

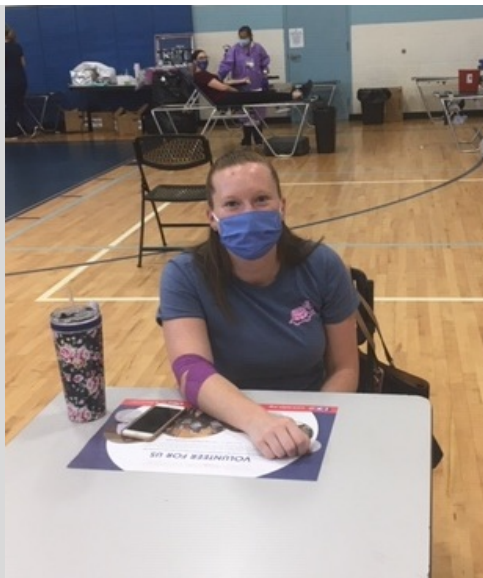
including temperature checks enforcing social distancing guidelines.

All of the new guidelines and policies that we are putting in place to be best prepared to welcome back our members and our families has been a new learning curve for our staff, but we are all very much looking forward to tackling this hurdle and getting back to business as usual!

Rose Cushing
President & CEO

BLOOD DRIVES CONTINUE

The YMCA continues to hold blood drives during the pandemic to address the critical shortage of blood donations. Our latest blood drives were held at the South Amboy YMCA and both were a great success! [New Jersey Blood Services](#) held a blood drive on June 22nd, with 47 pints of blood were collected, translating to 141 lives being saved!! On June 30th, the [American Red Cross](#) held another blood drive was held at SAY, with 28 pints of blood donated. Great job to all those who donated!!



Jennifer O'Neill, daughter of South Amboy Director of Operations Cindy O'Neill, donates blood.



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry takes a break from City Hall to donate blood.

GRANTS RECEIVED



Youth and Government Grant

The YMCA of MEWSA received notification that they were awarded a \$2,500 grant from the [New Jersey Bar Foundation](#) to launch a brand new program at our Metuchen and Edison branches, which will be comprised of members of the branch's Teen Leader's Clubs. The program will provide leadership training to 9th-12th graders to become responsible, civic-minded citizens to be better able to understand and get involved in political and public affairs, develop public speaking skills, improve their writing and research skills and become empowered to advocate for their beliefs. Through the existing Y-USA Youth and Government national program model, teens from across the state meet with other local YMCA's throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of their state and to propose legislation. The program culminates with teens serving as delegates at the YMCA NJ Youth and Government State conference, debating bills on the floor of the legislature.



Google Ad Grants

The Y was also awarded an in-kind grant from Google which provides \$10,000 a month in free advertising on Google search engines. This grant is indefinite and will allow us to more effectively market our YMCA programs and services.



FHLBNY/Manasquan Bank Grant

The YMCA of MEWSA has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, facilitated through Manasquan Bank. The COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grant Program funding will be used to purchase PPE equipment for staff in our child care programs and branches, as well as signage and acrylic barriers to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.



Teen Leader's Club Receives Grant

The Metuchen Leader's Club applied for and received a Power of Youth Challenge grant sponsored by NJSACC in the amount of \$250. The Six Feet Ahead grant, which is made possible through support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, encourages and inspires youth-led remote service projects related to COVID-19 that young people can lead safely from home. The Leader's Club's grant application was based on a "Six Feet Ahead" project, where they created a diagram using figures or mannequins to show what being six feet apart actually is. The diagram also has fun facts to help our community learn about being safe during COVID-19 such as "hand washing" and "wearing a mask". The diagram will be placed at the Y. Great job, Teen Leader's Club!

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

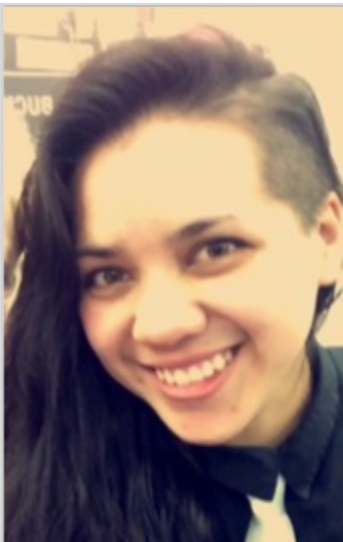


Completion of the YPCC continues to move forward as the team eagerly awaits the Governor's decision to re-open fitness centers. The grand opening will be held on Labor Day weekend with a ribbon cutting ceremony that will be closed to the public. In the meantime, you can take a virtual tour with Executive Director Kyle Strohmman and Piscataway Councilman Stephen Cahn (video left).

Welcome new YPCC Staff

Bryan Elsasser, Member Experience Director

Bryan comes to us with over a decade of experience in the YMCA at a leadership level. In that time, Bryan has directly supervised youth, teen and adult programming, summer camp, before and after school programming and membership in multiple facilities and off-site locations. Bryan has a B.S. from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania in Recreation Management. Bryan currently resides in Milltown, N.J. with his wife, dog and very soon to be daughter which will make them a very happy family of four! In his spare time, Bryan loves to relax with his family and friends. He enjoys staying active, and watches and follows just about everything and anything sports.



Hannah Thomas accepts Healthy Living Director position

The YMCA of MEWSA's Senior Director of Healthy Living, Hannah Thomas, has accepted the same position at the YMCA at the Piscataway Community Center! Hannah has been with our Y for four years and has served in the capacity of Senior Director of Healthy Living for almost two years. During that time, she has launched many new health initiatives at our branches and we know that she will be a great asset to the YPCC!

TEEN LEADER'S CLUB PRESIDENT

JOINS CHANGEMAKERS INSTITUTE

Caroline Schlieff, President of the Metuchen Teen Leader's Club, has been accepted into the YMCA Changemakers Institute, a 3-month virtual summer program available to high school students in grades 9-12. As participants in the Changemakers Institute, students will take part in:



- Virtual Advocacy Training
- Networking & Professional Development
- Mentoring Seminars with YMCA Alumni
- Engaging Local, State, National, and International Policymakers
- Emphasizing Equity & Inclusion in Making Change
- Strengthening Socio-Emotional Skills
- Developing an Online Presence, Branding, and Voice
- Collaborative Cohorts to address Local Issues
- Leading the Y's Youth Advocate Network & Youth Voter Commitment

By the conclusion of the Institute, students will have completed their changemaker certification and published a virtual changemaker portfolio to include in their resumes, college applications, and academic records.

OUTDOOR WORKOUTS!



Outdoor workouts have been implemented at all three facility branches. Members are loving having a chance to get outdoors while working out with their favorite YMCA instructors!

FIRST DAY OF CAMP!

Camp Munsee



YMCA Camp staff are on hand at Metuchen Y's [Camp Munsee](#), ready to welcome this summer's campers! There were 45 campers this week! There were both indoor and outdoor fun activities for the campers! What a great start to summer camp!

Camp at South Amboy



[Camp at South Amboy](#) had a total of 13 campers in attendance yesterday and 19 enrolled for the week. There are a total of 25 campers enrolled for the summer and a lot more families who are interested in joining!



Campers enjoyed many activities including finger painting, science experiments, and spending time outdoors with their friends! They look forward to a fun-filled summer!

Oakcrest Camp



[Oakcrest Camp](#) had 56 campers registered on the first day of camp and there are at least 70 children registered for the summer! The children were very excited to be outside playing games, swimming and making new friends!

Channel 7 News was also at opening day of camp! See article below for more details and video.



IN THE NEWS!

REOPEN NEW JERSEY
Reopening New Jersey: Summer camps resume in NJ



Monday, July 6, 2020 5:30PM



There should be many happy kids and parents as summer camps reopen Monday in New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY (WABC) -- There are many happy kids and parents in New Jersey Monday, as summer camps officially reopened -- wish several new safety protocols in place.

Channel 7 News was on hand on the first day of camp at Oakcrest Camp to highlight how camps are going to reopen during the pandemic and what precautions are being taken to protect campers. Bobby Kleinau and Erin Siemers did an awesome job responding to the reporter's questions addressing these issues, as well as Camp Director Mike Tivey, who took the reporter's temperature!

THE SWIM TEAM IS BACK!



The Y's MEY-SABY Manta rays Swim Team is back in the water! Swimmers are participating in a nine-week program that focuses on stroke mechanics for advanced and developmental swimmers, led by Senior Director of Aquatics, Andres Gallego. Athletes show up for practice as early as 6AM and swim for 1.5 hours Monday through Friday. All practices are held at the Oakcrest Community Pool. Swimmers also meet for virtual dryland every Tuesday and Friday for a 45-minute workout that focuses on body awareness, strength and conditioning. This is true commitment!