

# why is the **ywca** still so **important?**

The YWCA advocates for, acknowledges, and supports the women, children and families of our widespread community. Social Action and Advocacy are the cornerstones of the YWCA. Since our inception almost 150 years ago, "service" has been linked to "action." As the nation's oldest and largest national multi-cultural women's movement, the YWCA works together across the nation to strengthen our voice. YWCA Bristol anchors itself firmly to the world-wide organization through our mission and programming and has tackled some of the toughest community issues like affordable child care, racial justice, teen pregnancy, the digital divide and economic disparity issues in youth.

## decide for yourself...

Four children die every day as a result of child abuse. Three out of four of these victims are under age 4. ["Child Maltreatment Report, 2006" U.S. DHS] Affordable, quality child care provides needed support to high-risk families by reducing stress and the financial burden of child care, exposing parents to appropriate and effective adult-child interactions, and providing a connection to community resources, therefore reducing the opportunity for child abuse. [Child Abuse Fact Sheet, www.apa.org]

**In 2007 the YWCA Children's Center served 124 children and their families. 78% received financial assistance and 66% were single parent families.**

10% of all births in the State of Tennessee were to girls ages 10-17. [TN Department of Health, 2005]

**In 2007, Moms R Us Teen Pregnancy Program supported 68 individuals through Labor & Delivery and Parenting Classes and support groups. This education also helps reduce second pregnancies, encourages continued education and careers and increases healthy lifestyle choices.**

Forty percent of teenage girls ages 14 to 17 say they know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. [National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004.]

**YWCA Week Without Violence involves hundreds of community members and increases education on eliminating and/or resolving violent situations, including gangs, domestic violence, cultural diversity issues, and child abuse.**

Caretakers report chronic conditions at nearly twice the rate of non caregivers. [Commonwealth Fund Survey] The loss of productivity by stressed working caregivers is estimated to cost U.S. employers between \$17.1 and \$33.6 billion a year. [Metropolitan Life Mature Market Institute, 2006]

**In 2007 YWCA Adult Day Services provided 199 units of service for participants and caregiver respite. The ripple effect of that support throughout our community is immeasurable.**

22 million registered unmarried women did not vote in the last presidential election. And more than 50 million eligible women are not even registered to vote. That is one-third of the U.S. female population. [US Census Bureau, 2006.]

**The YWCA uses their national platform to advocate for women and racial issues. YWCA Bristol involves itself on the regional and national level through various advocacy projects. YWCA Bristol was also the most recent association awarded the national Racial Justice Award from the YWCA USA.**