

Y *YMCA Members Newsletter* news

YMCA of Greenwich, Greenwich, CT

December 1999

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YMCA
We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities

Our Mission

The YMCA of Greenwich enriches the community by promoting positive values through programs that build healthy kids and strong families.

Our Vision

The YMCA of Greenwich is a recognized leader and partner in the Greenwich community in fulfilling its mission.

We involve and partner with members, volunteers, donors, corporations and other service organizations to deliver our programs.

Our values of Respect, Responsibility, Caring and Honesty are demonstrated in the management of all programs and services.

We offer relevant programs for all people that positively impact values, education and health in our community.

The members and entire community know the Y as a progressive and superior organization.



CEO Corner



Dear Members,

Welcome to the first issue of the YMCA of Greenwich member newsletter! *Yfocus* will be published quarterly in an effort to better communicate to you just what goes on at the YMCA.

As we approach the start of a new year and a new millennium, I thought it appropriate to highlight 1999's accomplishments:

Corporate and other donations provided funding for facility improvements and equipment upgrades. All of the treadmills in the Cardio/Cybox Center were replaced. The air-conditioning system that serves the Men's and Women's Locker Rooms was also replaced. Next year we will continue to carry on our commitment to maintain the facility and to have the finest equipment available.

On the childcare front, additional space was leased at St. Roch's and Sacred Heart Schools allowing us to expand our programs by 44 new spaces.

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities. We build them across all races, creeds, cultures, genders and ages.

Membership has grown by 20% over the last two years, with kids and families leading the way. Indian Guides & Princesses, Gymnastics, Tennis, T-Ball, the Marlins Swim Team and Youth In Government continue to grow, as do programs for Active Older Adults. Explorer Camp, a new program for middle school-aged youths had a good summer season using Boy Scout Camp Seaton. Next year we will add a two-week resident camp session at a YMCA camp in northwestern Connecticut.

As part of our Renaissance Plan, the adjacent property at 30 Washington Avenue has been purchased. Our plans include the addition of a fifty-meter swimming pool and large gymnasium, a complete rehabilitation of the building, doubling of parking capacity and a childcare center. The present pool and gymnasium will be maintained; the pool as a shallow, warm water facility and the gymnasium converted to a gymnastics and family activities center.

Work on a capital effort has already begun. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Sincerely,

John P. Eikrem
President & Chief Executive Officer

1999 Highlights

Childcare

Things are really happening in YMCA Childcare!



Already the largest provider of childcare in Greenwich, the YMCA of Greenwich is pleased to announce the expansion of our full-day childcare programs! With the current demand for affordable childcare identified as the most pressing need in our community, the YMCA was able to collaborate with other service agencies to make the expansion possible. With the support of St. Roch's parish, United Way of Greenwich, Old Greenwich Lions Club and contributions from members and friends to the Y's Annual Campaign, we are able to serve 44 new children in our full-day childcare program.

The Y was able to acquire additional space in the two church facilities that house our programs. We then reallocated and renovated the space to create age-appropriate facilities for the children. Annual Campaign donations, United Way and St. Roch's Parish provided \$135,000 for a sprinkler system and construction. The Old Greenwich Lions Club provided a grant to purchase playground equipment.

We are moving the half-day preschool program from Sacred Heart on Gold Street in Byram to an upstairs classroom in our site at 2 St. Roch Avenue. This will allow the YMCA to open 28 new spaces for full-day childcare at Sacred Heart. Eight infants will receive full-day care, as will 20 toddlers. At St. Roch, we moved the 4 year-olds to another upstairs classroom, enabling us to serve 16 more children under 3 in downstairs classrooms.



Preschool childcare programs help youngsters gain self-confidence and social skills while developing positive attitudes about school and learning. Approximately 41% of the children enrolled in one of our childcare programs receive a scholarship. Direct scholarship aid to families will exceed \$85,000 for the year.

Youth Programs



Marlins Youth Swim Team gives 5-14 year olds the opportunity to improve their swimming skills, have fun and participate in a team-building experience. The Marlins currently have 33 team members and have had great success at their first competitive meets.

Youth Sports challenge kids to be fit in spirit, mind and body. Our sports programs include basketball, indoor and outdoor soccer, floor hockey, T-ball, in-line hockey, gymnastics, lacrosse and several leagues. We also have an instructional swimming program for children six months to 12 years. This year more than 2500 kids have participated in the Youth Sports programs and over 1450 have taken swim lessons.



Family Programs

Indian Guides and Princesses is a wonderful program for fathers and their 5-9 year old sons and daughters to strengthen their relationships through activities that are challenging and fun. Dads and kids join a tribe that meets monthly to plan outings, family events and a yearly camp-out. In just one year since its inception, the program has grown from 70 children and their fathers to more than 90.

Adult Programs



Spinning, a stationary cycling program has proven to be a successful addition to our fitness program. Participation has doubled over the last year and new classes are constantly being added. Our other adult fitness programs are doing well but growth is limited by the facilities.

Active Older Adult (A.O.A.) programs have been one of the fastest growing segments at the YMCA in 1999. A new A.O.A. exercise class was added, as was a Senior Stride Walking program and a new monthly social hour. Senior membership is expected to grow from 51 members to nearly 90 by year-end.

Facilities



In addition to the improved air conditioning and new equipment, we continued to beautify the exterior of our facility and were rewarded with a Greenwich Green and Clean Award. The YMCA is also progressing with the plans to sell Calf Island and phase out the residence program over the next three to five years.

Experience the magic of giving



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or more than 3,000 kids in the Greenwich community, the YMCA is a lot more than a place to work out, play



basketball, learn gymnastics or swim. To them and their parents the Y represents a safe alternative.

Through the Y's childcare programs, youth sports and camps,

our goal is to help children embrace the values that teach them to be caring and productive citizens.

If you haven't already made your gift to the Annual Campaign, now is the time. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.



The YMCA wants you!

Needed: We're looking for a few good men and women to help us out as volunteers. There are year-round opportunities available, including:

- Annual Support Campaign Fundraisers
- Office Support/Administration
- Exercise Class Instructors
- Senior Stride Walking Program Leader
- Youth Sports Coaches
- Youth Day Camp Assistants

And many more! If you are interested in getting more involved with your Y and your community, please contact Pam Hearn, Director of Development and Marketing, at 203-869-1630 x 506.



Give the gift of health this holiday season with a YMCA of Greenwich gift certificate