



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

TRANSFORMING LIVES

WINTER 2022

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

For a better us.



Our simple tagline is, arguably, as powerful and as important as the Y brand itself.

Everything we do at the Y is in pursuit of a better us; and, by that, we mean the collective 'us'...children, teens, adults, seniors, individuals of all abilities and backgrounds. Each day, we make available the opportunities, resources and services that help everyone to thrive. And, during times of crisis or disaster, we offer strength, compassion and resilience.

We are profoundly grateful to you, our donors, volunteers, partners, members and staff for your steadfast dedication to the Y's cause and your contributions to the Y's mission. With your support, we expand the range of possibility to deepen community impact.

Despite the ongoing trials that our organization has faced as a result of the pandemic, we are proud of the accomplishments made by Greater Somerset County YMCA over the past year. Yet, we know there is so much opportunity to do more. Our community relies on the Y, and the Y relies on our community.

I hope this issue of Transforming Lives illustrates the many ways in which your investment in the Y improves lives today and creates better communities for tomorrow.

Together, we are a better us.

On behalf of everyone who benefits from your generosity, thank you.

Gratefully,

David M. Carcieri

David M. Carcieri
President/CEO



BETTER TOGETHER Princeton YMCA Merger

We are pleased to announce our recent merger with Princeton YMCA, following three years of analysis and planning. The union of our organizations holds great promise for the future of Greater Somerset County YMCA, our facilities, and the communities that we serve.

"As a growth-oriented association, we are confident that the combined resources, collective knowledge and traditions of Greater Somerset County YMCA and Princeton YMCA will enhance our ability to accomplish and strengthen our mission. We know from our past experience, that when we work together for the greater good of our communities, we can best serve youth, families, and diverse households for years to come," said David M. Carcieri, president and CEO. "We believe that the sum of this union will be greater than its parts; it will fortify the organization's fiscal strength and present expanded opportunities to best serve residents throughout Somerset County, Princeton, and Plainfield."

As our valued benefactors, you share our commitment to nurture children and teens, improve health for all, and to support individuals in our communities who are in need of a helping hand. With your continued support, we will deepen our mission impact and create lasting impact in our expanded footprint. We are better together.



FOREVER IN SERVICE

2021 Mission Impact

Greater Somerset County YMCA has been addressing important social issues that affect our children, families, health, and neighbors for 149 years. As a nonprofit community-impact organization, the Y responds to critical needs with emphasis on marginalized, under-resourced, and under-served populations.

The Y's mission is ever more important in times of crisis. Throughout the pandemic, we have faced significant and ever-changing challenges, as individuals, as an organization, and as a community. Yet, with your support, the Y remains forever in service. We are pleased to share with you, in this report, a few highlights of our 2021 accomplishments.



2021 Mission Impact Snapshot



ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTERS FOR REMOTE LEARNING

- 216 K-8th grade students participated
- 11 hours of care daily
- 12 school districts served



CHILD CARE, PRESCHOOL & SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE

- 169 children age 6 weeks to 5 years in child care & preschool
- 522 students enrolled in before & after school care
- 1 in 10 receives financial assistance



SAFE, ENRICHING SUMMER CAMP

- 1,100 children participated across all branches
- 1 in 20 children received Financial Assistance
- 365 campers improved swim skills by at least one level
- 148 campers accelerated learning in summer tutoring



TEEN LEADERSHIP

- 87 teen Camp Counselors in Trainings
- 17 teen advocates engaged with Branch Boards
- 5 high school summer interns
- 33% of Y employees are age 15-19



FOOD SECURITY

- 2 sites for food distribution
- 365 days of full Little Food Pantries available 24/7
- 146,000+ lbs. of food distributed to hungry neighbors
- 58,000+ neighbors served
- 522 lbs. of produce harvested distributed from our Giving Gardens



COMMUNITY HEALTH

- 50,794 adults participated in virtual, on-demand, outdoor, & live fitness classes and swimming
- 87 adults improved health in programs to prevent and manage chronic disease
- 1,170 lives saved through blood drives
- 72 adults vaccinated at COVID-19 vaccine clinics with free babysitting
- 76 participants of all ages in free Safety Around Water program to build essential life-saving skills



CAREER FORUM EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

- 394 participants in virtual sessions of Career Forum
- 52 hours of advice, guidance and support



For a better us.®



Inspire. Empower. Uplift.

Annual Meeting and Campaign Kick-off

On February 2, we held Greater Somerset County YMCA's Annual Meeting and Campaign Kick-off. The event was held virtually to celebrate the Y's 2021 accomplishments and launch the 2022 fundraising campaign.

During the event, David Carcieri, president & CEO, announced a healthy start with \$757,270 raised, representing 51% of our campaign goal of \$1,500,000. It was the first time we surpassed 50% of goal at campaign kick-off, which is quite a milestone. Early momentum was driven by pledges from 100% of members of the Board of Directors and Branch Boards. Additionally, Y staff pledged donations of \$75,196, with 81 who commit through the Hourly Club in which they donate the equivalent of one hour of their wages per pay period – a testimony of the staff's devotion to the Y's cause.

Philanthropic support is essential to Greater Somerset County YMCA, as a nonprofit, community-benefit organization that is committed to addressing inequity, food insecurity, health disparities, learning gaps, and more. One hundred percent of the funds raised through the Annual Campaign go directly to community. Every day, we work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity and the resources necessary to reach their full potential.

"I am proud to volunteer to help advance the Y's mission," commented Lisa LaVecchia, member of Greater Somerset County YMCA's Board of Directors and Chair of the Y's Annual Campaign. "When donors give to the Y, they inspire young people to reach their full potential; empower everyone to build a healthy spirit, mind, and body; and, uplift neighbors who struggle emotionally, physically, and financially. Our donors change the trajectory of lives and strengthen our community."

In 2021, we provided over \$1.8 million in direct financial assistance and program support to meet urgent community needs.

"The Y keeps our community strong," said Board of Director Chair, Alexandra Rebay. "It helps to connect us; it provides a safe, welcoming place for all; it helps us to be healthier; it inspires our children; it opens the door to opportunity; it helps everyone to thrive. The Y is essential to our community."

As a donor, you inspire us through your commitment to community. We are truly grateful for your generous support. You make the Y's mission possible.





NOT GIVING UP

Grant's Story

Nearly 20 years ago, Grant's family joined the Y and he was motivated to return to swimming and pursue wellness. After a divorce, swimming and running at the Y relieved his stress and increased fitness; so much so, that he registered for a triathlon. Now, swimming at the Y is more than training; it's therapy.

"Before the triathlon, I felt symptoms of vertigo. My doctor treated me for an ear infection and referred me to a neurologist. After completing the triathlon, an MRI revealed a tumor pressing on my brain stem. Throughout radiation, surgery, and treatments, swimming at the Y kept me going. Doctors told me to not expect to run, bike or swim again, but I didn't accept that. As soon as I was cleared to get my head wet; I headed straight for the pool! I rebuilt my strength and endurance and completed a second triathlon. In 2020, I lost my job, the pandemic hit, and the Y had to close. It was devastating to my rehabilitation. For me, swimming is neurological therapy. When the Y reopened, I was one of the first back in the pool thanks to the safety protocols and the staff's support. Because of the Y, I am not giving up. I live by setting an example, for myself and my children, of doing my best... always trying." - Grant

RISING ABOVE

Verné & Kiwan's Story

When he was younger, Kiwan and his mother, Verné, faced a difficult domestic situation. Kiwan began to give up on himself, which was heartbreaking to Verné. Once they found the Y, everything changed. As a shy 11-year old, Kiwan set a goal of learning to swim at Y camp. Now, a high school freshman, Kiwan earned a spot on the swim team; and, he is excelling. He and his mom are so grateful for the Y's support. To them, the Y is a welcoming place of comfort and health, a second home.

"The Y helped us to feel that we weren't victims of our circumstances. That we could rise above it. The Y's staff helped me to ensure Kiwan would be on the right path. Without financial assistance, I couldn't afford summer camp or swim lessons. The experience has improved Kiwan's academics, given him a sense of belonging and built his confidence and identity. It's Kiwan's way to shine. The Y opened the door to us. The Y believes in us. The Y gave us our shot and, now, the sky is the limit!" - Verné



WARM WELCOME

Haruko's Story

It was daunting for Haruko, her husband, and their two young children to move from Japan to the U.S. Haruko wanted to ensure that her children were in welcoming learning environments to help them to acclimate, to feel comfortable, to make friends, and to succeed academically. She was thrilled to find the Y for her 5-year old daughter.

"When we came to the U.S., I was unfamiliar with the Y. I thought it was a place to play sports but then learned about the Kindergarten program; I was so impressed. When we arrived, my daughter couldn't speak or understand a word of English. Now, thanks to the Y's teachers, she can write letters and count to 10 in English. It's wonderful to see her making friends...they teach her English and she teaches them Japanese! The Y has been so welcoming and supportive. It has become a part of our lives...without the Y, our lives don't work." - Haruko




SAVE THE DATE!
HEALTHY KIDS DAY
 TD BANK BALLPARK
 APRIL 30, 2022



GREATER SOMERSET COUNTY YMCA

ASSOCIATION OFFICE

140 Mt. Airy Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 | 908 630 3535

BRIDGEWATER YMCA

601 Garretson Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908 526 0688

HILLSBOROUGH YMCA

19 East Mountain Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
908 369 0490

PLAINFIELD YMCA

504 Madison Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908 766 5770

PRINCETON YMCA

59 Paul Robeson Place
Princeton, NJ 08540
609 497 9622

SOMERSET HILLS YMCA

140 Mt. Airy Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908 766 7898

SOMERVILLE YMCA

2 Green Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908 722 4567

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. At Greater Somerset County YMCA, we believe everyone, regardless of age, income or background, should have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. For information about Greater Somerset County YMCA and financial assistance, visit us at gscymca.org.