



**Gary Popson, Chairman**

**Gerry Vandemerwe, CEO**

**Corporate Offices**  
31 West 10th Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
814/452-1432  
FAX: 814/456-6327

**Camp Sherwin**  
8600 West Lake Road  
Lake City, PA 16423  
814/774-9416  
FAX: 814/774-5157

**County**  
12285 YMCA Drive  
Edinboro, PA 16412  
814/734-5700  
FAX: 814/734-2819

**Downtown**  
31 West 10th Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
814/452-3261  
FAX: 814/459-4077

**Eastside**  
2101 Nagle Road  
Erie, PA 16510  
814/899-9622  
FAX: 814/899-5122

**Glenwood Park**  
3727 Cherry Street  
Erie, PA 16508  
814/868-0867  
FAX: 814/868-9334

YMCA of Greater Erie

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

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tammy Roche (814) 452-1432, (814) 566-9597

### The Y Offers "Tweens" Activities After School

Erie, PA – The Y, in partnership with James Parker Middle School, will begin to offer youth in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade after school activities beginning with the school year in August, 2010. The program will run daily from 2:30-6 p.m.

"At the Y, kids have the opportunity to make friends, have fun, get active and discover who they are and what they can achieve. Our activities, which range from sports and arts to life skills and homework help, give kids the opportunity to become a confident kid today and a healthier-happier grown-up tomorrow," said Tina Carter, vice president of childcare for the Y. "It's important that our youth have safe out-of-school experiences that complement what they learn during the day – it's essential to their personal development."

To participate, a youth Y membership is necessary. Youth memberships can be purchased at the Y Teen Center at James Parker Middle School and the cost is \$22.71/month. With a Y membership, youth also have access to Y membership branches and programs.

"Because the Y is for everyone, we offer financial assistance to help with membership and program costs," said Carter.

The Y currently offers before and after school programming at McKean Elementary School for children in K-4<sup>th</sup> grade. The Y is the largest provider of after school programs in Erie County.

For more information, contact program coordinator Zak Sharif at 882-0248.

The Y's Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

The Y's Cause: At the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Every day, the Y works side by side with our neighbors to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

The Y, founded in 1860, is one of Erie's leading nonprofits (501 c-3), committed to strengthening our community in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility:

**Youth Development:** Nurturing the potential of every child and teen.

The Y believes that all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. That's why, through the Y, thousands of Erie's youth today are engaged in programs that encourage Y core-values – character, honesty, respect and responsibility. Unique community partnerships with the City of Erie and the Erie Housing Authority serve Erie's most at-risk, underserved kids and teens directly in their neighborhoods. In our membership and program centers, award-winning childcare, before & after school care, summer camp, youth sports, swimming, youth fitness, leadership, mentoring and volunteerism, are all Y programs that are helping Erie's kids and teens reach their full potential.

**Healthy Living:** Improving health and well-being.

Through advocacy and leadership, the Y is a leading voice on 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, thousands of Erie's youth, adults

and families are receiving the support, guidance and resources needed to achieve greater health and well-being for their spirit, mind and body.

**Social Responsibility: Giving back and providing support to our neighbors.**

Across Erie County, the Y helps people give back and assist our neighbors by offering them opportunities to volunteer, advocate and support programs that strengthen community. At the Y, we are volunteer-founded, volunteer-led organization. Volunteers are found at every level of the Y – in childcare, health & wellness, youth mentoring, board leadership and more. Through the Y's We Build People annual scholarship campaign, the Y provides financial assistance and income-based membership rates so that everyone can benefit from Y programs and membership. Additionally, the Y partners with other area non-profits enabling our members to support the community through donations and volunteerism.

**Involvement at the Y:** The Y strives to engage more people in the communities it serves whether it is as a member, volunteer, supporter or advocate. Each YMCA association is an independent, autonomous organization with its own governing board, professional staff and assets.

**The Y By the Numbers:**

The Y has 4 membership branches: the County Y located in Edinboro, the Downtown, Eastside and Glenwood Park Ys. Eighteen award-winning childcare centers provide care to children as young as six weeks. Unique community partnerships with the City of Erie and the Erie Housing Authority serve Erie's most at-risk, underserved kids and teens directly in their neighborhoods.

30,000 people of all ages, incomes, backgrounds and abilities are served by the Y and Y programs. Financial assistance is available for all Y memberships and programs.

*To learn more about the Y, [www.ymcaerie.org](http://www.ymcaerie.org).*

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