



YMCA of Greater Erie  
31 West 10th Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
ymcaerie.org



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2013

YMCA of Greater Erie



# I'M MORE.

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Dear Friends,

Everyone knows us as four letters: Y-M-C-A. But from A to Z, the Y brings our community so much more.

Recently, we asked community leaders about their image of the Y. There was not a single response that mentioned treadmills, pools or basketballs.

Scott Mitchell, executive director of the Erie Zoo, summed it up best, "if the fitness part of the Y went away – our community would be okay – but, if all of the other programs and services the Y provided were to cease – we would have a huge void."



Gerry Vandemerwe  
Chief Executive Officer

Ken Slaney  
Chief Volunteer Officer

## THE Y'S IMPACT IN 2013, FROM A TO Z:

**C – City Mission Donation Chests & Turkey Baskets.** Our City Mission Chests collect tens of thousands of pounds of gently used clothes for the Erie City Mission. Donations are often picked up daily from the overflowing chests. Y staff and volunteers also stuff more than 1,000 turkey dinner baskets for Erie's homeless.

**F – Financial Assistance.** Thousands of children and adults got involved in Y membership programs like camp, afterschool, youth sports, teen clubs, family activities and wellness programs as a result of \$1,015,239 being provided in financial assistance through the Y to those in need.

**H – Healthy Eating & Physical Activity Standards.** We strengthened our promise to our kids to do more to help them reach their potential and improve their health. Better nutrition and physical activity guidelines – especially in our early care and school-age enrichment programs – are setting nutritional standards for meals and snacks served by the Y, as well as, increasing structured play time for kids.

**L – Learn to Swim.** Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of accidental death in the United States for children 1-14. As a lakefront city, our Y believes that it is necessary for ALL to learn how to swim. Through group, individual and adapted swimming lessons for kids and adults, 6,039 participated in swimming lessons through the Y.

**M – Meals for Kids.** For years, the Y has been serving up free food and fun during the summer months as part of our Summer Meals program for kids funded by the Walmart Foundation. 2013 marked the first year that the Y expanded our meals program to include dinner meals served during the school year. Our Meals for Kids program at the Eastside Y served hot meals every Tuesday & Thursday, January-June. Our volunteers served 1,280 free meals for kids – supporting families with a healthy alternative to the drive thru.

**S – Silver & Fit.** The Y added Silver & Fit, a wellness benefit program for senior adults over age 65, to our list of collaborations. Senior adults carrying certain health insurance policies may join the Y at no cost, as a benefit of their insurance policy. Membership at the Y helps seniors keep active, prevent illness and stay connected with others. This collaboration is offered in addition to SilverSneakers.



◀ **KIRSTEN & MADDISEN** (cover)

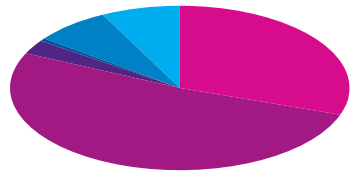
"She has grown in many ways and I have the staff at the Y's Preschool program to thank for that. They inspire Maddi to be imaginative, helpful, caring and a truly respectful young lady."

**NORMA, JUAN, NELLY, ALEEZA & AEDEN** ▶

"If I were rich, I would donate all my money here. My kids not only learn to read and write, but they learn about manners – all while following a school curriculum. I appreciate that my kids are in a secure, educational environment while I am at work."

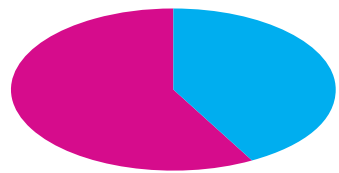


## 2013 OPERATING REVENUE



### REVENUES

Membership.....	\$5,581,293
Childcare.....	\$9,224,577
Program.....	\$523,836
United Way.....	\$109,727
Community Support.....	\$1,022,324
Other.....	\$1,160,333
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$17,622,090</b>



### EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits.....	\$9,795,743
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$6,884,104
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$16,679,847</b>

### MEMBERSHIP (as of Dec. 31, 2013)

Membership Units	2012	2013
	8378	8786
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>24,638</b>	<b>24,886</b>

# LEROY STANDS TALL



Doug Forne, personal trainer at the Glenwood Park Y, says that helping LeRoy Johnson stand tall again is like a metaphor for life. "Being able to stand tall like a tree – balanced and flexible – means that LeRoy is more resilient to life's curve balls."

LeRoy, 89, started recently seeing Doug for Personal Training, following a hip fracture which led to a decline in his strength and flexibility. Retired from the Great Northern railroad, LeRoy is no stranger to hard work and that ethic is evident in his 45-minute workout with Doug.



The trust, is apparent, from observation, between Doug and LeRoy. What's less obvious is the fact that they've only been working together for only 8 weeks. "Look at me," reminds Doug as LeRoy tries to balance on two inflated discs. Wobbling, he's then told to lift his knees, one at a time, while keeping his balance on the discs. "I'm not going to let you go," says Doug. LeRoy makes eye contact.



It's then on to an armless chair, where LeRoy, who is supported by a walker normally, is told to sit and stand unassisted. "When LeRoy and I first began working together, he was not able to get out of a chair without assistance." In this exercise, LeRoy approaches the chair, walking unassisted, with Doug close by to provide a "safety net" if needed. LeRoy slowly turns around, Doug reminds him to stand tall, and he inches onto the seat. "You did it by yourself," Doug says encouragingly.

Through a series of cardio, strength and flexibility exercises in the pool and on land, LeRoy, who just 8 weeks ago, found it difficult to fully straighten up, stands tall next to his new friend Doug. "We are all born with mobility, but it is stability and flexibility you have to earn," coaches Doug.



# I'M MORE.

### MIKE & LLOYD ▶

"Our involvement in the County Y's Blue Dolphins Swim Team taught us teamwork and how to believe in ourselves. Growing up we endured financial hardships and the Y was great at working with our mother for both scholarships and payment plans to keep us in the water."



# OLD SONGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Erie is the new home for over 10,000 people who are forced out of their native countries. They come from Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, the Ukraine, Bhutan and other troubled areas. Although legally welcomed by the United States government, they are expected to learn English, adapt to our culture, and get jobs – a large burden for people who have lost their homes, bank accounts and even family members due to war.

A unique partnership between the Erie Art Museum and the Y, places refugee women in our early learning programs, providing them a working classroom to learn American “childcare” as an employment path and an accepting environment to express their traditional culture with song and dance.

Children at the Y’s Early Learning Center burst loudly with song requests from *Fish in the Water*, to *Butterfly* and *En Fit Hat*. Teachers, accompanied by refugees from Bosnia, Palestine, Bhutan and the Congo, lead these beloved new children’s songs in English and their native language. The children are singing about body parts, their favorite foods and days of the week.

“The new repertoire of songs have refreshed our classrooms and reinvigorated our lesson plans,” says Stephanie May, preschool teacher for the Y. “We are seeing language growth and can extend the learning to include geography, nutrition and humanity. Our children are singing in Spanish, Arabic, Bosnian, Swahili and Nepali.”

A three-year grant awarded to the Erie Art Museum by the Institute for Museum and Library Service enabled every Y preschool teacher to choose at least three songs and work along refugee song coaches to learn and adapt the songs in a myriad of ways.

“Our classrooms will be making music videos and documenting how we are using the songs. Some of our classrooms are augmenting lessons, while others are using song to bond with infants and toddlers or easing transition times, like waiting in line, with song,” says Jill Simmons, Vice President of Early Care & School-Age Enrichment Services for the Y. “The videos will be an online resource for parents and debuted at family nights where we’ll serve ethnic foods the children have prepared. By posting the videos online, parents can see their children singing, learn about the importance and power of song and hopefully learn and use some of the songs at home.”

# SOCCER: A TREASURED FAMILY RECIPE

Like a treasured family recipe, the game of soccer has been passed from generation to generation in the Corrales family. It is with the same pride of a granddaughter submitting her grandmother’s winning secret apple pie recipe, that 14-year-old Hector Corrales speaks of the game of soccer. “I truly care about this sport. It was the first sport that I learned as a young child and all of the men in my family play soccer, including my grandfather, father and uncles. I just really love this sport,” smiles Hector.

Like many youth athletes, Hector got his start playing indoor co-ed soccer at the Y. “The Y was the most comfortable place to start playing soccer. The environment here is so accepting and there’s a focus on fun and friendship,” says Hector’s dad. “All of our kids play soccer at the Eastside Y. Hector still is in contact with his first coach Corey Wolfe.” Hector, now plays soccer for Wilson Middle School and MSA Premier Soccer, and returns to the Y as both a coach and referee. His younger siblings are also on Y teams and dad Hector volunteers as a coach too.

It’s obvious watching Hector referee four and five-year old players, that he values the Y experience. He passes words of encouragement, high-fives all around and gives little tips for technique throughout the game. The best is his smile when they line-up to say good game.

“Being from Columbia, soccer is a game where I find common ground. It doesn’t matter the color of my skin, it’s just a sport and everyone can play. I just enjoy it,” reflects Hector. “It brings people together.”





# THE NEW RETIREMENT



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Harborcreek's Tony and Carol Gilmore, both retirees in their late 50s, knew they had worked long enough at successful careers – an amazing 56 years combined in military leadership positions. It was in their retirement that they wanted to grow their community involvement, through volunteering. "Being in the military, we were always called upon to take on this or that project," says Carol. "And, in leadership roles all those years, we basically took charge and just moved into whatever we could do – partially because we wanted to give back – but mostly because it made us feel good," continued Tony.

Both carry a spirit of volunteerism from their childhood – examples set by their parents. "Volunteers help build an organization's capacity to deliver its mission. We were raised that volunteering is just what you do," says Carol.

When the Gilmores retired to Erie, they deepened their involvement in their parish – volunteering in four ministries – and, they joined the Eastside Family Y. It didn't take them long to get involved in the Y beyond their membership.

"There's always a core in any organization. It happens to be that Carol & I are those types of individuals who are part of the core and do things. We hope others follow our example" says Tony. "Our volunteerism at the Y spans from the board room to the pool deck!"

Upon frequenting the water fitness classes, Carol offered to volunteer as an instructor. She now leads two classes per week as a volunteer.

Tony found his niche helping to share the Y's philanthropic mission and grow contributions for the Y's annual scholarship fund. His goal is to increase the percentage of members who donate and over the past few years he has been successful at doing so.

Tony adds, "People, in general, are group animals and the Y family, staff, volunteers and members, is a group sharing the common goal to benefit the entire Erie community. Volunteering reinforces the drive to be part of something greater than oneself."

When asked why they keep volunteering, their answers were simple. "The friendships we have made and the sense of a family that volunteering has provided us. You also have an opportunity to see how you can inspire and motivate people even in small ways."

## 2014 EMPLOYEE & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Rebecca Greenman, *Camp Sherwin*  
Kayla Nesselhauf, *County*  
Lisa Bailey, *Downtown*  
Don Ferri, *Eastside Family*  
Shannon Kelley, *Glenwood Park*  
Jill Tucker, *CCSB*

### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

David & Linda Nissley, *Camp Sherwin*  
Emma Schatz, *County*  
Tony & Carol Finotti, *Downtown*  
Carolyn Dale, *Eastside Family*  
Christine Clausen, *Glenwood Park*

### VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

Renee Slabic, *Glenwood Park*  
Bill Wilson, *Metro*

### YMCA SPIRIT AWARD

Eric Eia, *County*  
Joe Johnson & Norma Santiago, *Downtown*  
Gretchen Scavella, *Eastside Family*  
Christine Gomez-Gwitt, *Glenwood Park*  
Josie Lubiejewski, *Metro*

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Giant Eagle, *Camp Sherwin*  
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Fortis Institute, *Eastside Family*  
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Eriez Manufacturing, *Metro*

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Patti Berbs  
Sarah Bliley  
Thomas Braendel Jr.

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Jan Brumagin  
Brenda Comstock  
Jeffrey Conley  
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Elyssa Cruz  
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Lauren Sipple  
Joseph Slezak  
Kennith Snyder  
Jesse Stadler  
Karlie Stebnisky  
Joshua Talley  
Danielle Tech  
Ariel Lani Weissbach

### EMPLOYEE 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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Jeff Golab  
Kristina Hough  
Zoe House  
Lashaunda House  
Gail Kimmy  
Diane Mendez  
Brenda Pulliam  
Ronald Rycyk Jr.  
Jill Simmons  
Karyn Snedeker  
Janet Wittman  
Stephanie Zarzeczny

### EMPLOYEE 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Aileen Baxter  
Amikka Bowers  
Michelee Curtze  
Georgia Hill  
Linda Humes  
Tonya Makusi  
Mary Ann Makusi  
Kimberly Martin  
Ledys Negron

### EMPLOYEE 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kimberly Haight  
Kelly Austin  
Shelly Sheridan  
Sheri Altman  
Michele Schroeck  
Dawn Stearns

### EMPLOYEE 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Robin Adams  
Gerry Vandemerwe

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Honorable Warren Bentz  
Susan Dunn  
Michael Fetzner, Esq.  
Ginny McGarvey  
Richard Merwin  
Tom Myers, Esq.  
Bill Taylor, Jr.

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David Waples  
Dennis Wilkins

## 2014 EMPLOYEE & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION (continued)

### 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  
Paul Bowers\*  
Carl Cannavino  
Louis Close  
Lyman & Marilyn Cohen  
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Allan & Pat Schell  
James & Frances Schlabach  
Ken Slaney  
Tina Slaney

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Bill & Cathy Taylor, Jr.  
Arloween Todd\*  
Gerard Uht, Sr.  
Dr. William\* & Janice Underhill  
Gerry & Amy Vandemerwe  
Bob Wagner  
Everett & Susan Walker  
William E. Walker  
Rich & Suzanne Weber  
Cyrus & Susan Wellman  
Carl Wolfrom  
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 2013.

Ross Aresco  
Cle Austin  
Sean & Kim Beers  
Ron & Cindy Bielanin  
BNY Mellon  
BKD, LLC.  
Brooks Landscape  
Charles Blake Foundation  
Coca-Cola/Powerade  
Custom Imprint & Design  
Ed & Christine Dahlkemper  
Pat Davis  
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Erie Times News  
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Giant Eagle  
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Tom & Susan Hagen  
Scott Heitzenreiter  
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Tom & Kim Kennedy  
Sheldon Kaercher Estate  
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LifeFitness  
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Share Our Strength Foundation  
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Peggy Tuttle  
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UPMC Health Plan  
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Walmart Foundation  
Wegmans  
Louise Wells Fund  
Wells Fargo Insurance Services  
Wesleyville American Legion  
Scott & Linda Whalen  
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

### OUR CAUSE:

To strengthen community