



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA

2017
ANNUAL REPORT



**ENHANCING LIVES
ENRICHING COMMUNITIES**



Ed and Brian with children in our child care program at the Kraft Family Center of the Invensys Foxboro Branch

DEAR FRIENDS,

Each year our Annual Report serves as a written history of how our Hockomock Area YMCA's cause driven mission and purpose enhances lives and enriches communities.

The following pages reflect and record meaningful accomplishments in 2017, celebrating partnerships and collaborations that fuel our passion and reinforce our reputation as a place where cause meets community every day.

We pay tribute to our four outstanding Youth of the Year. Their commitment, dedication and impact on the community makes all of us proud of their accomplishments and also grateful for how these remarkable young people inspire us.

We are also proud to present three Red Triangle Awards recognizing organizations and individuals for their partnership and support of making our communities better places to live. Our Character Counts Award recognizes outstanding efforts in the community while instilling our Y's core values.

And through the Chairman's Award we honor Tom Gruppioni for his 33 years of selfless and heartfelt service to our Y as a member of our Board of Directors.

These relationships that we salute and celebrate improve the quality of life of our members and friends as together we strive to meet emerging community needs. And how is this all measured?

It is measured in the powerful stories we hear throughout the year that speak directly to the impact our Y has through our focus on Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. It is also measured in our strongest commitment that all our programs and services are available to everyone regardless of ability to pay.

The vision of our Y is inspired by our dedicated volunteers and is delivered through the purpose and passion of our staff and the philanthropic support of those who believe in our mission.

We are proud that our Hockomock Area YMCA brings people together who support community, care about each other and believe in the hope for a better future.

Thank you for being part of our YMCA family and for your belief in the importance of enhancing lives and enriching communities.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Earley
Chairman, Board of Directors

Edwin H. Hurley
President & CEO

FRONT COVER:
Children having fun while
incorporating swimming into
a healthy lifestyle

Recognizing outstanding leadership, dedication and passion working with the Hockomock Area YMCA and enriching the quality of life in our community

Tom Gruppioni

North Attleboro reminded Tom Gruppioni of West Springfield, the town where he grew up and he says, "What makes a community a better place for kids and families is having an organization like the Y."

Tom and his wife Trish settled in North Attleboro to raise a family and start a business in 1982. He quickly became involved in civic organizations like the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. When asked in 1985 by John Pollis to serve on the Y's Board of Directors, he found a second home.

A few years later Tom was elected Board Chair during a pivotal time in our Y's history. He was quickly immersed in an executive search, a capital campaign, building projects and business operations.

Remembering back Tom cracked a wry smile, "I know I'm a CPA but I think I'm most proud of my hiring expertise." As Board Chair it was Tom Gruppioni who was instrumental in bringing Ed Hurley and Greg Meinertz to our YMCA. He maintains that the decision to hire Ed Hurley as president, "propelled our Y to unparalleled excellence and service to the communities we serve."

Tom is quick to acknowledge the incredible quality of volunteer leaders he feels privileged to have served with. Fellow board members like Garner LeStage, Brian Drought, Tom Kimbrel, John LaRocca, John Pollis and Sister Ricarda Wobby are just a few. Tom reflects, "In 33 years I never met one colleague I didn't like or feel a connection with. And that connection was in the best interests of the Y and the communities we serve." He adds, "I never saw any egos. If there were, they were checked at the door. I loved the camaraderie and good-natured pranks we pulled on one another."

Tom Gruppioni has helped create a wonderful legacy. He is equally proud that his commitment to service has been passed along to his three children, all of whom are active in the communities where they live and work. Tom's daughter Kelly is an active member of our North Attleboro Branch's Board of Managers. And when Tom and Trish see their grandchildren participate in Y programs and activities it brings a warm feeling full of pride and satisfaction.

Tom said, "The Y is a jewel, and I'm so glad John Pollis invited me to volunteer 33 years ago." He explained further, "When you serve on our Board of Directors you know two things right away. Your opinion will be heard and respected, and you'll have input and impact."

"Tom has been a mentor to me and so many others," says Brian Earley, Chairman of the Board of Directors. "Tom Gruppioni's impact on the Hockomock Area YMCA will be felt for generations."



Tom and Trish Gruppioni with their granddaughters Madelyn and Clara enjoying the Doran Family Kids Gym at the North Attleboro Branch



Tom Gruppioni (third from right) with past board chairs at the 2013 Annual Meeting

"What makes a community a better place for kids and families is having an organization like the Y."

- Tom Gruppioni

CHARACTER COUNTS AWARD

Recognizing outstanding efforts in the community, instilling the YMCA values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility

Wrentham Community Events, Inc.



The 2018 cast of "Dancing with the Wrentham Stars" including LIVESTRONG at the YMCA alumnus Mark Kitsis (far right)

The residents of Wrentham enjoy a long history of neighbors helping neighbors, undoubtedly dating back to the town's establishment in 1660. Fast forward more than 350 years and those same character values are alive and well, with Wrentham Community Events, Inc. playing a lead role in helping to make Wrentham residents' lives happier, healthier and more hopeful.

Our Hockomock Area YMCA family is honored to award Wrentham Community Events (WCE) Inc. with our Character Counts Award, recognizing the dedication to core values similar to our Y's and their constant effort to enrich the lives of their fellow citizens.

"I'm delighted with our progress over the past six years since we began," notes the organization's president Cal Harkins. "We bring together all of the elements of our diverse community to help others in need."

Through its popular Dancing with the Wrentham Stars event, the organization has raised just shy of \$500,000 since it started, providing critical funding that stays local and directly impacts the community. Our YMCA has twice been a

"I'm delighted with our progress over the past six years since we began. We bring together all of the elements of our diverse community to help others in need."

- Cal Harkins

beneficiary providing funding for cancer survivors to participate in our LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program and Y wellness offerings for seniors.

"A great example of our values in action is found in an organization we are very proud of supporting—the Friends of Wrentham—a local residential organization serving the developmentally disabled," Cal notes.

Their strong support of this organization is emblematic of Wrentham Community Events' premier value: inclusivity. "Regardless of age, economics or ability, you are part of our community, and eligible for our help. We are inclusive and we are proud of it."

Entering their seventh year, this 100% volunteer driven organization helps those in need. An even brighter future lies ahead. To hear Cal put it, they will be around for many years to come. "We like to say around WCE that we continue to plant the seeds and our partner organizations, volunteers and stars make them grow!"

YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Recognizing youth members of the Hockomock Area YMCA who, as a result of their commitment and dedication, make a positive impact on our YMCA and the community



Daniel Schratz Mansfield Arts & Education Center



Our Mansfield Arts & Education Center's Youth of the Year Daniel Schratz is a shining example of how engagement through the YMCA has greatly impacted his young life. His journey started at age six while learning to swim and attending summer camp.

At the urging of his mom, Dan auditioned for his first Hockomock Area YMCA show, somewhat reluctantly, as a shy, introverted 3rd grader. He made it to his second show, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." And under the tutelage of Theatre Director Heather Utsler-Smith, Dan became enthused and consumed by the positive energy of the program. By 6th grade he was performing in every show he could.

On the incredible influence Heather has had on his life, Dan says, "I don't think I'd be the same person I am today, with the ability to speak to adults, manage my own schedule and be so responsible for my own actions without Heather's influence."

"Everything that the theatre program does is really a microcosm of the Y's mission," Dan shares.

He continues, "Youth Development—I went from an awkward, uncomfortable 7-year-old, to a mature, responsible young adult. Healthy Living—I have healthy relationships with others, developed empathy to those around me, not to mention the physical aspects of theatre, not as dissimilar to sports as one might think. And because of my involvement in the Y, I make better decisions. Social Responsibility—you're expected to help those younger than you when they're struggling. Now, as a staff member I'm helping to nurture and cultivate the same qualities I learned as a young participant in this program."

"Without this program, I don't believe I would be nearly the same mature, responsible young adult I am today, nor would I have discovered the passion I have for teaching younger children."

Dan has evolved from a talented performer to a summer intern at theatre camp and is currently a staff member co-directing 7-14 year olds in a current production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." Dan says with a big smile, "I've come full circle."

Alexandra Fontes Invensys Foxboro Branch



Alexandra Fontes remembers feeling welcome walking through the doors of the YMCA as a preschooler taking dance and gymnastics. Recalling her grade school years, Ally has fond memories of working out alongside her parents and older brothers at the Y.

Over the years, Ally began volunteering at the Invensys Foxboro Branch. As a fifteen-year-old, Ally has volunteered 110 hours at the Foxboro Y. Ally beams, "I love volunteering at the Member Service Desk. I've always been greeted with a smile and felt welcomed so now it's my turn to welcome others."

Ally's involvement has spread into other areas of the Y including enrichment programming and summer camp. "We've built volcanoes and completed science experiments. I love working with kids and learning with them. Through the Y, I have met lots of people and made great friendships."

Reflecting on her volunteer experiences, Ally has gained skills she plans to apply in the future. "Every volunteer opportunity I've been given, I've learned something, whether it's how to interact with people through watching other Y staff or learning what I'm capable of."

Ally says patience and helping others is what she has learned most at the Y. "I have a new perspective on life and how I treat others. The Y helps people, whether it's a warm smile for members when they walk into the Y, a lunch for a child in need at summer camp or a membership for a family who can't afford it. The Y makes it happen."

Ally's future is bright. Sharing that hard work gets you to where you need to be, "If you work hard enough, you will persevere." Ally would like to become a psychiatrist someday. "Recently I've decided I may want to go to medical school. The skills I've learned at the Y and the notion of not giving up is what has brought me there. I didn't think I'd like to be in school for so long but I know I can do it and I have the confidence. The Y has helped me believe in myself."

Cristielly Prado Bernon Family Branch



"I want this place filled." This is the goal of Milford High School junior Cristielly Prado, whose Y story centers on volunteerism at the Milford Summer Lunch Program.

Cristy has volunteered two summers running weekday activities at Memorial Elementary School, the busiest of three community sites—serving free lunch—established by our Y's partnership with the Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition.

"The thing I love about the Y is everyone is welcome. It doesn't matter your skin color, language, religion or background." Most rewarding is using her native Portuguese to communicate with

and support families during the program. She supervises the popular Friday Dance Party and plans other activities based on feedback ensuring success. Kids do not have to speak the same language to engage with one another. Cristi said, "People were coming for the food but I see the difference. They wanted to be there."

"My involvement with the Y has been a life changing experience," says Cristi, who was a good student, but involved only in the classroom in ninth grade. "The Y made me grow as a person. I became a leader and if you ask, people will say I talk to everyone." Now Cristi is involved in numerous activities.

She is a three season athlete, student council representative, Best Buddies partner, contributor to the school literary publication, and Science Olympiad team competitor. A strong role model for peers, Cristi volunteers in Milford High's peer mentoring, peer mediation, and CARE clubs, as well as at her church. Additionally, she is an executive board member of Milford's Academic Decathlon and placed sixth in Massachusetts for a competitive interview in which she shared the impact of the YMCA. She urges others to get involved to strengthen community. "You will not do it to log service hours; you will do it to help people."

Cristy plans to pursue a college degree in a service area such as human resources or social work. She hopes to come home summers to be part of the evolution of the Y's summer lunch program.

Abbigale Brogan North Attleboro Branch



"YMCA camp was what really got me," recalls North Attleboro High School senior Abbigale Brogan who began attending Camp Elmwood in third grade. Abbie enjoyed summers outdoors, making friendships and being active. It was only natural that when Abbie could be a Camp Leader-in-Training that she jumped at the chance. "I love playing a role in helping children enjoy summer camp, like I did as a kid. My mom reminds me that the Y helped me come out of my shell," notes Abbie. She continued as a Counselor-in-Training.

A newfound confidence developed for Abbie in ninth grade when she

became involved with the Y's Leaders Club. Her friend Katelyn encouraged her to join. Abbie was shy at first and didn't talk to many people. "But then we started to do values activities and it hit me that I could be myself and be accepted for who I am. And at the same time people relate to each other and we all can find something in common."

Abbie has been involved with more than 80 service projects through the YMCA Leaders Club. One particular opportunity was volunteering at a food pantry in Mansfield. "We stocked food on the shelves and put together bundles of food to be sent out. This experience really affected me because I wanted to keep helping. We can all help others who need us in our community."

Looking back on the past four years, Abbie says Leaders changed her life. "I am a much more outgoing person. The Y has really encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone and get involved. The people I've met at the Y and the friendships I made are always going to be there for me and will help me be successful."

After graduation, Abbie will attend Westfield State University to pursue her dream of working with children, majoring in Elementary Education. "I'll always continue to help and respect others. This has been instilled in me through the Y. I'm so proud of the people who have helped me and have had a positive effect on me."

NORTH ATTLEBORO BRANCH RED TRIANGLE AWARD

Recognizing individuals for their partnership and support of the programs and activities of our Y, meeting the changing needs of our community

The Lunter Family

Our Y's cause comes to life when others are drawn to our purpose and become part of a collective response to meeting important needs in our communities. The Lunter Family has been part of the fabric of our Y for many years and are steadfast supporters of our mission.

"The Y is a passion for us because of all the good it does," says Pam. John and Pam Lunter have lived in North Attleboro most of their adult lives and raised their four sons Evan, Christopher, Todd and Alexander there. "The Y is purpose-filled and seeks to serve the community in meaningful ways. It's a huge asset for our area," adds John.

In 2012, through the support of the Lunter Family, an iPad Technology initiative was launched and revolutionized our approach to teaching in all of our Y's Child Care programs. The new technology has sparked children's interest in learning in an exciting, interactive way, while strengthening communication between teachers and parents. The program has evolved into the STEM initiative throughout our youth development programs. "We should be consistently trying to evolve the technology and make it available to all children at the Y. The educational component is a big part of what people are looking for and what helps a child develop," says Pam proudly.

In 2015, another emerging need—the Living Stronger program—was identified and funded by the Lunter Family on behalf of LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program alumni and Pam's parents Elaine and the late Walter Jaworski. To date 882 alumni have the opportunity to participate in this program.

"Living Stronger bridges the gap for cancer survivors after they complete the 12 week LIVESTRONG program. It keeps them connected to the same people they were initially connected to and staying healthy. A void was filled and we're elated that it's making the impact we had hoped it would make," notes Pam.

The Lunters say they are most proud of the people who facilitate and participate in these programs and that they are proud of their partnership with the Y. "I would tell anyone and everyone that if you see a need, the Y is the place that can implement it. We have to keep thinking about what we need to do to support the current generation," encourages Pam.

"If people want to do good, the Y is a great partner. We're amazed when we see the energy, the ideas and the emotional connections that bring these programs to life and bring value to our community," explains John.

The Hockomock Area YMCA is proud and honored to present the North Attleboro Branch Red Triangle Award to the Lunter Family.



The Lunter Family at our 2015 LIVESTRONG event



A LIVESTRONG at the YMCA class



The iPad initiative creates interactive learning



John and Pam Lunter enjoy time with students during an iPad session

"If people want to do good, the Y is a great partner. We're amazed when we see the energy, the ideas and the emotional connections that bring these programs to life and bring value to our community."

- John Lunter

BERNON FAMILY BRANCH RED TRIANGLE AWARD

Recognizing individuals for their partnership and support of the programs and activities of our Y, meeting the changing needs of our community



New England Chapel leaders: (standing) Cliff Winters, Mike Laird, (seated) Heather Kempksie, Deana Garthier, and Regina Riel

“The Y is the perfect partnership to help us meet a certain level of community need. Both organizations try to bring out the best in the community and endear themselves so that if either one of us were missing, the community would absolutely miss us.”

– Mike Laird

New England Chapel

Something magical occurs when cause driven missions collide: Collaboration is embraced and humanity is served.

The relationship between New England Chapel (NEC) and the Hockomock Area YMCA is a shining example of what two organizations, inspired by mission and purpose, can accomplish when they come together to enhance lives and enrich communities.

Mike Laird, Senior Pastor at NEC explains, “The Y is the perfect partnership to help us meet a certain level of community need. Both organizations try to bring out the best in the community and endear themselves so that if either one of us were missing, the community would absolutely miss us.”

For many years New England Chapel has connected families in need, or struggling with sudden life crisis, to the Y’s Reach Out for Youth and Families Campaign. Heather Kempksie was a featured speaker at our recent Reach Out For Youth and Families Breakfast, inspiring more than 750 attendees with her passionate portrayal of the space between “scary and unexpected, and hope and blessing.” Heather explained that all of us at some time in our lives spend time in that space and organizations like the Y and NEC assist people on their journey back to hope and blessing.

Dena Gauthier, Restoration Liaison at NEC, cites the Milford Summer Lunch Program and the Bellingham Community Garden as collaborative programs organized by the Y as, “Great examples of programs that give the NEC community an opportunity for kids and families to serve together as part of our outreach ministry.” Every year NEC mobilizes a church-wide “Serve Day” and last year had more than 200 volunteers actively participate in nine community projects.

Heather, Director of Family Ministries, adds, “Every spring our youth—preschool through high school—take something small, like change, to make a big difference. We call it ‘Change for Change.’ They collect all the spare change they can find and pour it into a bottle each week. Believe it or not it adds up. This year the proceeds from this kid-driven initiative will go to the Y’s Reach Out For Youth and Families Campaign.”

This year New England Chapel celebrates its 20th anniversary. What started as a community of eight people has grown and blossomed with more than 1,500 attending Easter Sunday services.

Laird notes, “As organizational leaders, service and generosity of life are key values for us and the Y provides a vehicle and an opportunity to live that out.”

The Hockomock Area YMCA is proud and honored to present the Bernon Family Branch Red Triangle Award to New England Chapel.

INVENSYS FOXBORO RED TRIANGLE AWARD

Recognizing individuals for their partnership and support of the programs and activities of our Y, meeting the changing needs of our community

Foxborough Regional Charter School

The Hockomock Area YMCA presents the Foxborough Regional Charter School with our Invensys Foxboro Branch Red Triangle Award, recognizing their impact on our broader community as they continue to provide a global cultural perspective to their students through its rigorous academics, service and leadership.

The relationship between the school and the Invensys Foxboro Branch is a strong one. Dr. Mark Logan, the school's Executive Director, serves as a member of the Foxboro Y's Board of Managers and is a strong community advocate and mentor for our branch leaders. His students are active in our innovative Adventures in Respect bullying prevention program, after-school cooking classes, and have played soccer, softball and baseball games at our branch.

Conversely, Mark has welcomed our Y to campus to participate in their annual student career day and hosted our STEM programs, as well as opened classrooms and the gymnasium during rainy days each summer when Y camp kids need indoor space. The school's faculty and staff also participate in our Y's outreach fitness programs such as yoga and fitness bootcamp.

The Foxborough Regional Charter School provides enriching experiences that go well beyond the classroom walls. By partnering with community organizations and businesses, they engage students in powerful, real-life learning opportunities they may not otherwise receive. Mark adds, "We are community focused just like the Y, and through our support of the whole child, we end up making our community stronger and more resilient and tolerant."

"The essence of our school is the essence of success, like our partners at the Hockomock Area YMCA. We grapple with the issues and bring solutions to the table to create a better world."

We are proud and honored to present the Foxborough Regional Charter School with this award for being a valuable community partner who shares our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. This synergy allows us to work together to grapple with the issues and forge solutions to our community challenges.



Mark Logan (center) with students of the Foxborough Regional Charter School

"The essence of our school is the essence of success, like our partners at the Hockomock Area YMCA."

- Dr. Mark Logan

2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	2017	2016
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Public Support		
Capital Campaign	(\$15,381)	(\$680)
Annual Support Campaign	666,555	669,999
Contributions	291,635	384,789
United Way	26,000	29,000
Special Events	363,211	338,935
Revenue		
Program Fees	9,959,943	9,548,372
Membership Dues	8,055,690	7,621,251
Investment Income	52,217	47,551
Net Investment Gain (Loss)	704,416	214,496
Loss on Interest Rate Protection		(108,749)
Other Income	59,113	164,788
Total Public Support and Revenue	20,163,399	18,909,752
EXPENSES		
Programs Expenses	15,323,137	14,760,014
Support Services	2,414,970	2,267,199
Depreciation and Amortization	1,571,013	1,446,042
Fund Raising Expenses	341,973	394,342
Total Expenses	19,651,093	18,867,597
Change in Net Assets	\$512,306	\$42,155

2017 SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAM SUBSIDIES



PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS
\$103,280

MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS
\$310,401

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS
\$454,417

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS
\$173,409

PROGRAM SUBSIDIES
\$975,811

In 2017, the Hockomock Area YMCA provided \$2,017,318 in scholarships and program subsidies. Program subsidies include our **LIVESTRONG** at the YMCA, our YMCA's Diabetes Prevention program, and our Teen Centers and leadership development programs.



HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA



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Bernon Family Branch

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Invensys Foxboro Branch

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Foxboro, MA 02035
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North Attleboro Branch

300 Elmwood Street
North Attleboro, MA 02760
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Mansfield Arts and Education Center

40 Balcom Street
Mansfield, MA 02048
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OUR MISSION

The Hockomock Area YMCA enhances the quality of life of our members and enriches the communities we serve through partnership and collaboration. Our focus is on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility providing programs and services to all regardless of ability to pay.