

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

HERE

ho

FOR GOOD.

YMCA OF GREATER FORT WAYNE 2022 BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

DEAR YMCA COMMUNITY,

In my brief time as CEO, it has become abundantly clear that for all the YMCA is and does — what makes us truly special is all of you. It is an honor to learn more about the incredible staff, volunteers, donors, and members that live out our mission in tangible ways each day in support of one another. It is the selfless YMCA community that makes our mission possible and potent, and ensures that all have the opportunity to be healthy in spirit, mind, and body.

At the heart of everything we do is an earnest belief that we are all divinely made and endowed with unique gifts meant to be shared. The YMCA is an inviting place that welcomes all to actualize their fullest potential and be afforded the opportunity to help build up those around them in the process. It is my fervent prayer that we continue to provide genuine opportunities for all we serve to become closer to God and one another through proximity, participation, and meaningful programs. I am often asked what my vision is for our shared YMCA future. Quite simply, I intend to better understand the unique needs and opportunities that are before our community and discern where the YMCA is uniquely gifted to intercede lovingly and equitably — and make the greatest impact. It is my hope that together we will recall our 160-year history as a reminder of how far we have come, how far we have yet to go, and our collective capacity to accomplish unimaginable good.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gritzmaker President and CEO





Salena Scardina Board Chair

alu ma cordon

2022 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

\$3.3 MILLION

WAS AWARDED IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIMINATE COST AS A BARRIER TO PARTICIPATE AT THE Y.

1.8 MILLION VISITS

EMPOWERED PEOPLE TO FIND COMMUNITY, CONNECTION AND PURPOSE.

3,517 PEOPLE

WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES DISCOVERED THE JOYS OF AN ACTIVE LIFE THROUGH THE Y'S ADAPTIVE AND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS.

4,400 FAMILIES

RECEIVED 37,000 MEALS THROUGH THE Y'S FOOD FOR ALL PROGRAM.

1,827 MEALS

WERE PROVIDED THROUGH AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS TO ENSURE NO CHILD GOES HUNGRY.

FRONT COVER STORY

When 38-year-old husband and father-of-three Josh Thomas was diagnosed with cancer, his doctor suggested swimming as physical therapy—but the cost of a YMCA membership was beyond the family's budget. Thanks to financial assistance made possible by community donations, the entire Thomas family was able to take advantage of Y amenities—Josh could use the pool and his wife could use the fitness area while their children enjoyed Child Watch. The Thomas' extend their heartfelt gratitude to the kind Parkview Y staff and the generous donors for supporting them through Josh's cancer diagnosis and rehabilitation.

HERE FOR

"My mind is at ease knowing my child is in a safe place before and after school, during school delays and closings, and throughout the summer." — Natalie Mansoori

FAMALES, PROVIDING QUALITY CHILD CARE

Reliable childcare is essential for school-aged children and working parents so families can thrive. That's why the YMCA is dedicated to making sure all families have access to quality before- and after-school programs, where students can achieve new things, build strong friendships and develop positive character. And children like Isabella Coleman have flourished in this environment.

"Since enrolling Isabella in child care as a Kindergartner five years ago, I have seen so much growth and positive change in her," said mom Natalie Mansoori. "Isabella is more caring toward others. She's also more responsible, has grown socially, and has made so many new friends."

Thanks to the Y's Before and After School Care Program, Natalie is able to complete college courses and work full time without having to worry about Isabella. She said, "My mind is at ease knowing my child is in a safe place before and after school, during school delays and closings, and throughout the summer." Natalie is thankful for the positive experiences Isabella had. "I don't know where I would be or what I would do without the Y," said Natalie. "I hope we can continue participating in Y programming through middle school and for years to come."



Natalie and Isabella



FOR KIDS.

It's said that identical twins share a unique, extraordinary bond and Chloe and Sophie are no exception. Their close relationship was undeniable to the staff at the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne's Status Offender Court Alternative Program (SOCAP), where staff helped the twins navigate immense emotional trauma, anger issues and depression, as well as a reluctance to trust those in authority.

Chloe and Sophie had a history of habitual truancy, missing 110 of 180 school days. When they did attend, the sisters often had verbal and physical altercations with staff members, teachers and classmates. They relied heavily on one another to manage their anxiety at school, but this reliance caused them to fail their classes, fall behind on credits, and get suspended.

Youth Advocate Chelsi Lawson worked with Chloe and Sophie, meeting with them separately to build positive rapport and trust while helping them express themselves as individuals—a timeintensive process. Chelsi even arranged counseling services for the sisters, and she worked with the school to develop the best academic and behavioral plan for them. With compassion and encouragement from people like Chelsi, Chloe and Sophie were ready to make a real change. Using the new tools and resources they learned, the sisters began supporting one another in positive ways.

Using the new tools and resources they learned, the sisters began supporting one another in positive ways. They also began attending school and studying consistently, getting back on track to graduate—and even setting new goals to pursue education and careers in holistic medicine.

Trealla built self-confidence and learned to speak up for himself, Trayveon tried new things and pushed himself, and Travis learned problem-solving skills and grew more patient with himself.

FOR ALL.

CAMP MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

As Ronesha Taylor reflected on her YMCA Camp Potawotami experience, she said, "My best memories of camp are making forever friends and the meaningful closing ceremony."

So, there was no hesitation when Ronesha was extended a scholarship through the YMCA Annual Campaign to send her three boys to Camp Potawotami—she jumped at the opportunity. She knew they would each gain something unique from their experiences, and she was right: Trealla built self-confidence and learned to speak up for himself, Trayveon tried new things and pushed himself, and Travis learned problem-solving skills and grew more patient with himself.

Ronesha wasn't surprised to learn that her boys excelled at camp. "The stories keep on coming," she began, "but the main lesson they all learned is how to effectively work with people and be more confident in themselves."

Ronesha wants people to know that Camp Potawotami is for everyone, and she encourages anyone who's interested to

reach out to the Y. "Just call. They're going to make it work," she emphasized. "Camp Potawotami wants to serve your family and help your children have amazing camp experiences."

This shared experience has connected Ronesha and her children in new ways, and the entire Taylor family is grateful for the opportunity to attend Camp Potawotami — all thanks to the Annual Campaign.





FOR GOOD.

GIVING BACK TO THOSE IN NEED

Bob and Deb Trabel have long considered the YMCA their extended family. So when Bob suffered life-threatening medical complications from COVID-19, it was no surprise that most of the support and prayers came from Central Branch YMCA members.

The incredible community support and outreach has left a lasting impression on the Trabels, who said the Y makes people feel that they belong, that they matter, and that they have a purpose.

As a teenager, Bob saw the Y as a safe, welcoming place to spend his time after school. "I was surrounded by people who cared," said Bob. "Then and now, it's a diverse group of people age-wise, culture-wise, and background-wise, but every member feels like they belong. Everybody mixes so well together."



When he became seriously ill, Bob and Deb received an enormous outpouring of prayers, letters, cards and well wishes. They were overwhelmed by the sheer number of people who reached out—some didn't even know the Trabels personally.

"We posted all those cards in his hospital room," Deb recalled. "I knew he was a fighter, and I knew everything was in God's hands—but it gave me hope to look at and reread all those cards."

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2,145

INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATE DONORS GAVE BACK TO THEIR NEIGHBORS BY DONATING TO THE Y.

1,802

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STAFF MEMBERS INVESTED IN PEOPLE'S LIVES TO HELP THEM REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

& BRANCH BOARDS

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MORE THAN

2,000 VOLUNTEERS

CONTRIBUTED TO PROJECTS THAT HELPED STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES.

4,422 CHILDREN

BUILT SELF-CONFIDENCE AND LEARNED TO WORK AS A TEAM THROUGH YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS.

2,540

PEOPLE

UNPLUGGED FROM TECHNOLOGY AND EXPLORED NATURE IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

571

STUDENTS

JOINED A WHOLESOME AFTERSCHOOL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE FREE 7TH GRADE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM.

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