

YWCA WESTMORELAND COUNTY Winter 2023 Newsletter



YWCA Used Bookstore marked its two year anniversary

In November, the bookstore held an open house to welcome familiar faces and new customers as the shop celebrated its two-year anniversary.

Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who have made, and continue to make the store such a huge success!

If you are interested in volunteering with us stop at the YWCA or call to find out more about our programs.



Store Hours:
T/W/Th and the
1st Saturday of every month
10 am - 2 pm

2023 Book Prices:
\$.25 Paperback
\$1.00 Hardback
\$5.00 Bag of books

Chuck and Lorraine Knapton of Greensburg have a lifetime love for books and continue to make reading and learning an important enjoyment in their senior years. The Knaptions shared in the celebration as they are loyal patrons at the YWCA Used Bookstore. They have found numerous books in our wonderful collection.

Mission: We are dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

Vision: We live and work in a community that embraces equity, acceptance, and diversity and in which women and girls have opportunities for enrichment and advancement.

YWCA Westmoreland County
424 N. Main Street • Greensburg, PA 15601
724-834-9390 • ywcawestmoreland.org

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Westmoreland County

Message from our Executive Director



I hope you and your loved ones are enjoying a happy and healthy holiday season so far. If you are anything like me, the end of the year is the perfect time to reflect on everything we are thankful for. And, after the last two years we have been through, this time of gratitude feels more necessary than ever.

While I may not know what the future holds, what I *do* know is how grateful I am for the incredible staff, both at the Mansion and at the Thrift Shop, all of our amazing volunteers, and all of our nonprofit partners. Having personally witnessed the immeasurable toll the pandemic has taken on our nonprofits and the communities they serve, my hope is that, together, we can continue to fulfill and grow our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Wishing you all happy holidays and may the New Year be filled with abundant blessings.

Carol H. Palcic
Executive Director

In June, our executive director attended the YWCA National Conference in Washington D.C. This conference provided training, resources, and opportunities to be part of a dynamic group of YW woman! One day was spent lobbying elected officials on Capitol Hill. It was empowering to be part of this amazing sisterhood, from across the nation, all coming together to create positive change. Pictured- Carol Palcic with YWCA USA CEO Margaret Mitchell.



Table of Contents

- 1 Used Book Store
- 2 Message from the Executive Director
- 2 Meet Bekah Garland
- 2 Board and Staff
- 3 Racial Justice & President's Award
- 3 Meet the YWCA Staff
- 4 Fashion Show
- 5 International Women
- 5 Week Without Violence
- 6 Thrift Shop Christmas Party
- 6 President's Luncheon
- 6 Day of Caring
- 7 Digital Navigator Network
- 8 Rentals
- 8 Girls' Field Hockey
- 8 English-as-a-Second Language
- 8 TechGYRLS
- 9 Until Justice Just Is
- 9 Unite to Heal Presentation
- 9 Stand Against Racism
- 10 Women Veterans Event
- 10 Feeding the Spirit
- 10 A Quilting Journey
- 11 Class Schedule
- 11 Upcoming Events
- 11 Sponsors
- 12 Thrift Shop

Welcome Bekah Garland!

We are excited to introduce Bekah Garland. The new Marketing Coordinator for YWCA Westmoreland. She has a Bachelor's degree from Robert Morris University in Graphic Design. Her design and advertising talents acquired from her last job as a Client Care Specialist at Unity Printing have been an asset to the YWCA.



She enjoys spending time with her husband as she recently married in April of 2022.

STRONG ALONE, FEARLESS TOGETHER

YWCA STAFF

- Carol H. Palcic - Executive Director
- Diana Basick - Thrift Shop Director, Retiring
- Maggie Bodeep - Administrative Assistant
- Cierra Forsyth - Thrift Shop Assistant Director
- Donna Garden - Evening Receptionist
- Bekah Garland - Marketing Coordinator
- Isabella Guerrieri - Intern
- Cheryl Hershberger- Thrift Shop Staff, Retiring
- Mariah Huff - Thrift Shop Director
- Ramona Kocinski - PA WORKWEAR Coordinator, Retiring
- Matthew Kolbosky - Facilities Director
- Rachel O'Neill - Intern
- Frankie Piesetzkic - Thrift Shop Staff
- Alisha Scroggins - Executive Assistant
- Noreen Turkowski - Thrift Shop Staff

YWCA BOARD MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Patti Buhl (President) | Paula Maloney |
| Cassie Ellson (Vice President) | Cheryl McCabe |
| Cathy Caccia (Treasurer) | Erica Nuckles |
| Diane Krivoniak (Secretary) | Jennifer Ritz |
| Sonya Brajdic | Toni Wilson |
| Barb Brecht | |
| Cheri Cavanaugh | |
| Pat Cummerick | |
| Michele Fischer | |
| Tara Gandy | |
| Mary Jo Haffner | |

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS



We are thrilled to welcome Mariah Huff as the new YWCA Thrift Shop Director. She has been in the retail & customer service industry for the past 8 years and

she has a degree in Business Management. She is looking forward to using the tools and resources she has learned along the way to help grow the Thrift Shop and also help our community. She feels truly blessed to have this opportunity! She is excited to meet everyone and to see what the new year brings!



We are excited to welcome Cierra Forsyth, the Assistant Director of the YWCA Thrift Shop! Cierra has 13+ years of customer service experience. She

holds a degree in business management from St. Vincent College. She has a passion for helping others and has been a volunteer firefighter for thirteen years. Cierra says "I am blessed to have this opportunity and cannot wait to see where this journey leads!" She is eager to see the shop continue to grow as it serves the community while holding true to the mission of the YWCA.



We are thankful to have Alisha Scroggins as part of our team the past 9 months. She is willing to assist in any area she is needed. She is a fantastic writer who

uses her expertise to help with writing grants. In December, Alisha is graduating from Liberty University with her master's in counseling. She is eager to see where God will take her in the near future.



We are excited to introduce Maggie Bodeep, Administrative Assistant/Digital Navigator. Maggie is also the technology instructor as well as the digital navigator contact to the community members.

Maggie is a student at Liberty University where she is studying Crisis and Trauma Counseling. She is excited to see how the Digital Navigator program develops throughout the new year.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

RACIAL JUSTICE AWARD YWCA Westmoreland celebrates its 36th year of recognizing racial justice work with its Racial Justice Award. This Award honors **individual(s) or businesses** who have demonstrated their commitment to racial equity through their efforts to build community, raise awareness, and further racial harmony and inclusiveness. Past Board President, Norma Skillings, presented the 2023 Racial Justice award to Jim Galik and Jean Slusser. Jean is the President of Greensburg PFLAG Chapter and Jim is President of the Westmoreland LGBTQ Interfaith Network.

YWCA Westmoreland supports a definition of racial justice that calls for the "systematic fair treatment of people of all races that results in equitable opportunities and outcomes for everyone." We believe that racism is any attitude, action, policy or institutional structure that systematically disadvantages a person or group of persons on the basis of race, skin color, ethnicity or national origin. Further, we believe that institutional racism is manifested through established laws, customs and practices that reflect and produce racial inequalities. YWCA Westmoreland has a deep and abiding commitment to work to undo and transform unjust practices and policies.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD Since 1993, the President's Award has been presented annually to an individual who has made a significant volunteer contribution to the YWCA within the past three years.

The 2023 President's Award Recipient is Sandra (Sonnie) Miller. She has been a huge part of continuing the mission of the YWCA and has volunteered in various capacities over the years.



Girls In Pearls Fashion Show

The 2023 Girls in Pearls Fashion Show was a huge success. The event was held at Rizzo's Malabar Inn on October 16th and fun was had by all! The Fashion Show is the YWCA's largest fundraising event. This year featured 15 entertaining models who showcased exquisite fashions from the YWCA Thrift Shop.

The event brought back the Rising Star Award in partnership with the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania's Women's Leadership Council. Diane Metz was presented with a scholarship for her instrumental work at the Westmoreland County Community College. We were grateful to have the talented Jenna Harner, WPXI Sports Anchor/Reporter return as our emcee for the evening.

The Fashion Show committee has already begun to plan the 2024 event. Please make plans to join us on Monday, October 21 at Rizzo's. Make your reservations early as the event is sure to be another sell-out!



International Women's Group

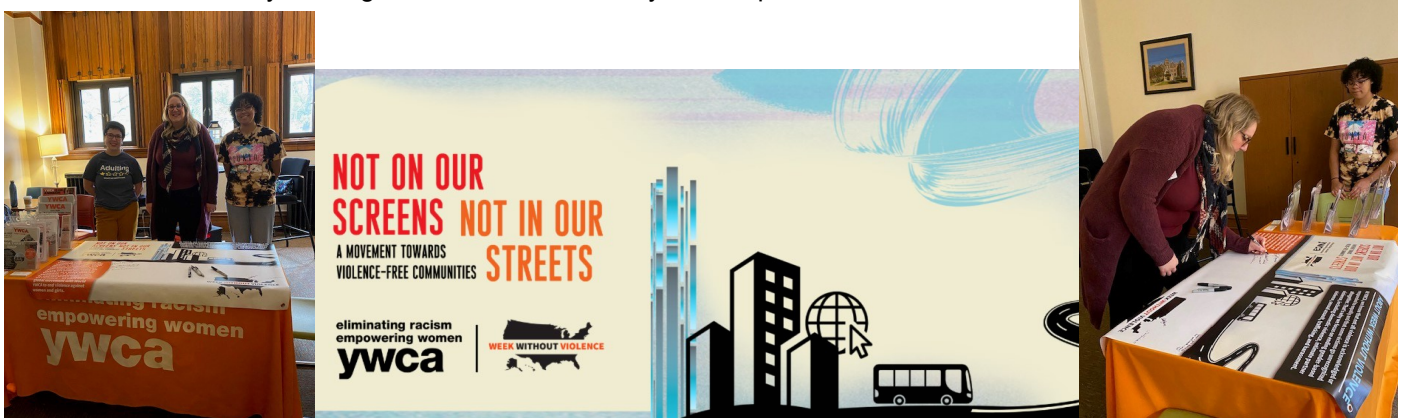
The YWCA's International Women's Group welcomes women of all nationalities to Westmoreland County. The International Women's Group provides a meeting place for women to meet each other and develop friendships to share and learn about the United States (particularly the new area in which they are living), improve their English and become a part of their community. The International Women's Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Call the YWCA for more information.

The group decided to meet in December for a special holiday party with their families. They shared in a meal and fellowshiped with one another.



Week Without Violence

YWCA Westmoreland County partnered with Seton Hill University during the "Week Without Violence." This occurred the week of October 16-21 to create a movement towards violence-free communities. YWCA and Seton Hill University students were able to share with those who entered the Campus Ministry room about tech-facilitated #GenderBasedViolence so that together, we can end #GBV in EVERY space where it occurs. The students from Setonian Seminar class created an informative PowerPoint presentation about domestic violence. YWCA had a banner made for the students, professors, and staff to sign in support to end violence against women and girls. We would like to extend our appreciation to Seton Hill University for allowing the YWCA Westmoreland County to bring this Week of Action to your campus.



Thrift Shop Christmas Party

In December, the YWCA Thrift Shop hosted their annual volunteer **Holiday Thank You Party** at Lakeview. A fun afternoon was had by all who attended and celebrated the retirement of three invaluable assets to the Thrift Shop team that will be retiring at the end of the year. Diana, Ramona, and Cheryl, thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the YWCA and our community. **You will be greatly missed!**



Women of Achievement



The ceremony took place on June 6th at Ferrante's Lakeview. The evening was planned by local female business leaders to honor our local female

high school students who excel and make a difference in all that they do.

The YWCA honored 5 local high school females, one in each of the following categories: Athletics, Minority, Obstacle, Faith, and Community Service.

Day of Caring

The Day of Caring was a huge success thanks to our friends from United Way, UPMC, and Kennametal! The YWCA is incredibly grateful for all of the volunteers who painted the Founder's Room and tended to the pesky weeds on the property. Thank you for taking the day out of your busy schedules to come to support us!



Paint & Sip

Louisa Wotus from Basket Full of Poises partnered with the YWCA for a Paint and Sip Event in November. Over 35 individuals were in attendance and made ornaments along with wonderful memories.



Digital Navigator Network

Comcast and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania partnered with the YWCA Westmoreland County for the launch of the Digital Navigator Network. On October 18th, the YWCA Westmoreland County received 100 laptops from Comcast to support local digital network initiatives. This program is designed to empower our community with digital skills and the necessary equipment needed for personal and professional development.



Left to Right: Comcast Regional Vice President, Government & Community Affairs Alka Patel; YWCA Westmoreland County Digital Navigator Maggie Bodeep and Executive Director Carol Palcic YWCA Westmoreland County



Rentals



The Huff Mansion is available for special events and meetings. The Mansion is a perfect venue for showers, parties, family gatherings, meetings, and more. The beautiful Mansion features:

- Fully equipped kitchen for your caterer
- Beautiful portico and porch
- Elegant spiral staircase - perfect for photos
- Wireless internet access
- Podium and microphone
- Projector, screen, and/or dry erase boards for your presentation needs

The entire main floor of the mansion is available for your special events. For additional information on renting this space, please call 724-834-9390.

Bridge

With the help of our beloved volunteer, Carolyn Falcon, more individuals have been attending our weekly Bridge program in the library. The six-session course meets on Thursdays from 10 AM - 11:30 AM. If interested in joining the group, please call YWCA at 724-834-9390.

TechGYRLS

The YWCA TechGYRLS Program continues to empower young women ages 11-14 through exposure to robotics technology. This program promotes interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).



Yough Middle School, hosted a Robotics I Lab and Expo.

YWCA Girls Field Hockey

YWCA Girls' Field Hockey continues to be a popular program for middle-school girls. The YWCA has partnered with Hempfield Parks and Recreation to expand the program. All of the practices and clinics were held at Hempfield Park, 220 Forbes Trail Road in Greensburg. During the Fall 2023 season, 35 girls participated in the program. The team was also thrilled to be a part of Greensburg holiday parade. Stay tuned for future programs. Registration forms will be available at www.ywcawestmoreland.org



English-as-a-Second Language

Our English as a Second Language Program has grown tremendously over the past year. We currently have 20 participants off and on-site multiple days a week. We also partnered with the Greensburg Catholic



Diocese to help equip Ukrainian immigrants who moved to Westmoreland County with the necessary communication skills to build community.

We offer classes for students on Monday and Wednesday mornings at the YWCA Westmoreland County in Greensburg. There is a small fee - \$50/month plus a charge for the text book.

Until Justice Just Is



YWCA is excited to announce the launch of YWCA Racial Justice Challenge on April 17, 2023. The Racial Justice Challenge is the action component for Until Justice Just Is campaign. This takes place in April to elevate the need for justice across all communities. This is previously known as the Stand Against Racism Challenge or 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge.

The topics explored during the 2023 YWCA Racial Justice Challenge included disability, housing, mental health and music. YWCA has partnered with Seton Hill University who has developed a social media strategy to launch this campaign with fresh eyes in 2024. Staff members and Racial Justice committee members attended a final presentation on the campus of Seton Hill on December 6th.

Unite to Heal PA Initiative Presentation

In June, the YWCA Westmoreland partnered with YWCA Tri-County, YWCA Lancaster, and YWCA Greater Pittsburgh to host a Unite to Heal Presentation and Networking Luncheon. This collaboration with our sister organizations will continue through 2024.



Stand Against Racism 2023 Pledge



The 5th grade students from Aquinas Academy helped the YWCA kick off our Stand Against Racism campaign. The campaign is a national event to raise awareness of eliminating racism. Students painted rocks with positive and inspirational messages. These rocks will live in the gardens at the YWCA as a constant reminder of the importance of taking a stand against racism.

Women Veterans Event

In September, the YWCA partnered with Comcast and Adagio Health to support 14 women veterans. Hosting this event was a special afternoon to celebrate our female veterans and current military personnel. It was a true delight to see the faces of each of these women upon hearing that the laptop was theirs to take home.



Feeding the Spirit



The YWCA welcomed Feeding the Spirit to use our facility to pack hats, scarves, gloves and love distribution. These bags were distributed throughout the community to those in need. The event was a huge success and over 700 bags were dispersed throughout the community.

A Quilting Journey

The Racial Justice Committee organized two incredible presentations by the lovely Ethel Hayden of Tarentum. Mrs. Hayden discussed her family's legacy of quilt making, spoke on the history of slavery coding, and the Underground Railroad.



Class Schedules

Computer Basics

\$80(M)/\$90(NM) + textbook

Designed for a novice. Get to know your computer and learn how to use windows, write emails and letters, and much more!

Mon./Tues.	Mornings	9:15 am - 12:15 pm	Jan. 9, 10, 16, 17
Mon./Wed.	Morning	9:15 am - 12:15 pm	Mar. 4, 6, 11, 13
Wed./Thurs.	Evenings	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	May 15, 16, 22, 23

Windows 11

\$80(M)/\$90(NM) + textbook

Windows 11 is the new operating system. Learn how to transition from the older version.

Wed./Thurs.	Mornings	9:15 am - 12:15 pm	Feb. 14, 15, 21, 22
Mon./Tues.	Evenings	5:30 pm - 8:30pm	June 3, 4, 10, 11

Microsoft Word - Beginners

\$80(M)/\$90(NM) + textbook

Mon./Wed.	Mornings	9:15 am - 12:15 pm	Jan. 22, 24, 29, 31
Mon./Tues.	Evenings	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	May 6, 7, 13, 14

Microsoft Excel - Beginners

\$80(M)/\$90(NM)+textbook

Excel - A spreadsheet program used to track and analyze information. Learn how to create, format, sort, filter, make charts and formulas, and so much more.

Wed./Thurs.	Evenings	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Feb. 21, 22, 28, 29
Mon./Tues.	Evenings	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Apr. 22, 23, 29, 30
Wed./Thurs.	Mornings	9:15 am - 12:15 pm	June 5, 6, 12, 13

Smartphones/Tablets

\$80(M)/\$90(NM)

Comfortability comes with the knowledge. Learn how to utilize the many features of your smartphone/tablet and what your device can do for you.

Thurs./Fri.	Mornings	9:15 am - 12:15 pm	Jan. 11, 12, 18, 19
Thurs./Fri.	Mornings	9:15 am - 12:15 pm	Apr. 25, 26, May 2, 3

Virtual QuickBooks on Line

\$150(M)/\$170 (NM) Includes manual

Use QuickBooks with confidence. In this class you will set up a company. Learn how to add customers and vendors, banking, credit cards, sales tracking, document payments, make deposits and pay bills.

Friday Afternoon	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Apr. 12
------------------	-------------------	---------

Canva

Acquire skills to use the online site Canva to make cards, flyers, photo collages, and more.

Friday Afternoon	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Feb. 9
------------------	-------------------	--------

Social Media for Seniors

Understand how to use Facebook and Instagram safely. Learn all of the security settings, posting, adding friends and much more!

Monday Afternoon	1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Mar. 11
------------------	-------------------	---------

Google Suite

Google Suite is a free alternative to Microsoft Office. This course will cover gmail, google docs, google sheets, google slides, and more!

Thurs./Fri.	Evenings	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Mar. 14, 15, 21, 22
-------------	----------	-------------------	---------------------

New in 2024

Be on the lookout for monthly events planned to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the YWCA Westmoreland County!



Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors

Baldy's Pizza
 Beeghly and Company Jewelers
 Berkshire Hathaway
 Marilyn Davis Team
 Bononi & Company
 Bulava & Associates Insurance
 BPW - District 3
 Brajdic's Handyman Service
 CASA of Westmoreland
 Colour Magic Paint & Decorating
 Comcast
 Commissioner Doug Chew
 Commissioner Sean Kertes
 Computers Made Easy
 Deluzio & Company
 Eastwood Inn
 Eshelman Law
 Express Closings LLC
 Ferree Financial Group
 First Commonwealth Bank

First Energy Foundation
 GMI Electric
 Greater Greensburg
 Sewage Authority
 HLC Bookkeeping & Office Services
 Independence Health System
 Intercon Printing and Consultants
 Iron Belt Partners
 Kepple Graft Funeral Home
 KLH Engineers
 Latrobe BPW
 Life Remembered
 Marino's American Eatery
 Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebeneck, Eck
 M&M Painting
 NexTier Bank
 Pantalone Funeral Home
 Caleb & Nicole Pardus
 Rafferty Legal
 Robindale Energy

Rossi Legal Company
 Sage Wellness
 Salon CP
 Schimizzi Law LLC
 SecondHalf Coach Wealth Management
 Seton Hill University
 Shaffer's Landscaping
 Shaler Family Chiropractic
 Sheetz
 S & T Bank
 Stewart, Sorice, Farell, Finoli
 Somerset Trust Company
 Tremba, Kinney, Greiner & Kerr
 Tribune Review
 Turin & DeMatt
 Yesterday's Rave
 Walmart (Delmont & Greensburg)
 Westmoreland Community Action
 Wigs & More Inc.
 The Women & Girls Foundation
 United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

YWCA Thrift Shop

The **YWCA Thrift Shop** is proud to be the oldest consignment and thrift store in the city. Patrons refer to our Shop as the *"Boutique of Thrift Shops"*. The Thrift Shop features many designer name pieces, items with original tags still on, as well as an ever-changing assortment of shoes and boots. We feature not only women's clothing, but apparel for men and children. Be sure to stop in to see all of the great items! The surprises don't end there, stop in and explore our shop.

Located at 221 S. Maple Avenue in Greensburg, our Thrift Shop takes donations during regular business hours and consignment as noted on the schedule.

Stop in for some great finds! Inventory changes daily. For more information about consignment, donations, and volunteer opportunities, visit www.ywcawestmoreland.org

The Working Women's Closet

The Working Women's Closet is a program provided by the YWCA Westmoreland located in Greensburg at our Thrift Shop on Maple Avenue.

The Thrift Shop accepts donations of clothing, shoes, and accessories from the community. Staff sort these donations and keep only in-style or new or slightly used items for the sale in the shop. What isn't accepted here, is then passed on to other nonprofits.

In order for a woman to receive a free interview outfit or up to 3 free outfits from the Working Women's Closet Program, we require a referral letter from another working professional, a case worker, teacher/professor or clergy. This referral should be on their professional letterhead and include:

- ◆ Referral's name and zip code
- ◆ Place of their interview or employment
- ◆ Dress code requirements
- ◆ Date needed
- ◆ Referral's phone number to set up an appointment
- ◆ Referring professional's name and contact information

Our goal for each individual is to have an outfit that is both comfortable and flattering, to leave with a successful look for the interview or position, to see confidence not hesitancy and to see a smile.

Like us on Facebook & follow us on Instagram to shop online EXCLUSIVE deals throughout the week!



YWCA Thrift Shop



@ywcathrift

2024 Thrift Shop Schedule

Jan 3, 2024	Shop Re-Opens
Jan 15, 2024	Closed Martin Luther King Day
Feb 3 – Feb 9, 2024	Winter ½ Price Sale
Feb 10, 2024	Winter Bag Sale
Feb 12, 2024	Closed for Re-Stocking
Feb 13, 2024	Re-open with Spring Merchandise
Feb 19, 2024	Closed for Presidents' Day
March 18, 2024	Spring Consignment Starts
March 29, 2024	Closed Good Friday
April 13, 2024	Spring Consignment Ends
April 29, 2024	Summer Consignment Starts
May 27, 2024	Closed Memorial Day
June 22, 2024	Summer Consignment Ends
July 4, 2024	Closed 4 th of July
July 27- Aug 2, 2024	Summer ½ Price Sale
Aug 3, 2024	Summer Bag Sale
Aug 5, 2024	Closed for Restocking
Aug 6, 2024	Re-Open with Fall Merchandise
Aug 26, 2024	Fall Consignment Starts
Sept 2, 2024	Closed Labor Day
Sept 28, 2024	Fall Consignment Ends
Oct 7, 2024	Winter Consignment Starts
Nov 11- Nov 25, 2024	Holiday Consignment
Nov 27, 2024	Closed Day Before Thanksgiving
Nov 28, 2024	Closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 29, 2024	Black Friday Sale
Dec 14, 2024	Winter Consignment Ends
Dec 21, 2024	Last Day Shop Is Open before Holiday
Dec 22 – Jan 1, 2025	Holiday Break
Jan 2, 2025	Shop Re-Opens

YWCA Thrift Shop
221 S. Maple Ave | Greensburg, PA 15601 | 724-834-4339
M, T, W, F, Sat: 10 am - 4 pm | TH: 10 am - 7 pm