



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# Reflections

of “US”

Annual Impact Report to the Community 2017  
YMCA of Greater Erie

# “Man in the Mirror”

I’M STARTING WITH THE MAN IN THE MIRROR  
I’M ASKING HIM TO CHANGE HIS WAYS  
AND NO MESSAGE COULD HAVE BEEN ANY CLEARER  
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE  
TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF AND THEN MAKE A CHANGE

– *Michael Jackson*



**US**, it's what this country is made of — a helping hand, a shoulder to lean on. Us — is all of us.

It often feels like we live in a time that defines us by our differences; different looks, different voices.

Our community is more diverse than you might think — whether it's age, gender, gender identity, race, religion, ability or something else. Many of us have different backgrounds and experiences that help form our worldview. What we don't realize (or we sometimes forget) is that understanding different points of view and experiences helps make us all stronger.

The Y now ... as it always has been ... is a place of possibility and promise for us all. Unfortunately, in times when the true power of "us" is unknown to many and it seems our bonds are fraying, we must do even more to enhance our human connections. The Y fills the gaps and bridges our divides, it's a place where we can become us again — because where there's a Y, there's an us.

**For a better you.**  
**For a better community.**  
**For a better us.™**



# Reflections of US

*For all* is a simple but powerful phrase. Without it, our mission is incomplete. We are passionate about our cause to strengthen our community and know that our ability to achieve it begins with reflecting people from all walks of life.



**Devin Perry**

**Devin Perry** — The Y puts the “y” in Family. As a scholarship recipient, Devin quickly discovered that the Y was more than a gym. Her involvement led to her certification as a Y group exercise instructor because she wanted to help others feel as healthy and happy as she did. She came to the Y to get fit and to become healthier, and found a supportive and encouraging family.

**Tammy Coburn** — Faced with a long recovery following a near-fatal motorcycle accident, Tammy discovered the Y in 2015. She had enough of losing her breath walking, so she joined the Y. Group cycling led to running and interval classes and water fitness. She now has bragging rights having swum across the equivalent of Lake Erie in 2017. She now swims 1 mile in 40 minutes.

**Ethan Caplea** — Ethan’s been swimming his entire life. Year-round swimming activities — Waldameer, Presque Isle, and birthday parties — keep Ethan going with his friends. He aspires to be a YMCA lifeguard and will enroll this summer with the help of a YMCA scholarship. He believes that being a lifeguard will help him work hard to better himself every day. He loves the thought of helping people — much like the Y has helped him.



**Anthony Pepicello**



**Anthony Pepicello** — A goal of getting in shape to compete in the Dwarf Athletic Association of America this summer returned Anthony to the Y and the hard work of regaining strength and cardio with the help of his personal trainer Glen. It's Glen's creative and comfortable style that Anthony appreciates the most as he modifies exercises to accommodate Anthony's physical abilities.

**Alex Shiflet** — Diagnosed with autism and intellectual disability at the young age of 2, Alex, now 11, is thriving in the Y's Before & After School Enrichment and Summer Camp programs. Despite attending other programs, Alex found his "happy place" with tremendous support and acceptance from the staff and other children at the Y.



**Dave Piotrowicz**

**Dave Piotrowicz** — The Y was a natural choice for Dave in 2008 when he was going through a lengthy recovery from a total heart transplant. It was a decade earlier that he had joined the Y to teach his children the lifesaving skills of swimming. He always knew the Y was a "lifesaver," but having recovered from a heart transplant with the help of the Y, gives the word a whole new meaning.



**Anthony McKinney**

**Anthony McKinney** — Making friends at a new school is tough. Anthony, age 9, was the new kid at Pfeiffer-Burleigh School. As summer approached, his mom, Juanita, learned about the Y's Power Scholars Academy — a summer enrichment program focused on summer learning-loss prevention, enrichment and character development. It turned out that Power Scholars Academy was a perfect fit for Anthony to develop new friendships and learn through classroom and field trip experiences.

**Mark Durfee** — November 16, 1991, changed Mark's life forever. A near-deadly motorcycle accident led to the below-knee amputation of Mark's left leg. The injury has not stopped Mark from coming to the Y six days per week to build muscular and cardiovascular strength. He loves the Y and has made lifelong friends who support him.

**Jim Christensen** — Lower back pain and arthritis have plagued Jim, an Air Force veteran, for decades. Through the Y's Wellness Series for Veterans program, Jim finds relief in the water fitness program. He's also lost about 30 pounds and believes when you feel better physically, you feel better mentally.



**Manny G.**





**Imani Williams** — A love of singing led Erie High junior Imani to the Y's Teen Center and the Life Through Music program. In addition to working on her vocals, she has learned music theory and how to play the piano and percussion. The Teen Center has provided Imani with opportunities to expand her musical talents and meet other teens that share her passion.

**Manny G.** — Middle school is a big transition and Manny wanted to learn to swim before starting pool class. After numerous swim lessons elsewhere, Manny signed up at the Y and met Coach MacKenna. It turned out to be a perfect match because MacKenna was sensitive to Manny's abilities (she has Down syndrome and her independence!). Weekly lessons and goal setting led to Manny's improvement. Through a lot of hard work and respect for each other, Manny passed her Deep Water Competency Test earlier this year. Not only did she gain confidence, she gained a friend in MacKenna.



**Rachael Clark**

**Rachael Clark** — Rachael is still a work in progress — a happier, healthier work in progress. Having lost nearly 100 pounds in 2012, Rachael and her husband welcomed a new baby in 2014. Life circumstances led to stress eating and sedentary habits, and by 2015, Rachael had regained nearly all of her weight. Out of breath and lightheaded while walking up a "sloped" sidewalk, Rachael knew it was time for a change. Classes and friendships at the Y supported Rachael in her current loss of 66 pounds and completion of her first triathlon and Zumbathon.

## 2017 Operating Revenue



### REVENUES

Membership.....	\$5,626,804
Childcare .....	\$10,297,417
Program .....	\$591,082
United Way .....	\$140,400
Community Support .....	\$1,267,819
Other .....	\$1,530,243
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>19,453,765</b>



### EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits .....	\$10,710,507
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$7,253,416
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$17,963,923</b>

MEMBERSHIP	2016	2017
(as of Dec. 31, 2017)		
Membership Units	8,537	8790
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>26,698</b>	<b>26,470</b>

## 2017 Highlights

 **786**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

=  
**25,160**  
HOURS INVESTED

=  
**\$168,477**  
ESTIMATED WORK VALUE

**379**  
**TEENS**

EMPOWERED TO REACH THEIR  
POTENTIAL THROUGH  
**MENTORSHIP**,  
CREATIVE EXPRESSION,  
ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT,  
AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION



# 44,600



PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

## SERVED

### SERVED 417,000 HEALTHY MEALS

### INTRODUCED NEW FOODS

### INFLUENCED

FOOD CHOICE AND EDUCATION



# 350 MEMBERSHIPS GIVEN



## TO VETERANS

HELPING THEM DEAL WITH ANXIETY  
AND RETURN BACK TO SOCIETY

# \$16,000

DONATED

TO

# 30



DIABETIC CHILDREN

SINCE 2011 TO ATTEND  
**DIABETES CAMP,**  
WHICH HELPS THEM FEEL  
INCLUDED WITH THEIR PEERS

# \$1,008,193

IN SERVICES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## DONATED

TO

# 9,136

CHILDREN, TEENS, FAMILIES, AND SENIORS  
TO HELP THEM LIVE HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER



# 6,264

## SENIORS

KEPT ACTIVE AND  
CONNECTED WITH  
OTHERS AT THE Y



137 CANCER SURVIVORS  
AND THEIR CAREGIVERS  
**STRENGTHENED**  
BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

# 3,382

CHILDREN  
GROWING UP  
LEARNING  
AT THE Y



# 432

YOUTH  
RECEIVED  
**FREE**  
SWIM LESSONS

# 3,355



FAMILIES STRENGTHENED  
**FAMILY BONDS**



# 2017 Employee and Volunteer Recognition

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Josh Sibbald, *County*  
Anthony Glover, *Downtown*  
Kyle Hendricks and Karyn Snedeker,  
*Eastside Family*  
Kelly Humes, *Glenwood Park*  
Sherice Holman and Dave Sputsa,  
*Association Office*

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Dennis Howard, *County*  
Debbie Woodie, *Downtown*  
GE Global Optimization, *Eastside Family*  
Becca Leone, *Glenwood Park*  
MJ Surgala Trust, *Association Office*

## 5 YEARS OF EMPLOYEE SERVICE

Don Aiken  
Nicole Becker  
Marne Brzozowski  
Paul Darrow  
Cheryl Dolak  
Ann Marie Fosco  
Tracy Gotham  
Rae Grygier  
Sherice Holman  
Cheri Howard  
Chelcie Ketterer  
Robert King  
Ron Lance  
Stasia Lesoski  
Alyssa Loper  
Patricia McLendon  
Jamie Mogel  
Lauren Munsee  
Lisa Nelson

Julissa Nieves  
Cori Ochalek-Kanis  
Kim Ozimek  
Heidi Pecoraro  
Abigayle Pooler  
Jen Robinson  
Christine Sanner  
Jamal Sharif  
Jessica Smith  
Cosette Steehler  
Rebecca Strader  
Kyle Thomas  
Bethany Vergotz  
Corey Wolff  
Ilana Wolfson

## 10 YEARS OF EMPLOYEE SERVICE

Julie Baganski  
William Beach  
Kendra Christiansen  
Stephanie Crowl  
Betty Dean  
Susan Ellsworth  
Donald Ferri  
Nancy Jo Foor  
Diane Forish  
Mona Free  
Heidi Kelly  
Linda Markham  
Shelly Miller  
Carrie Olson  
Karri Pacileo  
Devin Perry  
Shirley Pytlarz  
Kevin Salem  
Kathleen Seib  
Alexandria Snippert

## 15 YEARS OF EMPLOYEE SERVICE

Janet Bailey  
Sandra Berkowitz  
Linda Bush  
Mary Dougan  
Tammi Firestone  
Melissa Grey  
Kelly Humes  
Stephanie May  
Mary Schmidt  
Sara Volkman

## 20 YEARS OF EMPLOYEE SERVICE

Cary Bardwell  
Kelly Gheres  
Lori Lewis  
Rose Lucas  
April Moskalczyk  
Lawrence Schaller  
Stacey Tetuan

## 25 YEARS OF EMPLOYEE SERVICE

Debra Anderson  
Kathy Heiter  
James McEldowney

## 30 YEARS OF EMPLOYEE SERVICE

Dianne Dale

## YMCA OF GREATER ERIE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carl Wolfrom, *CVO*  
Ron Lord, *Immediate Past CVO*  
Pete Eaglen, *First Vice Chair*  
Josephine Lubiejewski, *Assistant Secretary*  
Julie Wilson, *Treasurer*  
Ron Bielanin  
Jeffrey Evans  
Erin Fessler  
Kevin Flowers  
Marshall Fryer  
Carol Gilmore  
Tony Gilmore  
Tim Glass  
David Haller  
Steve Herbstritt  
John Kathman  
John Kemp  
Lisa Koshan  
Mary Beth Kroemer  
Josie Lubiejewski  
Rich Merwin  
Tom Myers, Esq.  
Paul Sallie  
Renee Slabic  
Ken Slaney  
Mike Smiley  
Elliot Spaeder  
Mike Sparks  
Steve Squeglia  
Mollie Sweeny  
David Waples  
Dennis Wilkins  
Julie Wilson

The YMCA makes every effort to ensure that each contributor's name is listed properly. If your name was 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.

## 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 and Mary Bates  
 Judge Warren Bentz\*  
 Paul Bowers\*  
 Carl Cannavino  
 Louis Close\*  
 Lyman and Marilyn Cohen  
 Andrew Connor, Esq.  
 Gordon and Barbara Osborn  
 Charles\* and Pam Dailey  
 John Dauber  
 Joe and Lisa Dobrich  
 Tom\* and Carol Doyle  
 Gary and Emy Dougan  
 John and Susan Dunn  
 Harold Durst\*  
 Jeffrey and Emily Evans  
 Marjorie Ferguson  
 Michael and Sandy Fetzner, Esq.  
 Jack\* and Jeanne\* Finn  
 Jim Fryling  
 Fletcher\* and Elsie\* Gornall, Esq.  
 Jack and Sharon Gornall, Esq.  
 Barbara Gunnison  
 Betty Haller\*  
 Allen and Beth Hawthorne  
 Bill\* and Audrey Hirt\*  
 J. Douglas James\*  
 Dr. Jim and Laura Johannes  
 Terry and Judy Jones  
 Sheldon Kaercher\*  
 Thomas and Kimberly Kennedy  
 Frank Knauer\*  
 Bob\* and Betty\* Kilgore  
 Bill\* and Verle Lander  
 Kevin Larson

Craig and Kathy Latimer  
 Dick and Sharon Levick  
 Mark and Sue Lucas  
 Bob and Gayle Magee  
 David\* and Margaret Matthews  
 Ray\* and Ginny McGarvey  
 Richard Merwin  
 Tom and Marie Myers, Esq.  
 Gary and Charlene Popson  
 Elizabeth Reslink\*  
 Don\* and Betty\* Robins  
 Matthew and Tammy Roche  
 Allan and Pat Schell  
 James and Frances Schlabach  
 Ken Slaney  
 Albert Straus  
 Robert Taft\*  
 Bill and Cathy Taylor, Jr.  
 Arloween Todd\*  
 Gerard Uht, Sr.  
 Dr. William\* and Janice Underhill  
 Gerry and Amy Vandemerwe  
 Everett and Susan Walker  
 William E. Walker  
 Rich and Suzanne Weber  
 Cyrus and Susan Wellman  
 Carl and Jessica Wolfrom  
 Walt and Martha Wydro  
 Douglas Ziegler

\*Denotes Deceased

## YMCA CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

Recognizes donors for contributing \$1,000 or more to the Y's annual community support campaign We Build People or special events, projects and programs during calendar year 2017.

Allegheny Health Network/Saint Vincent Hospital  
 AXA Advisors/Mike Divito  
 Sean and Kim Beers

BELL Foundation  
 Ron and Cindy Bielanin  
 BKD, LLC.  
 Blake Family Foundation  
 BNY Mellon  
 Brooks Landscape  
 Cascade Park Club  
 Corey Cook  
 Richard Chapman  
 Coca-Cola/Powerade  
 Color Run  
 Connecting Hands  
 Custom Imprint & Design  
 Jack Daneri  
 DeSantis Janitor Supply  
 Gary and Emy Dougan  
 Early Connections  
 Electrical and Mechanical Systems, Inc.  
 Elk's Lodge #67  
 ECCA  
 Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
 The Erie Community Foundation  
 ETG Communications  
 Erie Insurance Group  
 Erie Seawolves  
 Erie School District  
 Jeff and Emily Evans  
 Virginia Flowers  
 GE Foundation Matching Gifts  
 Giant Eagle  
 Tony and Carol Gilmore  
 Atty. M. Fletcher and Elsie O. Gornall Fund  
 Thomas B. Hagen  
 Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
 Howard Family Charitable Trust  
 Terry and Judy Jones, Esq.  
 John and Rebecca Kathman  
 Sheldon Kaercher Estate  
 Thomas Keating Trust  
 Tom and Kim Kennedy

Kern Family Foundation  
 LifeFitness  
 Little Caesars  
 Al and Josie Lubiejewski, Esq.  
 Marquette Savings Bank  
 Margaret Matthews  
 McGarvey Family Foundation  
 Glenn and Ruth Mengle Foundation  
 Merwin Foundation  
 MJ Surgala Trust  
 Northwest Bank  
 Mark and Monica Olesnanik  
 Parson's Penn Glass  
 John M. and Gertrude E. Petersen Foundation  
 PNC Bank  
 PNC Foundation  
 Rebich Investments  
 ReMax Real Estate/Corey Barbato  
 Allan and Pat Schell  
 Scott Enterprises  
 Dave and Jill Simmons  
 Elliot and Molly Spaeder  
 Sportsmens' Athletic Club  
 Roger Taft  
 United Way of Erie County  
 UPMC Hamot  
 UPMC Health Plan  
 USI Midwest  
 UTZ Snacks  
 Gerry and Amy Vandemerwe  
 Gerald and Susan Verga  
 Walmart  
 Walmart Foundation  
 Weber, Murphy, Fox  
 Wegmans  
 Louise K. Wells Fund  
 Wesleyville American Legion  
 Dennis Wilkins  
 YMCA of the USA  
 Y-Men's Club





## 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

## Our Cause

To strengthen community



**YMCA OF GREATER ERIE**  
31 W. 10th Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
[www.ymcaerie.org](http://www.ymcaerie.org)