

A Century of Service and Community

St. Paul

The YWCA St. Paul was started by a group of forward thinking St. Paul women 13 years before women had the right to vote! Founded to provide refuge and support for the young women who moved to St. Paul pursuing work in the factories and mills, our programs have continually evolved to meet changing community needs. Today, we equip and empower women, children and families to grow and thrive through programs and supportive services in housing, health, education and employment.



Welcoming a new resident, 1920



Baseball, 1928 (top)



Residence Room, 1930s



Festival of Nations, 1930s



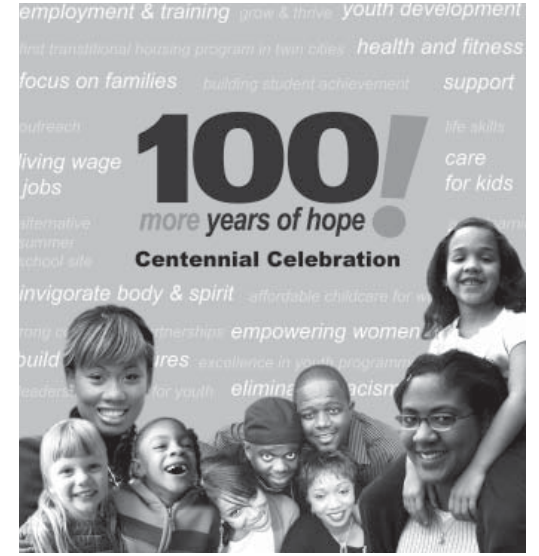
Auto Repair Class, 1960s



Camp, 1970s (top)



YWCA at Selby & Dale, 2006



Celebrating 100 More years of Hope, 2007

1910s

The YWCA's first building, constructed in 1911 on Fifth Street in downtown St. Paul, included a gym, club and class rooms, an auditorium and a 100-bed residence. The YWCA fostered the growth of community agencies such as the Hallie Q. Brown Neighborhood Center, Travelers Aid, International Institute and Capitol Community Services.

1920s

YWCA programs for women included education in business skills, home arts, physical fitness and arts and crafts. Office and meeting space was provided for other women's organizations such as the Campfire Girls and the League of Women Voters.

1930s

In the 1930s, the YWCA focused its programs on job assistance and counseling as well as programs for women in business and industry. The YWCA also hosted the first Festival of Nations in 1932.

1940s

The YWCA was active on the home front in the 1940s, providing support for women entering the labor force as well as support for servicemen and women through the USO and relief efforts.

1950s

The 1950s brought a focus on educational and recreational programs, including programming in public housing projects. Other programs included co-ed clubs, Homemaker's Holidays, child care, dance and young adult programs.

1960s

In 1961, the YWCA opened its new facility on Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul, providing space for rooms to rent to women in transition, programming, a full gym and swimming pool, gallery, gift shop, cafe and rental space for organizations such as the Jewish Community Center and Wilder Foundation.

1970s

The YWCA focused on helping women move into the job market. The 1970s also saw an increase in physical education, as well as, recreation and children's programs.

1980s

The YWCA started the first emergency shelter for homeless women and children in the state and the first transitional housing program for homeless women and children in the Twin Cities.

1990s

The YWCA moved to its present location in St. Paul's Summit-University neighborhood, and started many of its current programs at this time including, Y's Kids Club and Youth Achievers Program. The Transitional Housing Program expanded its off-site housing facilities and services.

today

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary, we reflect on where we have been and where we are heading. Please join us as we celebrate our first 100 years!