The YWCA has a 70-year history as a strong, stable and influential presence in this community. Since its inception in 1945, the YWCA of Corpus Christi has eliminated racism and empowered women and answered needs for education, security, and moral and spiritual support with service programs that included the city’s first women’s business and professional club.

When the YWTeen Program began in 1946, the girls served were much older—15-17. Today’s challenges are so intense that the program now serves 5th and 6th grade girls, ages 10-12, to reach them before they make life-altering decisions.

Today the YW continues contributing to women’s education and advancement and eliminating racism, with greater emphasis on developing, nurturing and empowering individuals through such programs as YWTeens, Therapeutic Recreation, and Week without Violence.

YWCA Corpus Christi
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YWTeen Program
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Strong Alone—Fearless Together
What is the YWTeen Program?

- The YWTeen Program serves Corpus Christi Title I schools each week during school terms.
- Groups of 14-20 girls participate in the character-building activities.
- Based on the nationally-recognized, research-based Girls Circle curriculum.
- Structure, steps and practices increase positive connections—with parents, siblings, peers, teachers and friends—and provide a preventive practice.
- Promotes girls’ healthy relationships with adults, peers, and community.
- Safely empowers girls to take full advantage of their talents, academic interests, career pursuits, and potential for healthy relationships.
- The year-round program includes
  * Summer and Holiday Leadership Camps;
  * Special Events such as Y Women in Careers, Reading Rally, Holiday Shop and Lock-Ins;
  * Extracurricular experiences such as swims, dances, and movie nights at the YWCA.

Who is a YWTeen?

- She is 10 or 11 years old;
- She is in the 5th or 6th grade;
- She is probably Hispanic [Hispanic 82%; Black 6%; Anglo 5%; Other/Mixed 6%];
- She attends a Title I school, and she is eligible for free or reduced lunch;
- She attends a school that has been designated “under-performing”;
- She is exposed to numerous social ills daily: teen pregnancy, drugs, truancy, bullying, and peer pressure;
- She is eager to improve herself and her life and strengthen her community.

What are the Program results?

- 99% recognize the need to continue in school and graduate (goal 80%)
- 99% make smart choices about the future (goal 80%)
- 97% express better decision-making and leadership skills (goal 90%)
- 9 out of 10 girls say they found a place to belong at the YWCA
- 98% of parents say their daughters show evidence with family and friends of what they have learned in YW-Teens.