

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

YWCA CEO Grateful for Local Support

The last 18 months have been especially hard on nonprofits. Staff furloughs and cutbacks in programs have marked the period and, sadly, some organizations did not survive.

We at the YWCA Glendale and Pasadena are proud to tell our story as we strive to meet the needs of those we serve. While there's no easy path forward, the key reasons why we thrived that may be signposts for others.

First, our organization benefited from the help of our dedicated and determined staff and our board's commitment to meeting our neighbors' needs. There is a selfless mission, driven by a cause we all truly believe in. Without them, we might have been among the organizations that collapsed during the pandemic.

Second, our donors recognized the vital role we play, and the community supported us. We achieved our highest fundraising to date, generating \$4.3 million, exceeding

our budget goal by 63%. These dollars allowed us to reach more than twice the number of program participants compared with the previous year, with 5,000 women, teens and children benefitting from vital STEAM workshops and other educational offerings, violence prevention training, summer camp and counseling sessions.

Finally, we joined with the YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley to expand our reach and impact. Together we have redoubled our efforts to meet the most pressing needs of women and girls. With local partners we launched curricula that helped young people gain leadership and life skills that will carry them into adulthood. Equally important, we developed racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives that help businesses, government agencies and other nonprofits create spaces that are safe and welcoming.

With input and assistance from first responders, law enforcement and social service agencies, elected officials, educators and our steadfast allies and advocates, we believe our work will help transform our tightknit community in ways

We Welcome Your Letters to the Editor

Glendale News-Press readers who have opinions about any number of local issues are invited to submit letters to the editor for publication.

Letters should be limited to 350 words. All letters to the Glendale News-Press become property of the Glendale News-Press and may be edited or condensed for any reason. They should be submitted by one person only and be accompanied by a current address and telephone number for verification (only names are published). Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

Printed letters do not necessarily reflect the Glendale News-Press' opinion; our Letters to the Editor section is an opportunity for readers to engage in a community forum.

Send submissions by email to outlooknews@outlooknewspapers.com. Please write "Letter to the Editor" as the subject line.

that are real, measurable and long-lasting. there will be other challenges to contend with, and together we will face them head-on.

All of us at the YWCA Glendale & Pasadena — board members, volunteers, and staff — remain energized and optimistic. No doubt

Tara Peterson, CEO
YWCA Glendale and Pasadena