

### **YWCA NorthEastern NY Celebrates 135<sup>th</sup> Year in Schenectady, NY**

**Schenectady, NY, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – YWCA NorthEastern NY celebrates its 135<sup>th</sup> year in Schenectady, NY in 2023. Since its beginnings in May 1888, YWCA NENY has been a constant innovator in providing programs and services to meet the changing needs of the community.

YWCA NENY is a charter member of YWCA USA, the oldest and largest women’s membership organization. Their mission is to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The team at YWCA NENY drives this mission forward through their programs and services including comprehensive domestic violence support services and safe shelter, affordable housing with wraparound support services for women (trans-inclusive), early learning curriculum programs, clinical counseling, advocacy, violence prevention programs for families, teens, and youth in the capital region, and more.

“For 135 years, we have listened to the needs of women and their families in our community and responded with high quality programming, offered with dignity, justice, respect and advocacy for all, and the ripple effect of those services has made our community stronger!” says Kim Siciliano, YWCA NENY CEO.

For their 135<sup>th</sup> year, YWCA NENY will expand programs and services to offer education around diversity, equity, and inclusion to community members, increase access to higher education and resources available to underrepresented communities, and offer human trafficking clinical services to those who have been trafficked.

They are also preparing for the new construction of “Harbor House,” a 54-unit permanent supportive housing project, on YWCA NENY’s main campus. This program will serve women (trans-inclusive) who are in need of support services so they can live independently in the community. YWCA has been working closely with Sano-Rubin Construction and Xenolith Partners on this project. In 2023, with two of the three funding sources procured, YWCA NENY hopes to get the final grant funds to break ground during their 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

YWCA NENY will also host their 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Empowerment Awards Gala on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at River’s Casino. The event will include a silent auction, dinner, awards presentation for the 2023 awardees, a celebration of 40 years of empowerment, and a presentation of the organizations 135-year history. More information and tickets to the gala can be found at [ywca-neny.org/empowerment](http://ywca-neny.org/empowerment).