

The Erie YMCA, one of Erie's oldest and original social service agencies began serving the community in 1860. Since then, literally millions of Erie's men, women, senior citizens, handicapped, and youth from six weeks through college have been provided necessary and meaningful services.

Since its beginning, here is a sampling of the tradition of "firsts" that the YMCA successfully originated and continues to initiate and develop as integral parts of its Mission for the Erie Community. However, when it is appropriate to relinquish these services, the YMCA does so and continues to meet new needs appropriate to our complex and ever-changing society.

1866	YMCA library, later to become Erie's public library.
1881	Developed in the Erie Community the first Physical Education classes around our YMCA Triangle of Mind, Body, and Spirit services concept.
1882	Started adult education night classes with the first English classes for immigrants in 1900.
1888	Debating Society formed and has evolved to our present open forum, which airs and debates public issues without bias. Most every public official or candidate has spoken at either the YMCA Friday Noon Discussion Group or the Thursday Y-Men's Club, both of which are heavily reported by news media.
1896	First basketball game – Erie Y versus Allegheny College.
1903	First organized camp for boys in Erie, which is now Camp Sherwin, a community family outdoor center specializing in services to families and the exceptional or handicapped populations.
1904	Erie's first swimming pool (plunge) and water safety programs.
1908	Assisted in organizing the first public playground.
1911	Built building at 10 th & Peach Streets.
1914	Joined with eleven other social service agencies to organize the Erie Social Service Federation, today known as the United Way.
1920	Organized, financed, and housed Inter-Church Federation which exists as Inter-Faith Ministry with all faiths participating.
1934	Began Youth Extension Programs in City school gyms and pools.
1951	Began suburban work and still have outreach programs in the West County and North East areas.
1957	Began at the Downtown YMCA Erie's first religious non-denominational Dial Inspiration daily phone message.
1961	Designed and built the Glenwood Park YMCA around concept of total family programming – 10 th in the nation and a first in Erie.
1967	Designed and initiated the Port-A-Pool for the City.
1972	Started a program using "Y" facilities to rehabilitate and mainstream Juveniles on Probation in collaboration with the judges of the Erie County Juvenile Court.

- built on the east side of Erie a collaborative YMCA public outdoor pool.
- 1980 Began Prayer Breakfasts for our elected officials and community leaders.
- 1983 Major renovations to the Downtown YMCA, including closing of the dormitory and coffee shop and addition of women's locker room.
- 1984 Grants awarded to the Downtown YMCA by the United Way and the Erie Community Foundation to further its innovated aquatics programs serving Erie's handicapped.
- 1985 Collaborated with State Senator Anthony Andreszewski to develop legislation he sponsored to fund after-school child care for working parents, now a successful program at all four branches.
- 1986 Addition of racquetball courts at the Eastside YMCA.
- 1987 Addition of racquetball courts at the Glenwood Park YMCA.
- 1988 Capital drive of \$280,000 to install a swimming pool and park complex at Camp Sherwin. Addition to the Eastside YMCA to accommodate a new strength training center.
Creation of day care centers at all three branch YMCAs.
- 1989 Revision of Association Bylaws and Constitution. Addition to the Eastside YMCA to house two swimming pools.
- 1991 Development of long range plan. Start of annual meetings.
- 1992 Added child care site at Sarah Hearn Church.
- 1993 Camp Sherwin and the Downtown YMCA combined Day Camps.
- 1994 Established "outpost" facility to serve Southern Erie County.
- 1995 Conducted Capital Campaign for \$1.2 million to renovate three branch facilities for 21st century. Child care expands to four sites throughout Erie County.
- 1996 Implemented Single Tier Membership for entire Association.
- 1997 Conducted Capital Campaign for construction of County Y Branch.
- 1998 Began construction of \$1.6 million County Branch facility.
- 1999 Opened new County Y facility in March to serve Southern Erie County.
Child care grows to 14 locations with over 1,000 children enrolled.
- 2000 Awarded contract with Erie Housing Authority to provide recreation programs.
Conducted first Pro-Am Golf Tournament and raised \$12,000.
- 2001 Began construction of \$450,000 child care addition at Eastside YMCA.
Formed Validation Team to upgrade quality of child care programs.
- 2002 Expanded parking lot at Glenwood Park YMCA facility.
Purchased former YWCA facility on West 26th Street.
Approved new three-year strategic plan (2003-2005).
- 2004 Conducted Market Study for entire association with the Winfield Group. Put Old YWCA facility back on the market.
- 2005 Researched potential acquisition of Family First Sports Park with a decision being made in December not to move forward.



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- 2000 Sale of the west Ridge Property. Purchase of properties at Glenwood.
Open the Mill Village Childcare site.
- 2008 Opened the Early Learning Center on Poplar Street.
- 2009 The Glenwood renovation project was completed on August 10,
2009.