

# DONOR NEWSLETTER



483 Middlesex Avenue

Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

**WINTER 2018**

[www.ymcaofmews.org](http://www.ymcaofmews.org)

A PUBLICATION TO INFORM YMCA OF METUCHEN, EDISON, WOODBRIDGE & SOUTH AMBOY DONORS OF THE IMPACT OF THEIR GIFT

## ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF!



The YMCA held its 2018 Impact Celebration and Annual Support Campaign Kick-Off Rally on Tuesday, January 9th at the JFK Social Center in Edison. Rose Cushing started off the evening by welcoming everyone and spoke about how the success of the campaign will be built upon the strong foundation of dedicated volunteers, a Board that leads by example, committed staff and engaged Y members.

This year's campaign is headed up by Chair Katie Barnes and Co-Chair Mike Lackland. Katie and Mike spoke about

the critical programs and services that the Y can provide because of Annual Support Campaign donations. They noted that the Y embraces a culture of philanthropy with a year-round approach to fundraising; one that will ensure that the Y has the resources to deliver on our mission to strengthen communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Among the guests were participants from the LiveSTRONG® at the Y, ESL and Reset...Regroup...Renew Programs who gave testimonials on the programs. ESL Program participant Hui Zhong, or better known by her American name of Vivien, spoke about her experience arriving in America knowing very little English. "When I arrived in America, the only other person I knew was my husband", said Vivien. "So I googled ESL classes and now, I have a new family at the Y". Another participant, Judy R., spoke of how the LiveSTRONG® Program gave her back her life, giving her the confidence and ability to navigate in a world that she no longer felt a part of. "I found strength in myself I didn't know existed", said Judy. "I felt intimidated walking into the gym, but Dean Seda (Edison YMCA Health & Wellness Director) took my hand, and told me everything was going to be fine...and it was." Participants from the Reset...Regroup...Renew Program also spoke about their positive experiences with the R<sup>3</sup>, as it is sometimes called. These individuals are in recovery from various addictions and find benefit in the program through mindful activities, physical well-being and support from peers.

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## ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you think may find it useful.

## QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS?

Contact Katie McAdoo at

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Edison



Metuchen



South Amboy



Association Office

## ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF (CONT'D)

Chairman and Chief Volunteer Officer Bruce Peragallo noted that the powerful testimonials given spoke volumes about the impact that the Annual Support Campaign has on our community...not just for those already benefitting from the programs and services they are able to provide, but for those who still need them. He stressed the importance of not only keeping the momentum going, but expanding our reach into the community to cultivate increased donor giving. "While we raised \$224,000 in last year's campaign, we gave out \$635,000 in scholarships and financial assistance", said Bruce. "The more donations that we can bring in, the smaller the funding gap will be, and the more we will be able to offer crucial programs and services that address critical community needs."



ESL participant Vivien Z. (left) with Angelica Causing (right), Membership & Marketing Director, Metuchen YMCA

## TEE OFF FOR KIDS!



Reset...Regroup...Renew participants Peter Walsh (l.) and Katie Manchisi (r.) with Robin Guensch, Program Director at the Metuchen YMCA (center).

## RICHARD HALE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING SUPPORTING THE SEND A KID TO CAMP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**Tuesday, June 5**  
**Metuchen Golf & Country Club**

## CYCLE FOR M.S.

The Metuchen YMCA is hosting a cycling event to benefit the National MS Society on March 25, 2018. The event will be a one-hour cycling class running from 2-3pm.



There is a requested donation of \$25 for the National MS Society to participate in the event.

Please contact Hannah Thomas at [hannah.thomas@ymcaofmewsa.org](mailto:hannah.thomas@ymcaofmewsa.org) for more details or to register.

## KNOW YOUR GIFT HAS IMPACT!

\$75 provides before and after care for one week

\$100 sends 4 kids on a day trip

\$260 sends a kid to camp for a week

\$2,600 gives a kid a YMCA summer they will never forget!

## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION



**Will Your Company**  
Match Your Donation?

Find out instantly!



## KNOW YOUR GIFT HAS IMPACT!

\$100 funds a LiveSTRONG® graduation ceremony for those who have completed the 12-week course.

\$250 provides a cancer survivor free access to the 12-week LiveSTRONG® at the YMCA Program.

\$500 pays tuition and travel for a staff member to become a certified LiveSTRONG® trainer.

## OUR GLOBAL REACH

Marie Patterson, Director of Operations at the Metuchen Y, has been working with Metuchen resident Robin Bolton, a semi-retired financial advisor who is a volunteer with The Good Samaritan Foundation of Haiti. Robin's most recent project was to implement a successful program to teach the life-saving skill of swimming to children and adults on Ile a Vache, including fishermen, to prevent drownings that are surprisingly prevalent there. To accomplish this, he arranged for Haitian native Nestor Destil to come to the U.S. for 11 days and during that time, Nestor observed YMCA swim lessons, took Y swim lessons to improve his own water efficiency, observed professional coaches and reviewed techniques and strategies with Aquatics Director Danica Lindsey. He also attended the MEY competitive swim team practice. Nestor has now taken his newfound skills back with him to Haiti to become a swim instructor at the Good Samaritan School in La Hatte, Ile a Vache.



## AUTISM SWIMS!

Autism Swims is back at the Edison Y! Thomas Macchiaverna, a Special Education teacher from Woodrow Wilson Middle School is bringing his self-contained classroom back to the Community Campus for some swim time! The students in the class already know how to swim, so they are excited to be in the water to learn more advanced skills and have fun! The students will be taking lessons through April 2018.

Scholarships for the children from disadvantaged families are available through a grant that the Y received from Autism Speaks.



Volunteer grant programs are corporate giving programs in which companies provide monetary donations to organizations where employees volunteer regularly.

If you volunteer with us, it's an easy way to provide us with additional financial support! All you need to do is click here to find out!

### VOLUNTEER GRANTS

Click here to see if your company provides grants for volunteering



## GRANTS UPDATE

As a non-profit organization, the Y relies on the generosity of donors and grant funders to continue carrying out our mission through our programs and facilities. The Y gives thanks to our most recent grant funders:

- A \$10,000 grant from **Investor's Bank** for Leader's Club, a new program available at all three branches of the Y to further the Y's mission of youth development and social responsibility by building youth as leaders and fostering a culture of service in the community.
- A \$3,000 grant from the **Vernon Library Supplies** for the support of the Metuchen Branch ESL & Literacy Program.
- A \$1,000 grant from **The Redwoods Group** swimming scholarship grant that will go towards our Autism Swims Program.



## THE EDISON COMMUNITY CAMPUS CELEBRATES 15 YEARS!!

The Community Campus celebrated its 15-year anniversary! This historical collaboration of two organizations, the Edison YMCA and the JCC, came into existence in 2002, creating a hub for fitness and teen, youth, senior and cultural activities. Such a partnership is one of only a few in the country. On December 14, a program was held at the Community Campus to highlight the collaboration between the two organizations and how this partnership promotes health and wellness to families in the community.



Several members gave testimonials including Laura Staffin (pictured above), who spoke of how the Community Campus helped her become more connected to the community after her husband passed away and local Chiropractor Len Carlucci spoke about how he uses the facility as his own personal Wellness Center.

Both organizations look forward to a continuing, productive partnership in the community!

## HOPE TO DREAM PROGRAM GIVES BEDS TO CHILDREN

The South Amboy Y worked together with Ashley Furniture HomeStore as part of their "Hope to Dream" Program, which donates beds, mattresses and linens to underprivileged children who might otherwise suffer the negative physical and emotional effects of sleep deprivation.

This year's event was held on December 23rd at Rutgers Preparatory School, who co-hosted the event and donated toys and blankets for the beds. Six YMCA volunteers and three staff members helped



with the celebration, setting up a carnival for the children who were able to play games and get their faces painted before they were surprised with their beds and toys. The beds were delivered to the children that day so that they were able to sleep in them that evening.

### WAYS TO GIVE

Did you know your gift doesn't have to be made in cash? You can gift stock, in-kind, matching gifts, in honor or in memory of a loved one, marketable securities, planned giving, charitable trust, or even through [Amazon Smile](#)!

**amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

### KNOW YOUR GIFT HAS IMPACT!

\$68 provides a family with a YMCA membership each month.

\$147 provides before school care for a child five days per week.

\$334 pays monthly tuition for a child to attend a half-day preschool program two days a week.

\$1,200 provides a toddler with full day care, five days a week for a full month.

### SAVE THE DATE!

YMCA 97th Annual Dinner May 2

Richard Hale  
Memorial Golf Outing June 5

Janice Garbolino  
Memorial 5K Run/Walk Sept. 15

Tot Trot & Youth  
Fun Run Oct (TBD)

For more information, contact  
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