

Agency: **YWCA**
Liaison: Keith Hobson
November 2017

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

Program Strengths: YWCA has a rich history in the area and is growing. Volunteer involvement is also very strong.

Girls Power/mentoring has expanded and has a large ISU student mentor interest of approximately 200. There are 40 mentees signed up in Nevada and Ames. The goal is to expand that further with interest of mentors. They are looking to get 2 more coordinators for this program. This program works with girls in 6th and 7th grade through leadership development and positive role models.

Also have a program for College Bound girls in high school. The program was moved to the Ames public Library because they had about 100 girls attend.

Work with International students and spouses (both men and women) and hold diversity fairs at elementary schools in Ames to share the lifestyle, authentic dress and learn of their background. Elementary students can ask questions about their country and background and drive out fear of differences. They have also expanded this with diversity education. In addition to elementary schools have had programs at Heartland Senior Services, ACPC and ISU memorial union. Had about 175 -200 attend at Ames library. The school sessions run 1-2 hours and have run for about 10 years.

Engaging internationals students and spouses to help integrate into Ames/ISU community. Expanded to include English training with no cost of Toefl training and testing. Assists both men and women. In addition to English training assists with job skills, resumes, and child care.

Last April they had a Stand Against Racism event with stand on Lincolnway to draw attention to issue. They would like to look to expand. Ames City police provide a big help with this.

The ML King celebration had 500 in attendance this past year.

New program with Women of Achievement with 3 awardees last year. Being expanded this year with 7 awardees in various categories. They will have speakers for inspiration of young women. Soliciting sponsors for this event.

Program Challenges: Connecting more girls to the mentoring program as they have plenty of mentors and support. Need some additional coordinators for this program.

Encourage more involvement of internationals in programs.

Financial Outlook: The payroll tax issues from ISU that was identified last year will need to be paid and budgeted. They have had many people review this and can't escape the payment. They are looking to split between ASSET and Student Government. They also need to budget for additional coordinator.

Internal Management: Angela Merrick is the executive director and only full time paid staff. They also have 3-4 paid part time students for coordinators and office assistant. Looking for one additional outreach person. They are housed at south towers campus and do not pay rent.