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Pierce County

YWCA Newsletter

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2026

50 years ago we took the bold action of creating our state's first domestic violence shelter. Since then, our community has remained a leader in supporting survivors and building a safer, healthier future for all.

We are fortunate to be surrounded by incredible partners and supporters who continually show up for survivors. Whether through Domestic Violence Action Month activities, the Healthy Love Club Breakfast, or upcoming events, your support advances our mission to end violence; **together, our impact is greater and our actions are stronger.**

This time of year is packed full of impactful opportunities to show your solidarity for survivors!

Highlights of this newsletter:

- Holiday Programs: Holly Jolly and Thanksgiving Meals
- Domestic Violence Action Month & Week Without Violence
- Healthy Love Club Breakfast Recap
- Meet Our New YWCA Team Member
- National Estate Planning Week
- Get Out the Vote

Holiday Programs



Holly Jolly Gift Card Drive

✨ Help make the holidays brighter for survivors by donating to our **Holly Jolly Gift Card Drive** and give YWCA clients the opportunity to choose gifts for their children and food for their holiday meals!

How to Give: Please donate physical gift cards in **$25, $50, $75, or $100** amounts.

Suggested Gift Cards (click the suggestions below to purchase cards):

Visa
Fred Meyer
Target
Walmart
Amazon
WinCo
Safeway

Learn More About Holly Jolly!



Thanksgiving Meal Distribution

🧅 **We are looking for volunteers** to help unload, sort, pack, and distribute ingredients for meals to families in our community. The distribution will take place on **Saturday, November 21st between 11:00am-5:15pm.**

If you're interested in volunteering, please call 253-272-4181 ext. 246 and speak to our Fund Development Coordinator!

Domestic Violence Action Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) began as a way to unite advocates across the U.S. and increase public understanding of domestic violence. Over time, it expanded into a national movement encouraging communities to learn about domestic violence, recognize the warning signs, and speak up when they see abuse.

At the YWCA, we recognize that awareness is only the first step. That's why we observe **Domestic Violence Action Month (DVAM)**, shifting the focus from simply raising awareness to taking meaningful action. We partner with supporters, businesses, and community members throughout the month to host events and activities that inspire action and encourage everyone to stand with us in our mission

to end violence. We also partner with other agencies, because we firmly believe that **action is more impactful when done together.**

Check out some DVAM opportunities below!



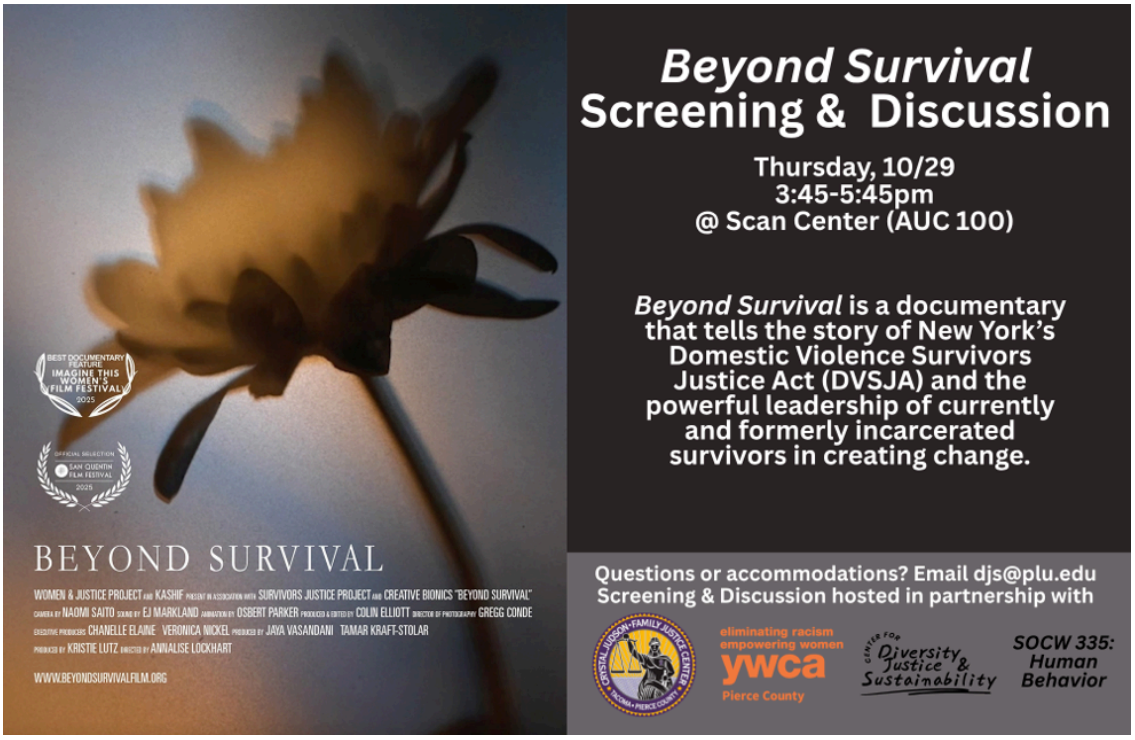
Wooden City Tacoma has generously partnered with us this September and October for their **Draft Old Fashioned Program**! During these two months, Wooden City will donate $1 of every Old Fashioned sold to the YWCA Pierce County.

We deeply appreciate Wooden City's commitment to creating positive change; partnerships like these help ensure survivors have access to the resources, support, and advocacy they need to thrive.

Week Without Violence is October 19-23rd and October 22nd is **Purple Thursday**.

We invite you to join us in wearing purple on October 22nd to show your solidarity and support for survivors of domestic violence.





Join us at Pacific Lutheran University for a screening and discussion of *Beyond Survival,* a documentary about New York's Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act. The event will be held on **Thursday, October 29th at 3:45pm at Scan Center (AUC 100) at PLU**.

Healthy Love Club Breakfast

Thank you to our incredible donors and community members who joined us for the Healthy Love Club Breakfast where we explored how art fosters healing, connection, and resilience! Your support for survivors and commitment to building a community rooted in healthy love inspires us every day. We're grateful for your compassion and generosity as advocates for the YWCA. ❤️

Huge thanks to our generous donors who became the founders of the Healthy Love Club by signing up to give monthly! We are thrilled you joined this dedicated circle of supporters who provide reliable and predictable funding to

the YWCA, allowing us to plan long-term while simultaneously responding to the immediate needs of our survivors.

If you couldn't attend the breakfast, please consider joining our Healthy Love Club by making a monthly gift.

Join the Healthy Love Club!

Meet Our New Team Member!



YWCA Pierce County is excited to announce Katelyn Smitley as Children's Program Manager. Katelyn Smitley graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in 2020 with studies in psychology, sociology, and gender studies, and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration at The Evergreen State College. With more than 10 years of experience supporting survivors of sexual and domestic violence, Katelyn has worked across community-based nonprofits, higher education, and foster care, always focused on advocacy and empowerment. Drawn to the YWCA's mission of healing, advocacy, and empowerment for survivors and the broader community, they are excited to make a meaningful impact through supporting clients, children, and community partners.
We are thrilled to welcome Katelyn to our team and look forward to the passion and experience they bring to our growing Children's Program.

National Estate Planning Awareness Week



National Estate Planning Awareness Week (October 19-25) is a reminder to plan ahead and protect the people and causes you care about most.

One powerful way to support the YWCA Pierce County through your estate plans is by including a gift in your will. A planned gift costs nothing during your lifetime and helps ensure that future generations of survivors and families have access to the safety, healing, and support they need.

To learn more about leaving a gift to YWCA Pierce County in your will, please visit our planned giving page. If you have already included YWCA in your plans or would like to learn more about joining our Legacy of Friends Circle, we'd love to hear from you.

You can also find helpful estate planning resources through Leave 10 South Sound and explore ways to make a lasting impact in our community.

Get Out the Vote!

Make sure your voice is heard. Vote by November 3rd!

We encourage everyone to be informed and engaged this election. Check out the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for voting information and resources.



We also encourage voters to learn more about **I-1001, Public Schools & Student Safety, and I-638, Trans Students & School Sports**. YWCA Pierce County stands alongside WSCADVSA and other organizations that have joined NO Hate in WA State in opposing these two initiatives.

Help Provide Everyday Essentials

Items such as **full-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, and baby wipes** help families feel supported as they transition to safety and stability.

👉 **Want to help?** Download our Current Needs List to see how you can provide direct support to survivors and families in need.

Current Needs List



Fred Meyer Community Rewards
Sign up today and every time you shop at Fred Meyer and use your rewards card, you help the YWCA Pierce County earn a donation!

Sign up for Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Thank you for supporting YWCA Pierce County.

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