## YMCA OF GREATER FORT WAYNE 2018 BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY



## TOGETHER, WE DISCOVER MORE



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY







Martin L. Pastura President and CEO Angela M. Hughes Board Chair

## **Dear Friends:**

In 2008, the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne celebrated our 150 year anniversary. The theme of that year's celebration was "The YMCA, Proud Heritage – Exciting Future."

As we reflect over our past accomplishments, this theme means more now than ever, because the YMCA is more relevant, meaningful and important than ever before.

We have always served kids in various ways, but in 2018, the Board of Directors and staff made a commitment through our strategic plan to focus more on the vulnerable people in our community and in our society. Teens – young men and young women – need more support from organizations like the YMCA in order to succeed in life. Over the last year the YMCA has invested more resources in order to help young people develop in spirit, mind and body. At the YMCA, we focus on youth development, which means we take a preventative approach to helping young people navigate life more successfully.

One wonderful thing about the YMCA is that we attract dedicated staff who have the passion and drive to make a difference. This is crucial in order to impact young people in positive ways.

We want every young person to reach their full potential. This is our big picture goal as we think about loving, serving and caring for others in our community.

The YMCA is proving every day that we are strengthening our community. We have a proud heritage, which compels us to have an exciting future.

We hope you enjoy reading our 2018 Benefits to the Community. No other organization serves and impacts more people than the YMCA. Thank you for supporting all that we do.

Martin L. Pastura President and CEO

Angela M. Hughes
Board Chair

Angela M Hughes

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## **OUR CAUSE**

We know that lasting personal and social change comes about when we all work together. That's why at the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.







Students learn how to fish in the YMCA Leaders Club.



8 MEMBERSHIP BRANCHES in Allen, Whitley and Wells counties

1 RESIDENT CAMP in Wolcottville, Indiana

41 SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE SITES part of the YMCA Child Care Services Branch

1 YMCA YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU specializing in crisis and intervention services

**Z EARLY LEARNING CENTERS** serving infants to six-year-olds in Wells and Whitley counties

## 39,973 PEOPLE

found a place to belong at the Y because of financial assistance made available through the YMCA Annual Campaign

2,091 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED to projects that helped strengthen community

OUR CAUSE

**2,076** INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE DONORS

gave back to their neighbors by donating to the Y

## **TOGETHER**

IN 2018, WE...

## INSPIRED 4,169 STUDENTS

through STEM learning concepts at afterschool care and summer day camp programs



## **PROVIDED** 19,128 FREE MEALS

to address youth hunger in conjunction with Community Harvest Food Bank, Fort Wayne Community Schools and Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church

## **ENCOURAGED 3,001 YOUTH & TEENS**

to experience the thrill of nature, build character and make friends at Camp Potawatomi through summer resident camp and outdoor education

## TAUGHT 1.055 PEOPLE

how to save lives through CPR, First Aid and AED training

## EMPOWERED 264 COMPANIES

to reduce health care costs and boost productivity through wellness programs and corporate memberships



Learning bike safety at YMCA Healthy Kids Day.

## TOGETHER, WE TRANSFORM EACH OTHER

## **OUR PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE**





Life for a teenager is complicated and challenging, even in a stable home that meets basic needs. Navigating those difficult years with limited resources and uncertainty can amplify the discomfort. For 15-yearold D'Andrea, her circumstances, coupled with a transition into a new city, new neighborhood and new school were more than she could bear. Her emotional pain manifested into poor choices and bad behavior. which lead to frequent discipline at home and at school. At the height of her despair, she ran away and eventually found herself in Juvenile Court. She was referred to SOCAP,

the YMCA Youth Service Bureau's Status Offender Court Alternative Program, whose aim is to keep youth in school and on track to graduate.

It was clear that D'Andrea had severe anxiety that stemmed from her family's situation — she, her mother and brother arrived in Fort Wayne with limited resources and felt very isolated in a community they were trying to call home. Upon meeting the entire family, the Y met some of their immediate physical and social needs with food vouchers and a Y membership. Connecting them to the positive influence of a local church also helped them make friends.

Over time, with support from the YMCA Youth Service Bureau (YSB) Youth Advocate staff, the family of three strengthened their bond. They began envisioning the future they wanted — moving away from the past. "My daughter's attitude has been so much better," her mom Miesha says. "She's not running away anymore. She's communicating more. Everything is coming along great. The YSB staff is still helping us, and I only see us getting better."

"D'Andrea's transformation from a teen that society would label as 'incorrigible,' to a student focused on high school graduation took everyone working together," states Executive Director, Amy Dahm Just. D'Andrea is one of 1,241 at-risk students who received these free services last year. Of the

youth who complete the program, 92% avoid the juvenile justice system.

We work together meeting each person and each family where they need us. As one life improves. families are transformed and communities become stronger.

"THE YSB STAFF IS STILL HELPING US, **AND I ONLY SEE US GETTING BETTER."** - MIESHA



## **OUR MISSION AT WORK**



"When my son Emmanuel and I moved here from California, we hoped to call Indiana our new home. But a language barrier and Emmanuel's speech delay presented immediate problems. Since English was his second language, a speech therapist recommended that he spend time in public places where he could interact with people who speak English. At the same time, I was struggling

with postpartum depression, which caused me to gain a lot of weight. I wanted to help my son, but was overwhelmed by the thought of going out in public.

Fortunately, we were invited to come check out the new Y that came to our neighborhood. Because of the helpful staff at the Jackson R. Lehman Family Y and the Y's financial assistance program, we were able to join. I've lost 59 pounds and gained a more positive outlook on life. Emmanuel's English has progressed tremendously because of the time he's participated in Child Watch, swim lessons and gymnastics.

We're thankful that we're part of a community we now call home; where everyone is encouraged to reach their full potential."

- Aide, Jackson R. Lehman Family YMCA member

## TOGETHER, WE REACH OUR POTENTIAL

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – INFANTS TO GRADE 5

The YMCA's commitment to early childhood enrichment prepares young children for academic success before they reach school-age — helping them to flourish. In our early learning, preschool and school-age programs, we work with families to meet the unique emotional and intellectual needs of each child. In 2018, over 3,700 children learned valuable social and academic skills in fun, safe and secure environments during YMCA early learning and afterschool programs. Together, we create learning environments where young children explore, grow and reach their potential. We're devoted to nurturing young minds and bodies, as well as developing social skills and positive values.

Together, we work to ensure that all kids know they belong and feel empowered to pursue their dreams. We build character in tomorrow's leaders, helping them to establish a strong sense of self and confidence to face the pop culture messages that can threaten their values.

Our caring role models help kids stay connected with their parents because we believe that when families are strong, communities thrive.



Discussing the Read a Book, Build a Library program with students at Arlington Elementary School.



Playtime at Armstrong Early Learning Center.



Craft time at Parkview Family YMCA Summer Day Camp.

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Youth and Government participants attend the "Model Government Conference" in Indianapolis.

## **OUR MISSION AT WORK**

"After my parents separated, I bounced from house to house.

I tried to shelter myself from the pain, but by the time I reached
5th grade, anxiety and depression had taken over my life.

I joined the YMCA because they offer 7th graders a free membership. I signed up for MOVE, the Teen Summer Series Camp that focuses on volunteering and giving back to the community, which is something I love to do. I was then invited to Leaders Training School — a one-week camp for teens focused on building leadership, character, social responsibility and so much more.

Because of the free 7th Grade Membership, I have found my second family and a passion for making a difference. I've helped raise \$7,000 to send others to Leaders School. I am now confident, driven and hopeful because of the Y."

- Isabella, Parkview Family YMCA member



## TOGETHER, **WE SET OUR SIGHTS HIGH**

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – ADOLESCENTS AND TEENS

As a well-known leader in youth development, the Y is committed to nurturing the potential of teens and adolescents by supporting their individual development journey toward self-discovery and accomplishment. Last year, we served over 47,500 youth through our transformative programming, which is available to everyone regardless of age, income or background. Together, surrounded by caring adults, we challenge youth to find their voice and prepare for a successful future as they grow into the best version of themselves. Support and mentorship goes well beyond the pool, gym and field. Together, staff and volunteers are dedicated to supporting today's families with vital resources and services that keep families connected and strong.

Through education and leadership programs, art and music instruction, language immersion classes, college prep courses, summer camps and service trips, youth experience transformation that results in new friends, self-confidence, and greater resilience that fuels ambition and curiosity.

**`WE HAVE LEARNED** THAT THE Y IS **SO MUCH MORE** THAN JUST A GYM."

> - TERI. YMCA MEMBER



Teens learn basic car maintenance in a Life Skills Class.



Teen program that touches on the struggles of becoming a man.

# Kids participate in Active Science celebration with Jaylon Smith.

## **OUR MISSION AT WORK**



"In 2015, my husband Steve Riethmiller, an avid cyclist, suffered a traumatic brain stem injury as a result of an accident. His cognitive skills were unimpaired, but Steve lost his coordination and balance. He's a permanent resident in a long-term care facility with limited opportunities for physical activity and mental stimulation.

Most recently, Steve has begun riding again through a YMCA

adaptive program, Trail Buddies. Each week, Steve "boards" a duet bike specifically constructed to transport wheelchair riders. Assisted by one volunteer who pedals and another who rides beside them, these three trail buddies bike the nearby trails and quiet neighborhoods.

Steve proudly boasts that he is 'one of the oldest kids' in the program. He looks forward to his outings, getting much-needed fresh air and sunshine, and enjoying the camaraderie of his buddies while meeting and greeting fellow riders along the trail. Representing the Trail Buddies program at the Three Rivers Festival Parade was the highlight of Steve's summer. I watched with tears of joy and gratitude as he and his buddies pedaled along the parade route. The sparkle in Steve's eye and the grin on his face was a 'picture worth a thousand words.'"

- Donna Riethmiller, Jorgensen Family YMCA member

## TOGETHER, WE FIND STRENGTH

## **HEALTHY LIVING**

In communities across northern Indiana, the Y is a leading voice in health and well-being. With a mission centered on balance, the Y brings families closer together, encourages good health and fosters connections through fitness, sports, fun and shared interests. As a result, 144,337 youth and adult members from Allen, Whitley and Wells counties grew stronger and reclaimed their health and well-being for their spirit, mind and body.

Together, people and families at the Y find strength by developing and maintaining healthy habits. Last year, we assisted 477 people in reducing their risk of developing

chronic illnesses. By eliminating financial barriers and making our services available to everyone regardless of their ability to pay, we're building a stronger community that values and supports healthy choices.

While our programs are based on the unique needs and interests of the local community, every Y has one thing in common: our people. Members, volunteers, staff and donors are all united by a deep commitment to give everyone

the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive — together.



LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA participants.



Members enjoy an aqua aerobics class.

**'DURING THE** LIVESTRONG® PROGRAM, TALK TO PEOPLE WHO KNEW **EXACTLY WHAT I WAS GOING** THROUGH...IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WASN'T ALONE."

> - JULIE BARKLEY. LIVESTRONG® AT THE YMCA GRADUATE



## **OUR MISSION AT WORK**

"I fell in love with camp during my first summer when I was just 10 years old. Camp has influenced my life in more ways than I ever thought it could.

My mom is a single parent, and although she did the very best she could, she just couldn't afford to send me to camp. Financial aid

opened a whole new world for me. I remember the day she told me that I would be able to finally go to camp — we cried happy tears. I made my packing list that day, even though it would still be a few months until I actually went.

Through the years, I have experienced many roles: camper, counselor in training, volunteer, junior counselor, senior



counselor, media specialist, and creative art program director. Someone invested in me 15 years ago, and it sparked my passion for working with kids and being a role model for them.

Attending resident camp improved my self-esteem and built my character. I had the opportunity to meet new friends, try new things...all while having fun. YMCA Camp Potawotami made a difference in my life."

- Rachel, YMCA Camp Potawotami camper / staff / alumni

## TOGETHER, **WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

We believe that by working together — as families and neighbors we strengthen the foundation of our community. Since coming to Fort Wayne in 1858, the Y has responded to society's most pressing needs by developing innovative, community-based solutions to help people reach their full potential. We are committed to uniting people from all walks of life and working toward positive social change. In 2018, over \$3 million in membership and program subsidies were available to deserving neighbors as part of our commitment to make the Y available to all. By responding to the unique needs of our neighborhoods with services that empower all people to live healthy, connected and secure lives, we move everyone forward.

Teens participate in the MOVE Summer Series making improvements in the community.



Volunteering in the community with Neighborlink.

The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne isn't the only solution for social determinants, but we have a vision for every neighborhood to flourish. Together, through partnerships with business leaders, schools, non-profits and civic officials, we are taking bold action to help kids succeed in school, improve health and well-being, and keep families connected.

> "I HAD NO IDEA HOW **MUCH THE RIDERS WOULD** IMPACT ME. WHAT IS VERY **EASY FOR ME (PEDALING) BRINGS SUCH PLEASURE** TO THESE RIDERS."

> > - YMCA TRAIL BUDDIES **VOLUNTEER**

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## **OUR MISSION**

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



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