



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



# 160 YEARS

**WE'RE HERE FOR GOOD**

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2019-2020  
**YMCA OF GREATER ERIE**

# 160 YEARS OF GOOD

Very few organizations, for profit or nonprofit, are able to be relevant, nimble, connected and valued for 160 years as the YMCA of Greater Erie. From establishing Erie County's first library to creating a program with aim to mainstream juveniles and working alongside government officials to develop legislation to fund after-school childcare, the Y has been here for good.

Its mission remains unchanged: to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

## FROM OUR MEMOIRS



**1887**

In 1887, the YMCA started their library which eventually grew into the Public Library. When the "Y" first acquired a building of their own, the sign over the entrance door read "City Library and YMCA". The library was the first secular program and the first Y financial drive with a goal of \$10,000.

**1960**

If a picture is worth a thousand words, what's the price of a picture featuring thousands of supporters? John F. Kennedy, just months before winning the presidency, electrified Erie when he spoke to thousands of people in downtown Erie. An image of that historic day, found in the Y's archives, shows Kennedy at the lectern, with fans spelling out his surname in separate K, E, N, N, E, D, Y letters.

**1921**

A young attorney named Judge Elmer Evans in 1921 met the girl at a Y dance who would become his wife. In 1945 this Judge Evans chaired a committee to develop a comprehensive teenage recreation program known as Y-ASTEC – Academy, Strong Vincent, Tech, East, and Cathedral. Y-ASTEC evolved to Y-CO – popular dances attracting over 1000 teens each weekend.

**1985**

The Erie Y worked with State Senator Buzz Andreszewski to develop legislation to fund after-school childcare for working parents. The Y had already been providing early childhood education for more than a decade, recognized as a leader in this growing industry. Three years later, the Y created stand-alone childcare centers in response to a growing number of women re-entering the workforce and became the largest licensed provider of childcare services. These centers reduced the number of "latch-key" kids.



**AUG 20  
1860**

First preliminary meeting of volunteers to organize the Young Men's Christian Association.



**1866**

Y purchases \$175 worth of books for Erie's first library and added to this collection by acquiring 700 books from the Irving Library.



**1882**

Y begins adult education programs in 1882 and started the first formal English classes in 1900 for the waves of newly arrived immigrants.



**1910**

Y volunteers raise \$200,000 in just ten days to construct the Downtown Y.



**1912**

First organized camp for boys at present Camp Sherwin site.



**1962**

Dedication, Glenwood Park Y.



**1967**

Y designs port-a-pool program in City parks which created recreational and instructional swimming for City residents.



**1977**

Dedication, Eastside Family Y.



**1985**

Y works alongside State Senator Buzz Andreszewski to develop legislation to fund after-school childcare for working parents.



**1999**

Dedication, County Y



**2020**

Y named inaugural "Nonprofit of the Year" by The Nonprofit Partnership; responds to Coronavirus pandemic with emergency childcare, feeding program.



# WE'VE BEEN HERE

When young men migrated to urban centers from family farms looking for work they relied on the Y for language education and job skills. When GIs got off their ships after WWII young soldiers came to the Y as their "home away from home". With the baby boom, families turned to the YMCA for child care and family programs.

Over the years, the Y has been a leader in offering camping, swimming, basketball, night school, English second language classes, the USO, Youth and Government and hundreds of other important elements of the American lifestyle – the Y is woven into the fabric of Erie County and the nation.



*"I learned to swim at the Y when I was 8 years old – was a camper at Camp Sherwin and played basketball as a child and an adult. Sixty-nine years later, I'm still a member of the Y. The benefits to the community that the Y presently offers are most impressive, which is why we support the Y."*

*- Terry*



## Discussion Groups

Started in 1930, the Discussion Group maintained a platform for discussions and speakers on controversial topics and debate confrontations between political candidates.



## Basketball

James Naismith in 1892 invented the game of basketball at a Y; hazy records indicate the game first reached Erie in 1896 when the Erie Y played Allegheny College.



## Swim Lessons

The Y's 1904 meeting minutes report an urgent demand for Erie's first "plunge" (a.k.a. swimming pool) which cost \$1,500. In a few years, competitive swim teams were known nationwide under the coaching of J.C. "Doc" Ainsworth.



## Night School

The Civil War intensified the need for skilled workmen and in 1882 the Erie Y created an industrial school to develop men's marketable skills. In 1909 English as second language classes and in 1922 self-enrichment classes were added.



## Camping

Organized camping began in 1898 near the present West Lake Junior High. As camping gained popularity, it relocated to its present site in 1912; Camp Unaliyi meant a place for friends. It was renamed Camp Sherwin in 1946.



## USO

President Roosevelt asked the Y to take the lead in mobilizing military support during WWII. The YMCA, YWCA, National Catholic Community Services, Jewish Welfare Board, Salvation Army, and National Travelers Aid Association came together and formed the United Services Organizations (USO).



# WE'RE HERE TODAY

In early 2020, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) worldwide health pandemic took the lives of more than a million people and infected millions of others. For an organization like the Y, one whose strength is founded in bringing people together, the Coronavirus prompted the Y to quickly pivot operations and move into response mode adapting services and programs to continue serving the community during this health and economic crisis.

Within just 48 hours of the Governor's stay-at-home order, the Y applied for and received an exemption waiver to offer the "essential" workforce childcare services and support families with free meals for children. The Y moved health and well-being classes to online communities and created connections when it was necessary to be apart.

As the pandemic lingers, the Y has evolved its Before & After School program into full-day Remote Learning to support children learning in a virtual and/or hybrid model.

Food insecurity for children persists and the Y is one of the only local nonprofits to continue its feeding program and supplement school meal distribution.

**"When the pandemic hit, I still needed to go to work. Having my children attend the Y helped to make all those days a lot less stressful. The Y had safety measures in place and I knew they would take good care of my children"**  
– Kasheaba, Ariane & Anthony

**"It was about limiting the amount of fat you ate. We started going for more lean meats and using spray oil. We also used a lot less mayonnaise, cheese, butter and margarine. We also started going on daily walks. Bob's lost 78 pounds. His blood-glucose levels have declined and I've lost 14% of my starting weight,"**  
– Alice & Bob



**"Food banks have only been able to provide us canned goods, and we could not afford fresh items like fruit and vegetables. The Y has been a blessing to us as they have been able to get us the fresh food we desperately needed."**  
– Community Member

## Highlights from our response include the following:



**Within 48 hours of stay-at-home orders, the Y was providing essential childcare and free meals to kids.**



**More than 5,000 calls were made to local seniors to reduce social isolation.**



**63,000 free meals and snacks were served to families in need.**



**The Y supported more than 25 essential life-sustaining employers with childcare for workers.**



**During the red and yellow phase, the Y provided care to more than 311 children.**



**313 virtual health and wellness classes were offered to help members reach health goals.**



**43,200 pounds of fresh produce were distributed to families and seniors.**



**600 volunteer hours were donated to distribute meals and produce.**





# WE'RE HERE FOR GOOD

There's a bright future ahead, but the only way to get there is to evolve and adapt. The Y's proven these past 160 years, that by bringing together the best know-how, best people, best programs and best practices, the Y can reinvent itself to remain relevant and responsive to the community.

This experience means that the Y is able to reach beyond its walls and pivot operations quickly to prevent and overcome community challenges, like those presented by COVID-19.

The Y's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan fluidly outlines a futuristic pathway that is adaptable even in light of the current health and economic environment. The Y's approach is nimble and rooted in financial strength to increase impact and preserve the Y for future generations.

**Major Initiatives Include:**

- Childcare & Education
- Childhood Hunger Relief
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Facilities, Technology & Staff

**We can't do it alone – we need you our members, volunteers and donors. This winter and beyond, as the pandemic lingers and the community fatigues, the Y will be here addressing community needs and showing up in ways that even we can't imagine.**

**To deepen your involvement in our community through the Y, contact Tammy Roche at (814) 452-1432 ext, 252 or email [troche@ymcaerie.org](mailto:troche@ymcaerie.org).**

## YOU CAN COUNT ON US



### Meals for Kids

Curbside, grab & go food boxes reduce childhood hunger and meet basic needs.



### @ Home Pre-K

Virtual learning option for preschool children. Video recorded lessons and read-alouds, supplies and resources for parents encourage learning at home.



### Remote Learning

Supportive full-day program for school-age children of working parents. Wi-Fi and reconfigured spaces provide a suitable environment so that students can log into their virtual classrooms and complete their school work.



### Virtual Studios

Live-stream and on-demand library of classes, programs and social groups foster connection and healthy habits.



### Diabetes Program

Virtual and in-person 12-month program promotes lifelong behavior change and improved health.



# 2019 OPERATING REVENUE

The Y funds its mission and operating budget through several sources.

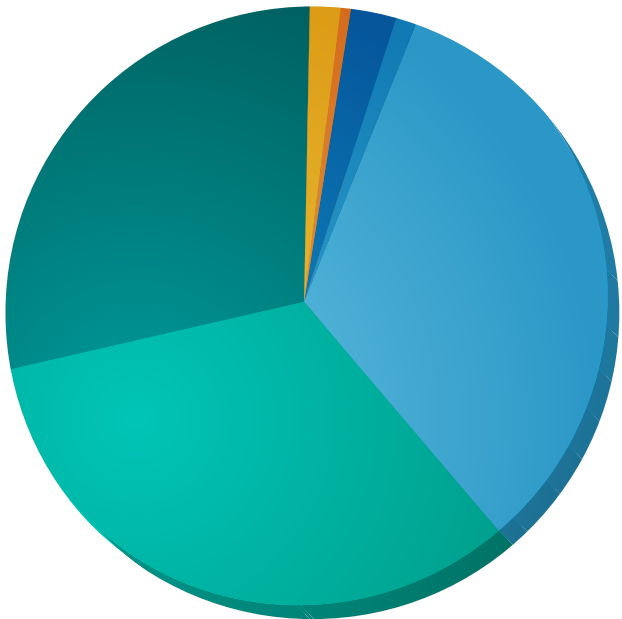
## REVENUES

Program Fees .....	\$4,009,469
Membership Fees .....	\$4,649,153
Grants .....	\$4,613,582
Volunteer Work Estimate..	\$168,477
Endowment Income .....	\$346,000
Special Events .....	\$108,529
Charitable Giving .....	\$239,206
TOTAL .....	\$14,134,416



## ENDOWMENT INCOME ALLOCATION

Operational Expenses .....	20%
Fundraising .....	20%
Long-Range Planning .....	15%
Capital Improvements .....	45%



# RECOGNIZING OUR DONORS

## 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	Bill* & Verle Lander
Judge Warren Bentz*	Kevin Larson
Paul Bowers*	Craig & Kathy Latimer
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Bob* & Betty* Kilgore	

\*denotes deceased

The YMCA makes every effort to ensure that each contributor’s name is listed properly. If your name was 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 ext.252.

## YMCA CHAIR’S ROUNDTABLE

Recognizes donors for contributing \$500 or more to the Y’s annual campaign and special events, projects or programs during calendar year 2019.

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Gerry & Amy Vandemerwe	The YMCA of the USA
Giant Eagle	Thomas Keating Trust
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Foundation	Zachary Miller

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## 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

YMCA OF GREATER ERIE  
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