

# EXHIBIT A

YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee  
Critical Infrastructure Improvements to Weaver Domestic Violence Center  
ARP Funding Request: \$2,000,000

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YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee has been Nashville's primary provider of domestic violence services for over 40 years. YWCA's Weaver Domestic Violence Center is Nashville's largest emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and works closely with Metro Office of Family Safety, Nashville Metropolitan Police Department, local hospitals, and Nashville's vast network of social service agencies to provide this life-saving intervention to the community.

**Community Need:** Leaving the relationship is the most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence. They are at greatest risk of being killed or seriously injured. Research has also shown that only 4% of murder victims used a domestic violence hotline or shelter within the year prior to being killed by an intimate partner. In Tennessee, nearly 50% of all crimes against persons are domestic violence related, and Tennessee consistently ranks in the top 10 states in the nation at the rate men murder women.

**Weaver Domestic Violence Center:** The 22,000 square-foot emergency shelter was built in 2000 on a 5-acre lot donated by the Metropolitan Council. The facility is fully equipped with 21 residential rooms with en-suite bathrooms (65 beds in total); two kitchen and dining areas; laundry room; a single-side lounge; children's playroom; crisis operations' office; therapy and case management offices; support group room; an expansive courtyard and playground; and an on-site pet shelter.

YWCA leverages over \$2.8M annually from federal, state, Metro, and community support, to provide comprehensive supportive services for the 500+ survivors it serves. Services are designed for survivors to heal from abuse and establish economic security—including individual and group therapy from a licensed therapist; referrals for medical, dental, and mental health care; legal advocacy (child custody, orders of protection, divorce); transportation; post-shelter housing planning; children's programming; and community support groups. This mix of safety and support allows survivors the opportunity to regain control of their lives and build a future free from abuse.

**ARP Request:** Throughout its 20 years of service, the Weaver Center has provided shelter, safety, and wrap-around support to nearly 10,000 victims of domestic violence. During the pandemic, the Weaver Center remained open and continued to respond to the surge of violence and trauma that was exacerbated by the pandemic. Now, the Weaver Center is at a point where critical infrastructure upgrades must be made to continue to respond to this unprecedented public health crisis in the years to come.

This request would make it possible for YWCA to replace its shelter's ageing roof system, repair high-traffic kitchen areas, provide an adequate staff room for frontline workers, improve its exterior infrastructure, among others. By investing in the Weaver Center's infrastructure now, ARP funding will allow YWCA to maintain a welcoming and safe shelter, where more survivors will utilize this life saving intervention—preventing domestic violence homicides, serious injury, and re-assault by encouraging more victims to utilize the YWCA's shelter and support services in the years to come. Not only will that have an immediate direct impact on the health of the victim, but a lasting impact on Nashville's public health and safety infrastructure.

# **YWCA Presentation on Weaver Domestic Violence Center**

**Sharon K. Roberson, Esq. President & CEO**

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Nashville & Middle Tennessee

# YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee History

- YWCA Central Branch founded in 1898
- Blue Triangle Branch founded in 1919
- The two branches merged in 1964
- YWCA programming adapts to meet the needs of the community



# YWCA & Domestic Violence Services

- In 1980, YWCA opens the first emergency domestic violence shelter in Nashville
- The shelter was located in Midtown Nashville
- YWCA also operated a Crisis Call Center
- In its first year, more than 900 clients were served



# YWCA & Domestic Violence Services

- Demand for emergency shelter and domestic violence services continued growing
- In the late 1990s, YWCA worked with Metro Nashville Council to secure property for a new shelter
- Construction on the shelter for women and children begins



# YWCA & Domestic Violence Services

- The new Weaver Domestic Violence Center opened in October 2000
- The 51-bed emergency shelter was able to accommodate single women on one side and families on the other, with laundry facilities, community kitchens, and a large playground for children on site
- Thousands of women and children have relied on the Weaver Center for safety and healing over the past two decades



# YWCA & Domestic Violence Services

- Funding for the Weaver Center and YWCA's Domestic Violence Services comes from a mix of federal, state, Metro funds, grants, corporate, and individual donations
- In 2015, Metro Nashville Council funded a new fence and security upgrades to the Weaver Center following an attempted breach by gang members



# YWCA & Domestic Violence Services

- In 2016, the Lethality Assessment Program was implemented in Nashville
- In 2018, YWCA begins expansion of the Weaver Center, converting it into a 65-bed emergency shelter
- In 2020, YWCA adds a text line to its 24-Hour Crisis & Support Helpline
- In 2021, YWCA builds and opens Abbie's Safe Home, the largest pet shelter for victims of domestic abuse





# YWCA & Domestic Violence Services

- Services include:
  - Crisis phone and text line
  - Safety planning
  - Adult & children's counseling
  - Case management
  - Children's programming
  - Re-New at the YWCA
  - Support groups
  - Financial literacy
  - Career counseling
  - Community education
  - Referrals to CES
  - Pet Shelter - Abbie's Safe Home

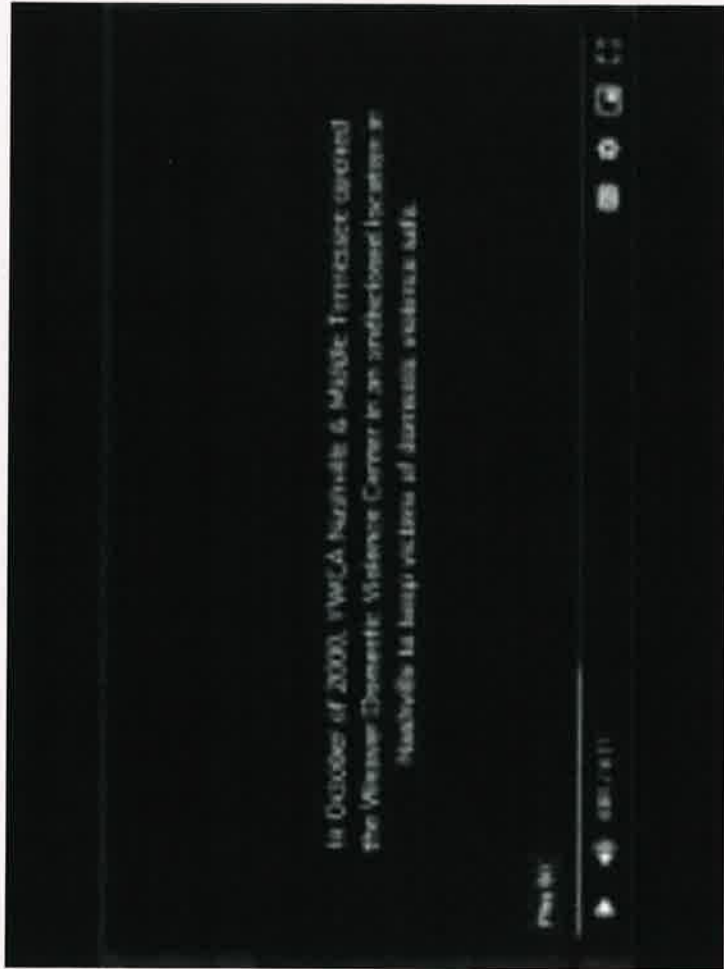


# YWCA & Domestic Violence Services

- YWCA's Weaver Center provided 13,231 nights of safety in FY 2022
- YWCA sheltered 169 children and 238 adults in FY 2022
- YWCA Crisis Counselors responded to 5,167 calls for help in FY 2022
- MNPD responded to 22,000 reports of domestic violence last year
- One in four women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime
- Tennessee is 7th overall in the nation for the number of women murdered by men



# YWCA & Domestic Violence Services Impact



[https://youtu.be/OBAwMgxKK\\_Y](https://youtu.be/OBAwMgxKK_Y)

**24-Hour Crisis & Support Helpline**

**800-334-4628**

**24-Hour Crisis & Support Textline**

**615-983-5170**

**[www.ywcanashville.com](http://www.ywcanashville.com)**

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