



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

EVERY HAND MAKES A DIFFERENCE

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2011
YMCA OF GREATER ERIE

MESSAGE FROM THE YMCA CEO & CVO



Dear Friends,

Whether it's helping a family reconnect, guiding a child to reach his or her full potential or building self-esteem in teens, our goal is to make an impact in the lives of those we serve. Through our unending dedication to improving the quality of life, we are able to have an impact that goes far beyond each individual person and into the hearts and minds of so many more. Every member, program participant, employee, volunteer and donor helps to make our Y the special place that encourages youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

With your help, our Y is making a difference in the lives of countless children and families every day. Our facilities are our tools — tools that allow us to develop caring relationships with people who need a helping hand and a friendly face.

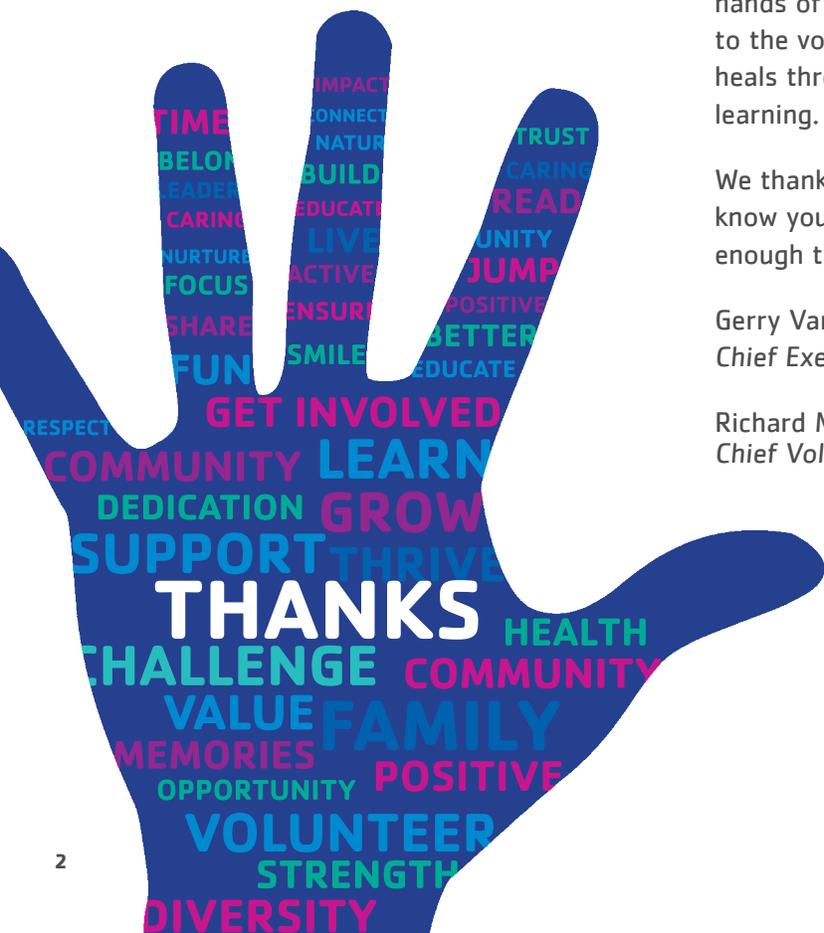
Our branches and program centers — those without walls too — have a unique opportunity to engage and inspire the more than 35,000 people who are touched by the Y.

Throughout this publication, you will read personal stories of those lives which have been impacted by the many hands of the Y — from the donor who writes the check, to the volunteer who serves the meal, to the mom who heals through dance and the teachers who reinvigorate learning. Many hands, yet one place.

We thank you for reaching out to those who will never know your name, but who will know a stranger cared enough to make a difference.

Gerry Vandemerwe
Chief Executive Officer

Richard Merwin
Chief Volunteer Officer



SERVING UP FOOD AND FUN

It is a common misconception that only the homeless and unemployed go hungry. There are 49 million Americans who work hard every day who simply cannot make ends meet. In the City of Erie, 77.4 percent of youth receive free or reduced lunches during the school year. What happens when school is out?

No one agency can fully address hunger. That is why we need to collaborate — and that's just what we did.

"It is the goal of the Y and the Summer Foods Nutrition Program to increase the availability of nutritional meals and snacks to youth," says Vice President of Childcare Services Jill Simmons. "A full plate of activities through traditional Y day camp or City-sponsored neighborhood recreational programs also get kids moving and learning over the summer."

An expanded Summer Foods Nutrition Program at open and enrolled sites enabled the Y to serve meals throughout Erie County through partnerships with the PA Child & Adult Food Program, City of Erie, Erie Housing Authority, neighborhood watch groups, schools, and churches. More than 70,000 meals were served to Erie's youth (70 percent of whom are low-income) between June and August 2011.

"With the Y's help, we're not only serving lunch in our neighborhood, but dinner too, and we served just over 2,000 meals," says volunteer and neighborhood watch captain Pam Simmelkjaer. "We have many one-parent and teen-parent households, and even with food stamps, there's still not enough to go around. We don't have too many options in my neighborhood — one of the highest juvenile crime rates in the City. The Y's support has opened up a lot of doors for us and I can't thank you enough."



EXERCISE MEETS EDUCATION

Ron Gibbons, physical education teacher at Wattsburg Elementary School, believes that learning is tied to movement. And there's a growing body of research to suggest that he is right.

"At Wattsburg, we're seeing that action-based learning helps kids stay attentive and focused in class. It's a teaching strategy that teaches specific academic concepts by actually carrying out a physical activity, rather than listening to a lecture or merely watching a demonstration," says Ron.

"Educational research suggests that about 85 percent of school-age students are predominantly kinesthetic learners."

Wattsburg Elementary School, in partnership with the Y, began incorporating action-based learning for preschool children in 2011. Ron says the approach at Wattsburg is whole-brain, whole-body learning as he works closely with preschool and kindergarten teachers to dovetail action-based learning concepts with classroom lessons.

"The kids may be playing a game of hop-scotch, but each square and number in the square is a different color — identifying their square and number before advancing. Or they may trace shapes taped to the gym's walls with their dominant and non-dominant hand. At the mat station, they look at a poster with a diagram of how to write letters and then replicate it by walking the outline of the letter on a special mat."

"Kids are having so much fun, they don't know they're learning," says Y Early Care & School-Age Enrichment Center Director Lindsey Lasher. "In the classroom, we have seen a great improvement with fine and gross motor skills as well as their spatial recognition. Gym class, which is the way children refer to it, is something they look forward to everyday."



HAPPY FEET

Kids and adults at the Glenwood Y have happy feet — and, happy faces as they have found a dance and movement class just for them.

The Glenwood Y's Happy Feet program is a dance and movement class for differently abled kids — some with autism and some with a variety of physical and developmental disabilities.

Since 2009, Happy Feet has been building on the basics of movement therapy and the fact that most people respond in some manner to music. The program uses easy-to-follow dance and movement sequences which promote interaction and awareness of self and others.

"We had been anxious to do programming for the community that embraced our mission 'for all.' It's a chance for these kids to be just kids — not kids with a diagnosis," says Glenwood Y Program Director Michele Schroeck. "While the program originally began for older kids, we have adults now taking part, and occasionally offer Tiny Happy Feet for preschool-age children."

Instructor Joyce Twiss began in Happy Feet with her 22-year-old son Garrett. **"We just loved the class and when there was an opportunity for me to teach, I knew it was the right thing for me to do,"** says Joyce.

Dance/movement therapy focuses on an individual's movement as the primary means of connection, communication, and expression. This type of therapy can address such issues as attachment, socialization, self-esteem, body awareness, and relationship building.

"The class incorporates traditional party dance songs — songs like the "Macarena" — with popular songs from today like "Hey, Soul Sister" and "Moves Like Jagger." We use repetitive, simple dance choreography that improves motor skills, coordination, and flexibility," explains Joyce. **"The kids and parents are connecting — making friends — and having fun.**" The class has also performed for the Autism In our Community event as well as a recreational fair at the Barber National Institute."

Happy Feet is a free community program for those 15 and up. "For Garrett, music and dancing have always been a big part of his life. I just love teaching this class and seeing the difference in the dancers — some have grown so much, they help lead the class," says Joyce.

"We believe that dance heals and uplifts — and that no matter what we think, everyone can dance. All you need is a heart that beats for music and a rhythm in your soul," says Michele. "Seeing these differently abled people smiling and dancing with enthusiasm is what it's all about. A brother and sister can come in and find a welcoming environment — not filled with diagnosis and medical lingo — just families being together."



ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE Y

Steve recalls his most active years at the Y, fondly remembering retired Downtown Y Program Director Rick Burr and fellow member Rick Codwell. "They were both influential in getting me to exercise. I played basketball and was a runner."

As time progressed, so did the state of Steve's cerebral palsy and related complications. But because of his strong determination to live his best life, Steve remains an active member at the Y, having moved his workouts to the Y @ UPMC Hamot and signing up for Support Training.

"Support Training is a unique program that was offered by the professionals of the Hamot Wellness Center," says Personal Trainer Richard Gorski. "We, at the Y, thought it complemented our mission to provide programs for all. It combines traditional personal training methodologies with specialized exercises for those who cannot exercise on their own. **We assist the members with strength and balance exercises customized to their circumstances, help them with getting in and out of machines,** as well as tailoring the actual sequence of the exercises for optimal gain."

For Steve, he knows that without exercise, he wouldn't be able to move. "My body would atrophy. The trainers make me do things I wouldn't normally do. They push me and I wind up saying 'I won't quit,'" says Steve. **"I'm a person who never says 'I can't.'"**

Steve comes to the Y three times per week and meets his trainer, Richard. Spending just a few minutes with them, it's easy to see the trust and friendship that they share. "Emotional and social support are a component of wellness. And this program is like a relationship — we have to trust one another, be able to joke around, and know when we've pushed hard enough," says Richard. "There is no other place in town that is going to dedicate the space and the accommodations necessary to provide this level of support for those living with different abilities. Some of our members are in wheelchairs, some are blind, some have dementia and some are more like Steve, living with a chronic illness. At the Y, we are for all."

Overcoming challenges is just a way of life for Steve Carle, a Y @ UPMC Hamot member who was born with cerebral palsy. "I was born six months premature and began multiple therapies as young as three years old and underwent many surgical procedures. Adulthood brought other complications, such as spina bifida and arthritis, which makes daily life interesting," Steve says with a chuckle.



2011 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

The Y is for YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, because we believe that all kids deserve opportunities to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

The Y is for HEALTHY LIVING, improving the nation's health and well-being. The Y brings families closer and fosters connections through fitness, sports, fun and shared interests.

The Y is for SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, giving back and providing support to our neighbors.

Financial Assistance

Every day we work side by side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. In 2011, thousands of children and adults engaged in Y membership programs like camp, afterschool, youth sports, teen clubs, family activities and wellness programs as a result of \$869,347 being provided in financial assistance through the Y to those in need.

Membership and Program Participation

During 2011, more than 35,000 youth, families, adults and seniors engaged in YMCA programs and membership. Membership exceeded 21,000 individuals and retention held at 65 percent, well within the standards of the national YMCA.

Volunteerism Reinvigorated

With a \$20,000 capacity building grant received through The Erie Community Foundation's ReTool Erie Initiative, the Y reinvigorated our integration of volunteerism throughout our facilities and programs and recommitted to giving back to our neighbors through mobilizing volunteers to support other non-profits and community projects. We identified hundreds of volunteer opportunities, took steps to improve the volunteer experience and created an interactive section of ymcaerie.org to match a volunteer's interests with open volunteer positions. Stay tuned in 2012 for the impact of our efforts.

City of Erie Recreational Partnership Expanded

Since 2001, the Y has been collaborating with the City of Erie to provide summer recreational programming at nine City of Erie neighborhood parks. The summer of 2011 brought an additional collaboration to provide over 500 youth with recreational swimming at Rodger Young Pool. The Y was able to extend the swimming season by two weeks with a generous grant from the Erie Housing Authority. Youth were involved in character building programs to help them with self-esteem and bullying; they also established and worked a poolside concession stand.

Kindergarten Readiness

In 2011, the Y graduated 245 preschoolers to kindergarten. Resulting from the United Way's Erie Together initiative, superintendents and preschool educators came together to identify 50 skills that should be developed in a child to ensure kindergarten readiness. The Y has incorporated this checklist into our extensive curriculum and is more poised than ever to help children be prepared socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually for kindergarten. In 2012, we'll participate in The Erie Community Foundation's Erie's Future Fund, which establishes additional resources for low-income children to attend quality preschool and help more kids get ready for school.

Senior Programming Beyond Our Walls

Socialization, muscular strength, flexibility and balance were gained this year by the residents of the Sarah Reed Retirement Center because of collaboration with the Downtown Y.

Staff have instructed SilverSneakers classes six times per week at Sarah Reed since July and more than 140 residents and neighborhood guests from nearby Highpoint Towers and Duffard Terrace have participated in the class.

The Y works closely with Sarah Reed physical therapists and occupational therapists to continue the therapy needs of the residents into class activities. This collaboration takes away the barriers of transportation and unfamiliar surroundings and provides participants with a convenient and free on-site wellness program.

Y @ UPMC Hamot Opens

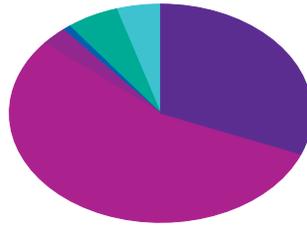
The Downtown Y reached a deal with UPMC Hamot in October 2011 to lease space for a new adult-only YMCA branch on the campus of UPMC Hamot. Formally the Hamot Wellness Center, the Y @ UPMC Hamot represents the commitment of two non-profit organizations meeting the wellness needs of the community.



2011 OPERATING REVENUE

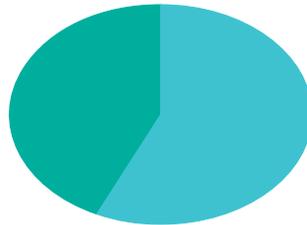
REVENUES

Membership.....	\$5,082,730
Childcare.....	\$8,920,417
Program.....	\$459,709
United Way.....	\$108,084
Community Support.....	\$931,525
Other.....	\$433,646
TOTAL	\$15,936,111



EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits.....	\$9,417,486
Other Operating Expenses	\$6,530,071
TOTAL	\$15,947,557



MEMBERSHIP (as of Dec. 31, 2011)

Membership Units	2010	2011
	7782	7894
Total Members	20,999	23,016



2012 EMPLOYEE & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

- Nancy Jo Foor, *Glenwood Park*
- Theresa Forgione, *County*
- Lindsey Lasher, *Wattsburg Y Early Learning & School-Age Enrichment*
- Linda Markham, *Eastside Family*
- Debbie Woodie, *Downtown*

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- US Navy Seabees, *Camp Sherwin*
- Merrienne Gaber, *Glenwood Park*
- Brian Glowacki, Esq., *Downtown*
- Mike Marankovich, *County*
- Jeanette Reynolds, *Glenwood Park*
- Judy Siggins, *Eastside Family*

VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

- Ron Bielanin, *Eastside Family*
- Michael Longo, *Downtown*
- Bill Taylor, *Metro*

YMCA SPIRIT AWARD

- Jason Alderton, *Downtown*
- Les Young, *Downtown*
- Jeff Craft, *County*
- GE Federal Credit Union, *Metro*
- Mary Gibson, *Glenwood Park*
- Kellie Williams, *Eastside Family*

CORPORATE PARTNER

- Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, *Metro*
- Scully's Pub, *Downtown*

EMPLOYEE 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Olga Antipovitch
- Jeffrey Arduini
- Dawn Banister
- Carrie Breski
- Daryl Dambaugh
- Theresa Forgione
- Amy Grande
- Elisabeth Hess

- Michelle Kimmy
- Melissa Kimmy
- Lisa Krafty
- Brandie Kramer
- Kristina Krasowski
- Lindsey Lauer
- Phillip Majersky
- Timothy McCullum, Jr.
- Sarah Nielsen
- Lillian Oberle
- Laura Olon
- Tina O'Sullivan
- Nicole Pawlak
- Chelsie Rudzinski
- Deborah Ruppertsberg
- Jillian Salamon
- Jeanette Snippert
- Amy Wunch
- Michael Zarger

EMPLOYEE 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Stephanie Burge
- Tara Christensen
- Stacy Dambaugh
- Denise Izbicki
- Emily Lander
- Andrea Mayo
- Monica Olesnanik
- Ellen Otto
- Mary Seidel
- Sara Sharie
- James Skellie, Jr.
- Corey Wolff

EMPLOYEE 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Jeannine Bello
- Christine Fracassi
- Grace Gausman
- Missy Raun
- Janet Sanchez
- Kimberly Stachewicz

YMCA OF GREATER ERIE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Richard Merwin, *CVO*
- Gary Popson, *Immediate Past CVO*
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- Ron Lord, *Second Vice Chair*
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- Mary Fiorenzo, *Treasurer*
- Brian Glowacki, Esq., *Assistant Treasurer*
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- Everett Walker
- David Waples
- Dennis Wilkins
- Carl Wolfrom

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- Jack Finn
- Jim Fryling, Esq.
- David Matthews
- Ginny McGarvey
- Richard Merwin
- Tom Myers, Esq.
- Gary Popson
- Bill Taylor, Jr.
- Everett Walker

YMCA HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS

The following individuals have made a lasting investment in our community through their commitment to the YMCA Endowment Fund. Below is a partial list of members as some prefer to remain anonymous.

- Peter & Mary Bates
- Ron & Cynthia Bielatin
- Paul Bowers*
- Carl Cannavino
- Louis Close
- Lyman & Marilyn Cohen
- Andrew Connor, Esq.
- Gordon & Barbara Osborn
- Charles Dailey*
- John Dauber
- Joe & Lisa Dobrich
- Tom* & Carol Doyle
- Gary & Emy Dougan
- John & Susan Dunn
- Harold Durst*
- Jeffrey & Emily Evans
- Marjorie Ferguson
- Michael & Sandy Fetzner, Esq.
- Jack & Jeanne Finn
- Jim & Carla Fryling
- Fletcher & Elsie* Gornall, Esq.
- Jack & Sharon Gornall, Esq.
- Barbara Gunnison
- Betty Haller
- Allen & Beth Hawthorne
- Bill* & Audrey* Hirt
- J. Douglas James *
- Dr. Jim & Laura Johannes
- Sheldon Kaercher*
- Thomas & Kimberly Kennedy
- Frank Knauer*
- Bob & Betty Kilgore
- Bill* & Verle Lander
- Craig & Kathy Latimer
- Dick & Sharon Levick
- Mark Lucas
- Bob & Gayle Magee
- Ritchie Marsh, Esq.
- David & Margaret Matthews
- Ray* & Ginny McGarvey
- Richard Merwin
- Tom Myers, Esq.

- Gary & Charlene Popson
- Elizabeth Reslink
- Don* & Betty* Robins
- Allan & Pat Schell
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- Albert Straus
- Robert Taft
- Bill & Cathy Taylor, Jr.
- Arloween Todd
- Gerard Uht, Sr.
- William* & Janice Underhill
- Gerry & Amy Vandemerwe
- Bob Wagner
- Everett & Susan Walker
- William E. Walker
- Rich & Suzanne Weber
- Cyrus & Susan Wellman
- Walt & Martha Wydro
- Douglas Ziegler

*denotes deceased

YMCA CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

Recognizes donors for contributing \$1000 or more to the Y's annual community support campaign We Build People or special events, projects and programs during calendar year 2011.

- Ross Aresco
- Terri Aulenbacher
- Paul Bates
- Peter & Mary Bates
- Beth Baldwin
- Ron & Cynthia Bielatin
- Charles Blake Foundation
- BNY Mellon Wealth Management
- Brooks Landscape
- Citizens Bank Foundation
- Bill Clute
- Coca-Cola Bottling
- Michelelee Curtze
- Pat Davis
- Alan & Liz Dilla
- Electrical & Mechanical Systems, Inc.
- The Erie Community Foundation
- Erie Insurance Group
- Erie Times News
- Eriez Manufacturing Co.
- ETG Communications
- Ginny Flowers
- GE Transportation Systems
- Jim Gillette, Sr.
- Jim Gillette, Jr.
- Barb Gleason
- Brian Glowacki, Esq.
- Golden Living Center
- Atty. M. Fletcher Gornall
- First Niagara Bank
- Tom & Susan Hagen
- Harrington Industrial Laundry & Linen Rental

- High Pressure Equipment Company
- Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Dennis Howard
- Tony & Ginny Keim
- Kern Family Foundation
- Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall & Sennett
- Jane Levin
- JC Penny Foundation
- Life Fitness
- Paul Lorei
- Malin, Bergquist & Company, LLP
- Pat Mancini
- Marquette Savings Bank
- Jeff Marsden
- David & Margaret Matthews
- McGarvey Family Fund
- Glenn & Ruth Mengle Foundation
- Merwin Foundation
- M.J. Surgala Trust
- Ann Morris
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- James Nuber
- Anita Parker
- Philadelphia Insurance Companies
- Plyler Overhead Door
- Gary & Charlene Popson
- Powerade
- PNC Bank
- PNC Bank Foundation
- Redwoods Group Foundation
- Saint Vincent Sports Medicine
- Gerard Uht Family Fund
- United Concordia
- United Way of Erie County
- UPMC Hamot
- UPMC Health Plan
- Gerry & Amy Vandemerwe
- Everett Walker
- Walmart Foundation
- William Walker
- Weber Murphy Fox
- Louise Wells Fund
- Cy & Susan Wellman
- Wells Fargo Insurance Services
- Dennis Wilkins
- Bill Wilson
- YMCA of the USA
- Y-Mens Club

The YMCA makes every effort to ensure that each contributor's name is listed properly. If your name is omitted, listed incorrectly or misspelled, we offer our sincere apologies and ask you to advise us of corrections by calling Tammy Roche at (814) 452-1432.

OUR MISSION:

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

OUR FOCUS:

Youth development, healthy living and social responsibility

YMCA OF GREATER ERIE

31 West 10th Street
Erie, PA 16501
(814) 452-3261
www.ymcaerie.org