

**YWCA IS ON  
A MISSION**

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Mohawk Valley

**For Immediate Release**

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**YWCA Mohawk Valley Looks to Expand Services**

*Relocation of HQ and proposed DV housing project underway*

**September 28, 2017- Utica, NY** - Preparations to expand YWCA Mohawk Valley domestic violence housing programs are underway with recent grant awards and the relocation of YWCA Mohawk Valley headquarters from 1000 Cornelia Street to 7 Rutger Park.

“We are excited to announce that our agency has been granted a \$3.75 million 2017 Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) conditional award. This grant provides us the opportunity to explore transforming our current administrative building into permanent supportive housing units for victims of domestic violence,” said YWCA MV Chief Executive Officer Dianne Stancato.

This award is for the program component of the proposed “Cornelia Commons” project – which is a five-year grant, with a five-year renewal. The conditional award is the first phase of a multi-step process, which now includes securing capital funding to renovate the structure.

As part of this plan to provide domestic violence housing, YWCA MV administrative offices are relocating to Rutger Street to allow the agency to begin assessment of its Cornelia Street location.

“This agency has been a cornerstone of the City at this location for more than 100 years and will remain an integral part of the downtown community for many years to come,” Stancato said. “Local women began providing services to the Utica area in the late 1800s and relocated numerous times before moving into 1000 Cornelia Street in 1917. Initially, housing was provided at the Cornelia Street location, so it is fitting that we look for opportunities to renovate the building for this purpose.”

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Stancato emphasized that during the transition to Rutger Street there will be no disruption of YWCA MV services, which includes its 24-hour domestic/sexual violence crisis hotlines, emergency shelters, client advocacy, counseling, education and outreach, and many other programs.

“As YWCA Mohawk Valley looks to the future with opportunities for growth and expansion, it was necessary to re-evaluate the use of this historic landmark, its potential regarding the agency’s mission, and overall revitalization of downtown Utica,” stated Stancato.

Prior to YWCA’s purchase of Cornelia Street in May, 1916, the site was known as the Curtis Dancing Academy building.

The offices for Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network, currently located on the second floor, will remain on site.

In addition to the ESSHI award, Stancato announced that YWCA MV was also granted \$334,000 from the U.S Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women to be used for transitional housing. Safe Horizons, (known previously as Willow Commons and New Horizons Plus), will serve all of Oneida County and is the only program of its kind in the central New York region, providing seven transitional housing units for homeless survivors (and non-offending family members) of domestic/sexual violence, ages 18 and over.

For more information about YWCA MV programs, go to [ywcamv.org](http://ywcamv.org).

### **About the YWCA Mohawk Valley**

The YWCA Mohawk Valley is a nonsectarian organization engaged in the mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. The agency provides services to more than 15,000 individuals each year in Herkimer and Oneida counties via such programs as violence prevention education, domestic and sexual violence crisis services, residential services for homeless and runaway girls, and emergency shelters and transitional housing for individuals escaping violence. For 24-hour help with domestic and/or sexual violence in Oneida County, call 315-797-7740. For 24-hour help with sexual violence in Herkimer County, call 315-866-4120. More information about the YWCA Mohawk Valley can be found at [www.ywcamv.org](http://www.ywcamv.org) or by contacting Kari Procopio at [kprocopio@ywcamv.org](mailto:kprocopio@ywcamv.org) or (315) 732-2159 ext. 233. *The YWCA receives funding support from the United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica and the United Way of Rome & Western Oneida County.*