



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

cccymca.org

SUMMER 2016

CLOSING THE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Dear Friends:

Inspired by our Real-Time Strategic Plan, our Y continues to invest valuable time, energy, expertise and resources in closing the *education achievement gap* in the communities that we serve. We define the "gap" as the difference in academic performance between *low-income kids* and their more privileged peers. Research tells us that low-income minority children living in urban environments are at the greatest risk, and the education achievement gap often begins to widen during the pre-school years. Why is this? There are several reasons and chief among them is the fact that many low-income youth do not have the same summertime enrichment opportunities as children living in better-resourced communities. We call this *summer learning loss*. I am very proud of the work that our volunteers and staff have done in engaging the children most vulnerable to summer learning loss, and the number of at-risk kids being served by the Y has steadily grown over the past five years. In fact, in 2015, our Y served 1,428 low-income children through our 8 school-readiness programs, 38 after-school programs, and 10 summer camp programs with a special emphasis on reading and writing. That's a 14% increase over 2014!



David Stevenson
President & CEO

We are only able to do this important work with the help of great partners – and we have many. The NewAlliance Foundation has been one of those partners that makes a significant difference in the lives of many children. Through a very generous grant, the NewAlliance Foundation has enabled the Y to create libraries at four of our Y branches allowing access to hundreds of brand new age-appropriate books at each branch. We know that when kids have access to books, dedicated time, and a little encouragement – they'll read! Kim Healey, Executive Director of the NewAlliance Foundation, commented on the partnership, stating: "The development of literacy skills among the youngest in our community dovetails other summer learning loss prevention projects supported by the work of the Foundation and will help our communities thrive."



New Haven YMCA Youth Center Executive Director Danielle Williams enjoying their library with after-school program participants.

Thank you to the NewAlliance Foundation and all of our generous donors and volunteers who make the work of the Y possible. You're making a huge difference in the lives of many children and their families.

Best wishes to all for a safe, happy and healthy summer season!

Dave



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BRANCH LOCATIONS

Alpha Community Services YMCA Bridgeport
Bridgeport YMCA
Elm City YMCA New Haven
Fairfield YMCA
Hamden/North Haven YMCA
Lakewood-Trumbull YMCA
New Haven YMCA Youth Center
Ralphola Taylor Community Center YMCA Bridgeport
Soundview Family YMCA Branford
Stratford YMCA
Valley YMCA Ansonia
Woodruff Family YMCA Milford
YMCA Camp Hi-Rock Mt. Washington MA
Association Office New Haven

OUR MISSION - To put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

WHAT WORLD DO YOU IMAGINE IN 2064?

As part of the Y community, we know that you value the potential in every child, and that's what Zoe represents.

Whether that potential is becoming a teacher, firefighter, or the next president of the United States, Zoe is showing that with your support, all kids have the opportunity to be their best selves. You make that possible when you support the Y.



Zoe is a 1-year old toddler running for president in 2064. Zoe represents the potential that the Y sees in every child.

Your support has a positive impact on the future of our community. Your contributions to the Y show that the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility are your values.

Your gifts to the Y bolster the role models that guide our youth to be compassionate neighbors and the next generation of community leaders.

Your support makes the potential in all children a reality; it is one more step toward making sure the world you envision in 2064 becomes a reality.

Your support makes possible the programs and services we offer to give kids like Zoe what they need to thrive from childhood to old age. Your support changes lives. Keep an eye out for Zoe this fall, spread the word about our candidate and the kind of impact your friends and colleagues can have by supporting Zoe and our cause. Invite them to be a part of the movement; vote for Zoe and help us build a better us. **GIVE** at ccymca.org or <http://tinyurl.com/q3gdk5u>

GIVE TODAY. FOR A BETTER US.



The 15th Annual Alpha Community Services Y Walk to End Homelessness brought the community together for a cause - to end homelessness!



The Valley Y recently refinished their gymnasium floor. You can almost hear sneakers squeak!

TOGETHER WE DO GREAT THINGS

Our 157th Annual Meeting and Volunteer Celebration was our moment to celebrate the numerous acts of service achieved by our volunteers. Their time, passion, energy and belief in a better future for everyone are truly valued and appreciated.

In 2015, **1,788 men, women and children** donated **34,535 hours** of their time to the CCC Y. Those are incredible numbers, but it is the spirit, commitment and expertise brought by our volunteers that allows us to make a powerful impact on so many lives.

Our newest Board of Directors member, **Dr. Martha Okafor** with the City of New Haven Community Services Administration, was elected. Re-elected for another term were **Lissette Andino, Leo Connors, Jr., Dr. Mario Garcia, Michael Horton, Blanca Kazmierczak, George Logan** and **Michael Morand**. **Sandra Brown, Robert Fiscus** and **Robert Lyons** were re-elected to the CCC Y Board of Trustees.

We recognized our 2015 Volunteers of the Year: **Attorneys Richard Tenenbaum** and **Matthew Dillion** plus **Diana Ferrer**, Alpha Community Services YMCA; **Paul Santos** and **Courtney Alexis Wade Holloman**, Bridgeport YMCA; **Wendy Terron** and **Joseph Hopkins**, Fairfield YMCA; **Diana** and **Greg Theriault** plus **Rebecca Anastasio**, Hamden/North Haven YMCA; **Rick Shorin** plus **Gus Aronson** and **Jeremy Ettlinger**, YMCA Camp Hi-Rock; **Oswaldo (Archie) Santos** and **Emma Maguire**, Lakewood-Trumbull YMCA; **Mary Albl** and **Tanijah Demps**, New Haven YMCA Youth Center; **Greater Bridgeport Christian Fellowship Church** and **Lisa Vinson** plus **Jadiel Torres**, Ralphola Taylor Community Center YMCA; **Christopher Young** and **Emma Velardi**, Soundview Family YMCA; **Taylor Williams** and **Michael Giannotta**, Stratford YMCA; **Jeff Gampel** and **Bryan English**, Valley YMCA; **Dustin Riedel** and **Gabriela Sanchez**, Woodruff Family YMCA.

Our inaugural **Y Champion Award** was bestowed upon **Lucas Swineford**, Fairfield Y Board Member, for his exemplary leadership in supporting our cause through personal efforts in engaging others in raising awareness, raising funds and working together to build a stronger community.

MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE WOODRUFF FAMILY Y

We are excited to share that our Capital Campaign project is complete! The Early Learning Center has expanded, now housed in a private wing of the building. Child Watch has moved to bigger and brighter room. Another Child Watch room, devoted to older children, has opened with new equipment to keep this age group active. The second floor Wellness Center includes new equipment, a weight room and group exercise space, and is being used by more members than ever. Please visit!



RENEE & RON NOREN RECEIVE 2015 H. RICHARD BREW VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Since 2005, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has honored the legacy of H. Richard Brew, a retired 35 year CCC Y volunteer. Award recipients demonstrate character, commitment and a long-term dedication to the CCC Y and the Y mission. Our **2015 H. Richard Brew Volunteer Service Award** was presented to **Renee** and **Ron Noren** of Fairfield for their long-time service and devotion to our Y.

The Noren's are truly one of the 'first families' of the Y and their commitment to community, leadership, service and generosity have enabled the CCC Y to impact the lives of thousands of kids, families and adults.

Renee has served as a volunteer leader for the Alpha Community Services Y for the past 12 years and is deeply committed to fulfilling the Y's mission by ending chronic homelessness. Her service as the Branch Board Chair, Annual Campaign Chair, and other leadership roles has inspired volunteers, staff, and the community towards making a significant impact in the lives of thousands of youth, adults and families.

For the past 13 years, Ron has served on the Y Board of Trustees, where he has provided excellent counsel and leadership in building and improving the Y's capital assets leading to an expansion of service. Ron served on the board of Camp Hi-Rock for six years and as its secretary for two of those years. Ron has also expressed his deep commitment to youth and families through his membership in the Plantain Pond Mortgage Club since 1983, and as Chair since 1996. Established in 1947 by his grandfather, Rudy Bannow, the PPMC raises funds annually to support YMCA Camp Hi-Rock.



David Stevenson, CCC Y President & CEO, Ron and Renee Noren with Robert Fiscus, Board of Trustees Chair



State Senator Tony Hwang and State Senator Ed Gomes visited the Bridgeport Y Kolbe Learning Center to read to the youth.



The Elm City Y recently elected their first Board of Managers. Serving are Carlos Candal, Peg MacMullen, Dexter Singleton, Dr. Michael Sernyak, Robert Weltzien, Paul Wessel and Dr. Steven Wolfson.