

**Agency:** YWCA  
**Liaison:** Keith Hobson (completed by Jean Kresse)  
**November 2016**

**Need for Program:** The mission of the Ames-ISU YWCA focuses on eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The agency provides services to individuals that are otherwise underrepresented working with international spouses, youth and women.

**Program Strengths:** YWCA has a strong history with ISU and the Ames Community. Key programs include:

*Engaging International Students and Spouses:* By creating a network of international families the goal is to help integrate students and spouses into the Ames/ISU communities. Expanded this year to include the students more so that they entire family feels connected. Have professor teaching at no cost Toefl Classes (15-20 students).

*International Friendship Fair:* Working hard to expand the program to include more elementary schools – Sawyer, Fellows, and St. Cecilia have all participated – those sharing are instructed to answer any and all questions as honestly as possible. They are trying to make this a safe environment where elementary school students are encouraged to ask serious questions without fear of reprisal. They are also holding fairs at Heartland Senior Services and Ames Public Library. Goal is to eliminate racism by exposing children and adults to different cultures. They try and host 5 fairs per semester and highlight 6-7 different countries/cultures each time.

*Girls Power:* Focuses on mentoring 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls in Nevada and Ames through leadership development and positive role modeling.

*Giving Tree:* They are no longer offering because the schools are not participating. They refer families in need to The Salvation Army for Christmas gifts.

*ML King Birthday Celebration:* Assist in the planning of the celebration at Ames Middle School by providing speakers.

*Sexual Assault Awareness:* Partnering with ACCESS to provide a safe place to ask questions through messaging on Facebook, called Sexuality Circles. Questions and Answers (no names) are then posted on Facebook so all benefit.

*Diversity:* Partnering with Multi-Cultural Student Affairs and Diversity and Inclusion (Dr. Stewart) to host bi-weekly *Hot Topic Dialogues* with experts on the panel – examples of topics include racism and abortion.

*Sitters List:* Free for students this is a list of sitters who have all passed the background checks.

**Financial Outlook:** Learned this year that ISU changed how they charge payroll taxes which resulted in over \$9,000 increase to the YWCA. ISU Student Council through the committee funding covered the shortfall this year. This is why there is an increase of nearly \$6,000 this year.

**Internal Management:** Angela is the Executive Director and only full-time staff member. She has been in this position since 2011. They have been in their current location (away from Central Campus) for 2 years which has resulted in a significant decrease in walk-ins. Their current office entry is restricted by key card so they need to meet people at the door. Since they do not pay ISU rent, it is something they need to live with. Current location is a little tight making program expansion difficult.

**Future Plans:** Hoping to begin a student member group, similar to a board or advisory group to help expand their presence on campus. There are between 15-20 students interested in being a part of this group. This will help the YWCA be more visible on campus since Angela can't make it to everything. They would also like to be more visible in the community and Angela would be open to hearing ideas. They will also be expanding their Women of Achievement Event to include more recognition of outstanding women throughout the community in more areas. This will become a more formal event and is set for 11-9-2017.