

YWCA TEEN PARENTING PROGRAM . . . a teen mother and her newborn are ready to go home from the hospital. But they have no home. Where do they go?



Janesa and seven other teen parents are residents at the YWCA TPP. Janesa came from a shelter in Lynn last spring with an infant and a 3-year-old, determined to receive her diploma from Lawrence’s Phoenix Academy. She was struggling so much that her teachers helped her commute to classes. Once Janesa and her boys moved into the YWCA TPP, safe affordable housing, access to child care, and a walkable commute to school made all the difference. Janesa graduated in May and was chosen as a graduation speaker! “The YWCA has been very helpful to me,” she said. “The staff have been very supportive and loving to my children and me.”

YWCA EMERGENCY SHELTER . . . a woman is fleeing an abusive relationship. She finally finds the courage and the opportunity to escape. Where do she and her children go?

The YWCA Emergency Shelter has been full since it opened in January, 2014. Ebony, a young mother, entered the shelter as a frightened, pregnant 27-year-old with a 7-year-old son, fearful for their safety. She came to the YWCA from a safe house in Florida, where she had never slept well nor felt entirely secure since it was located not far from where her abuser lived. “I felt truly blessed to live at the YWCA shelter,” she said. “I was two months pregnant and very stressed when we arrived. I left the YWCA shelter worry free, encouraged, more confident and stronger. Programs like these are so needed by many women in my past circumstances.” Ebony now works full-time, and her children are both healthy and doing well.



YWCA YEAR-ROUND EARLY LEARNING CENTER and AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM . . . a single mother has been offered the job she’s been hoping to get. Can she even afford to go to work? How will she find and afford child care for her two children?



The YWCA Early Learning Center accepts children as young as six weeks, and is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Jaithian, born in August, is the newest infant in our center. He is cuddled and cared for all day by our infant room teachers! His “big” brother Jacob, almost two, is right next door. Without the YWCA, their mother Jamie would not be able to work to support herself and her family. What would be their alternative?