distant associations in Chicago, Atlanta or San Jose. In addition, the National Board conducts the crucial work of advocacy, world mutual service and legislative action. It serves as an action "switchboard" that connects and energizes 2½ million American members on behalf of women and their families, here and abroad.

During the past 12 decades, the YWCA has been uniquely effective in dealing with women's special concerns. That's because we work on two fronts. While we seek legal redress for wrongs, simultaneously we take immediate, concrete steps to make daily life better. In the past, when we campaigned for fair labor laws in factories, the YWCA also was busy creating the first employment agencies . . . the first typing classes . . . the first boarding houses for women workers.

Today, as we press for basic human rights for women here and in developing countries around the world, we also nurture and train them to help them break out of the vicious cycle of poverty that has trapped them and their families for generations. This means classes in plumbing for high school drop-outs in Detroit, nutrition classes for mothers in Zambia, midwifery and nursing schools in Bangladesh, craft cooperatives in Colombia.

Testifying by example, the YWCA pioneered in race relations. The Atlanta YWCA cafeteria was the first integrated eating place in the South, and our residences, pools and dances were the first open to all. Our One Imperative is never to relent until the poison of racism is stamped out wherever it exists -- in jobs, housing or schools -- as long as any minority women must bend under the cruel double burden of racism and sexism.

A strong and active YWCA is more essential today than ever. We must safeguard the rights of the most vulnerable members of our society -- those hardest hit by recent cutbacks in social services -- minorities, the elderly, the disabled, single parents. And our own programs must expand, to ease the distress of hard times. To carry forward this intensified effort, your generosity is needed to support leadership training, program development, technical assistance and legislative work -- services that strengthen the outreach of local YWCA associations throughout the country.

Women have come to count on the YWCA as the means to help themselves and to help others. To fulfill this commitment, can we count on you? Your tax-deductible gift of $25, $50, $100 or $1000 -- whatever you can afford -- will help the National Board, YWCA to be there for them now and in the future, as it was in the past. We must show all women that their dream of equality can become a reality, that joy and achievement and self-respect are possible. But we cannot do it alone. Please be as generous as you can.

Sincerely,

Helen A. Gamble

Helen A. Gamble
Chair, Financial Development

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