

**Domestic violence does not discriminate.**

**It can affect anyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, race, religious group, income, sexual orientation, or marital status.**

**DV makes up 45-50% of violent crimes and 25-30% of homicides and felony assaults in Multnomah County.**

**The YWCA's Domestic Violence Services** give women and children escaping domestic violence safety and renewed hope.

Our programs provide shelter, intensive advocacy, abuse education, safety plans, and other resources for survivors to rebuild safe and independent lives.



**“The YWCA offered us a home, to feel safe and rebuild our lives. They were there for me and my daughter when nobody else was.”**

— Jackie, with Cassie,  
survivors of domestic violence, on being  
sheltered at the YWCA's Yolanda House

## yolanda house

The YWCA's Yolanda House is a secure, homelike shelter that provides a safe haven to over 100 adults and children each year. Staff are dedicated to creating a supportive environment using intensive, hands-on advocacy and comprehensive case management. We are committed to doing our best to meet each client's unique needs.

### **The story of Yolanda House**

The shelter was named in honor of Yolanda Panek, a treasured YWCA employee who was murdered by her ex-partner in front of their young son.

Yolanda was a caring young woman with a tremendous social conscience, who loved children and planned to be an educator. She fulfilled a lifelong dream when she became a YWCA program director teaching girls math and science.

Speaking of her only child, Yolanda's mother says, “In my heart I know that Yolanda's gift of caring for others will continue through Yolanda House.”

### **Yolanda House provides:**

- 24/7 Crisis Hotline, fielding an average of 2000 crisis calls annually
- Housing referrals and address confidentiality programs
- Emergency clothing, food and personal care supplies
- Safety planning, individually customized for all situations
- Advocacy for court-ordered protection
- Transition, life skills and on-going support – including support groups
- Culturally responsive environment (bilingual and LGBTQ-friendly)
- Children and teen programs
- Resource information and referral
- Computer resource center, housing and employment search assistance



## jackie's story

Jackie and her daughter Cassie escaped domestic violence and found safety and renewed hope at the YWCA's Yolanda House.

Jackie describes her family life as typical, all-American. They lived in the suburbs and she was focused on being a mom and good neighbor.

Over time, her husband became abusive. He would slap her and say that she had looked at him the wrong way. The night he tried to strangle her, she knew she had to leave – and the YWCA's Yolanda House was there to help.

“When I arrived, it was the first time that I knew I was going to be okay. I felt in control and empowered to rebuild my life for myself and my daughter.”

## additional dv services

### Gateway Center Navigator

At the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services (opening July 2010) the YWCA will provide a full-time navigator to help walk-in survivors use the Center, assess danger levels, make safety plans, and access on- and off-site services.

### STRA Housing Partnership

As part of the Volunteers of America (VOA) Home Free domestic violence agency collaboration, the YWCA helps shelter residents use Short Term Rent Assistance (STRA) funds for motel vouchers and rent assistance.

### HAP Partnership

The YWCA provides DV consultation, information and referral to Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) staff, often helping HAP tenants directly with safety plans and advocacy.

### Rent Well

A tenant education program that helps individuals become successful, stable renters, Rent Well classes will be offered by the YWCA to domestic violence survivors in the Portland community.

### Training & Consultation

The YWCA offers training and consultation on domestic violence, strangulation, stalking and safety planning – as well as related issues such as racism and oppression.

The YWCA of Greater Portland provides life-changing social services for women, children and families from all walks and phases of life, guiding them through three stages of empowerment: Safety, Opportunity, and Independence.

Our comprehensive programs create positive impact in the community by encompassing four key service areas. In addition to Domestic Violence Services, we provide Transitional Services, Youth Services, and Senior Services.

