

# eliminating racism empowering women ywca

## Aetna Pledges \$100,000 to YWCA of Northeast Kansas

*Funding to support YWCA's Center for Safety and Empowerment*

OVERLAND PARK, K.S., Dec. 12, 2023 – YWCA of Northeast Kansas proudly announced that Aetna, a CVS Health company, has pledged a donation of \$100,000 to support the YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment (CSE). The contribution will reinforce Aetna's commitment to empowering survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

The donation from Aetna will encompass a multifaceted approach aimed at fortifying YWCA's ability to support and uplift survivors and victims of violence. The funds will be allocated across crucial areas, including:

**General Fund for Essential Supplies:** A portion of the donation will bolster the general fund, helping to provide essential supplies such as toiletries, clothing and emergency food, ensuring the comfort and dignity of those seeking refuge and support.

**Enhancement of Shelter Manager's Salary:** Recognizing the pivotal role of the shelter manager, Aetna's contribution aims to increase wages, addressing staffing challenges and fostering consistent, high-quality support for survivors.

**Empowerment Through Education:** A significant portion of the donation will be directed toward educational programs empowering residents at the shelter to access available benefits. This initiative includes guidance on enrolling in Medicaid, obtaining food assistance, WIC and other essential resources, ensuring no survivor falls through the safety net due to lack of information or access.

Becca Spielman, Program Director, YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment explains, "At the YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment, we witness firsthand the resilience and courage of survivors every day. Aetna's generous donation will be more than a sum of money; it's a beacon of hope and solidarity for those we serve. This support allows us to strengthen our services, ensuring survivors have not just a safe space but a pathway to rebuild their lives. Together with

Aetna, we're standing strong to empower and uplift those affected by violence, offering not just resources but unwavering support on their journey to healing and empowerment."

Chris Beurman, representing Aetna Better Health of Kansas, will present the donation during a media event at the YWCA of Northeast Kansas in Topeka on Tuesday, December 12 at 9:30am. In addition, to Aetna Better Health of Kansas, representatives from YWCA of Northeast Kansas, and medical advocates will be present to share the story of why this donation is so transformative and the major impact it will have in bettering the lives of so many. This truly emphasizes Aetna's commitment to empowering survivors and victims through practical, impactful support.

"The YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment plays a pivotal role in the lives of survivors and victims, offering safety, security, and a path to healing," said Jane Brown, CEO, Aetna Better Health of Kansas. "Aetna is proud to stand alongside the YWCA in their mission to empower survivors, ensuring they receive the necessary support and resources to rebuild their lives."

Aetna's commitment reflects its dedication to fostering empowerment, resilience, and security for survivors and victims, underscoring the crucial role businesses play in supporting communities and promoting social well-being.

The YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment, formerly the Battered Women's Task Force, provides vitally important services to survivors and victims of sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and domestic violence in Shawnee, Jackson, Wabaunsee, and Brown counties. All services are free and confidential, including a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, individual and group counseling, court advocacy, public education, and case management. For more information, visit [www.ywcaneks.org](http://www.ywcaneks.org).

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner violence and needs help, please call the 24-hour crisis line: 1-888-822-2983.

**For More Information:**

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