Times*, *Bloomberg*, *The Washington Post*, and *STAT Media*. Dr. Young has served in many



leadership positions in the past. Most notably, she was the first State Immunization Officer for West Virginia. She also served as Medical Director for Keystone Peer Review Organization, Aetna/Coventry commercial and Medicare divisions, and the University of Charleston Physician Assistant Program. Prior to her administrative roles, she was in clinical practice.

Dr. Young is the proud mother to her 14-year-old daughter, Gabi, with whom she is the co-author of a children's book, "Lucky," published in June of 2019. The book is based on their family's true-life tragic story of how they narrowly escaped death from their home explosion.

Kenyatta Coleman Grant is the Community Organizing Coordinator for the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV) where she continues to be a prominent figure in the domestic violence movement. In her role, Ms. Grant is responsible for educating and raising awareness of domestic violence, marginalized communities and invests her time on wide reaching, high value organizations that focus on racial justice. For example the Call to Action for Racial Equity (CARE) Coalition Board of Directors and the YWCA Racial Equity & Inclusion Committee, where she co-developed the Implicit Bias training program that has been implemented and promoted within the community as a vital tool and resource to eliminate racism. Due to her reputation and commitment for social justice, Ms. Grant was honored to be selected by both Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and Governor Jim Justice to serve as a Commissioner for the West Virginia Women's Commission.



She resides in Charleston, WV and attends First Baptist Church with her partner, Derrick Grant, and their three children, Savannah, Victor, and Kenleigh.

Judge Stephanie D. Thacker is a United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Nominated by President Obama in 2011 to fill a vacancy on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Thacker was confirmed by the United States Senate in 2012. Previous to her position, Judge Thacker practiced law for 20+ years, both in civil and criminal litigation arenas including serving as a federal prosecutor, both at the United States Attorney's Office



for the Southern District of West Virginia and at the Department of Justice in the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. During her time with the Department of Justice, Judge Thacker prosecuted and went to trial on cases in multiple jurisdictions, spearheaded several nationwide initiatives, and ultimately was awarded the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award. Following her tenure with the Department of Justice, Judge Thacker was a member of the law firm Guthrie & Thomas in Charleston, WV where she engaged in litigation practice concentrating on complex litigation, environmental and toxic tort, and criminal defense. It was from here she was nominated and appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Dr. Jacqueline Stump "Woman to Watch" was born and raised in Charleston, WV. As the only female partner at Howard & Howard Dental, Jacqueline is committed to mastering the latest dental techniques and innovations. Her dynamic leadership qualities coupled with being part of a compassionate team, allows her to create beautiful smiles for her patients while also improving their dental and overall health.



She is a dedicated and effective advocate for the arts and culture, serving as a member on the Board of Directors for the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences, and volunteering on several development and fundraising committees. Dr. Jacqueline has also been diligent in her efforts to educate the community on issues of domestic violence by serving as one of the Lead Chairs for the "Girls Night Out" event benefitting YWCA Resolve Family Abuse Program. Through her practice and philanthropy, Dr. Jacqueline is committed to advocating for women and making a difference in her community and the state of West Virginia, and the organizations that benefit its citizens.

Join us in celebrating these inspiring women on Friday, February 25 at 12pm-1:30pm at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center! Visit ywcacharleston.org/woa to purchase tickets.

YWCA RACIAL EQUITY & INCLUSION PROGRAM

upcoming events:

MLK JR. DAY

January 17

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we will have a children's read aloud of *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING CELEBRATION

January 18

We will be hosting a free virtual event on Meaningful Allyship from 9AM-10AM on Jan. 18. To register and learn more, visit ywcacharleston.org/eliminatoracism.

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Charleston, WV



VOLUNTEER *spotlight*

RUTH JOSECK

Serving on and off again as a Board Member for the YWCA Charleston since 2001, Ruth Joseck knew exactly where she wanted to volunteer her extra time when she retired - and we couldn't be more grateful!

Since Ruth's retirement she has volunteered her time, not only as serving as the Lead Chair for the YWCA Women of Achievement Committee, but also by assisting the YWCA Business Office with administrative tasks. During this past year, Ruth expanded her role to include volunteering with billing and administrative needs at YWCA Mel Wolf Child Development Center. When asked why she volunteers, Ruth said "I love the YW and I love volunteering. This is my way of staying busy and connected to an organization I love after I finished my time on the Board."

Thank you, Ruth, for your time and your heart for the YWCA Charleston!

SAVE THE DATE



Scan here to register
by **May 2** to reserve
and fund your spot!

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
TRUIST BUILDING SQUARE
9AM - 5PM

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Charleston, WV

**over the
EDGE**



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

1426 Kanawha Blvd., E
Charleston, WV 25301

 /ywcacharleston

 /ywcacharleston

 /ywcacharlestonwv

ywcacharleston.org



United Way
of Central West Virginia

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.47
Charleston, WV 25301

2022 *Leaders*
FOR CHANGE
eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Charleston, WV

*Corporate partners whose support
sustains YWCA Charleston so that we
can continue to serve the most
vulnerable in our communities.
Together, we work to promote peace,
justice, freedom, and dignity for all.*

peace

TRUIST 

encova
INSURANCE

 **Huntington**

 **TC Energy**

freedom

 **Charleston Area
Medical Center**

KOMAX
Business Systems

empowerment

GREYLOCK
ENERGY

dignity

Appalachian Power
City National Bank
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank
Suddenlink-Altice
United Bank

2022 YWCA DATES TO SAVE

WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT
02.25.22 | Charleston Coliseum

FRIENDS OF SOJOURNER'S STYLE SHOW
04.02.22 | Woman's Club of Charleston

RACE TO END RACISM
04.23.22 | Magic Island

OVER THE EDGE
06.18.22 | Truist Building

GIRLS NIGHT OUT
08.13.22 | Charleston Coliseum

GUYS NIGHT OUT
10.22.22 | Oakes Field

FOODIE FEAST
11.2022 | TBD