DEAR FRIENDS,

The Hockomock Area YMCA is a place where People and Partnerships Matter.

We are proud that our YMCA is a welcoming place where community comes together to inspire purpose and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Our 2019 Annual Report gives us an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of inspirational organizations, individuals, families and young people for impacting lives and strengthening communities. This work – focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility – is the heart of our mission and vision, moving our communities forward.

It is through our relationships with committed community partners, dedicated volunteers and passionate staff that our cause-driven organization is improving lives and creating lasting impact. And a special thanks to our loyal members...your support helps to sustain the powerful work of our YMCA.

In the pages that follow, we honor and celebrate relationships and partnerships that advance our mission work. Together, we commit to continue to meet the emerging needs in the fifteen communities we are privileged to serve.

While this Annual Report celebrates our impact in 2019, the New Year brought unprecedented challenges and we are proud of our Y’s response to the pandemic, made possible by the support of so many as highlighted on pages 14 & 15.

Thank you for joining us in our important work. We are proud to be a place where people and partnerships matter.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Clermont
Chair, Board of Directors

Edwin H. Hurley
President & CEO

Mary and Ed at our 2019 LIVESTRONG at the YMCA Celebration, raising critical funds for our YMCA’s programming for cancer survivors and their families.
In 2010, the Hockomock Area YMCA introduced a strategic and public commitment to protect kids at the Y and in the local community from child sexual abuse.

What began as an internally-focused program to better protect all children entrusted to our care, soon expanded to include community collaborators. Our YMCA found an eager partner in the Town of Foxborough, willing to do its part to progressively address this vital need.

Then Superintendent of Schools Deb Spinelli immediately embraced this new initiative in 2010 and worked with the Y to create innovative approaches within the school department including a requirement that all school personnel would be required to complete Darkness to Light’s Stewards of Children child protection training. This commitment to protect kids has been continued by current Superintendent of Schools Amy Berdos.

Tony Calcia, our Y’s Vice President for Child Protection and Social Responsibility, led the training of school personnel and continued to be a resource for the Town of Foxborough as they expanded their community wide efforts and laid the groundwork for this powerful program to become part of the fabric of the town. Sadly, Tony passed away unexpectedly in March of 2020, but his legacy and passion will continue to be a guiding force for our YMCA for generations to come.

Bob Correia, Chairman of the Foxborough Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Committee, expressed his pride that there is now a town bylaw – championed by former Selectman Jim DeVellis – mandating that all town employees be trained in child sexual abuse education and prevention. Bob noted, “It’s important to keep this issue front and center and all Foxborough town employees know that it’s a requirement for them to spread awareness through this required training.”

Bill Dudley, a member of the Foxborough Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Committee, reflected on these successes, noting that, “Having the YMCA behind this effort gave it immediate legitimacy in the community, creating a heightened level of awareness, observation and action. And Tony’s passion for the well-being and protection of kids was contagious.”

Foxborough Town Manager Bill Keegan shared the importance of the town continuing to act in proactive ways to educate the entire community on how to better protect children. “People are often hesitant to talk about the subject of child sexual abuse. It is our responsibility to recognize signs of child sexual abuse and to respond appropriately,” said Bill. “The safety of children in Foxborough and beyond is first and foremost, and receiving this award named for Tony Calcia is one of the most significant recognitions our town could receive.”

In recognition of Tony Calcia’s leadership in convening local communities to protect kids from child sexual abuse, the Hockomock Area YMCA is honored to present the first Tony Calcia Child Protection Award to the Town of Foxborough.

The Hockomock Area YMCA is honored to celebrate Tony Calcia’s legacy of protecting kids.
CHAIR’S AWARD

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

Bristol County Savings Bank

Bristol County Savings Bank is a valued community partner of the Hockomock Area YMCA and many other organizations in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Pat Murray, Bank President and CEO states, “As a mutual community bank, we believe that the neighborhoods we serve are our stakeholders. This allows us to place a premium on being actively involved in the community. In fact, our mission is to support the communities by making them a better place to live and work. Through our community partnerships and volunteer activities, combined with our investments in charitable organizations, we do our best to carry out that pursuit every day. And we’re so proud of our long-standing partnership with the Hockomock Area YMCA.”

Through their support of Y initiatives including the Reach Out For Youth & Families Campaign, Adventures in Respect middle school bullying prevention program, the Integration Initiative for young people with special needs, and teen programming, Bristol County Savings Bank and the Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation continue to step up to help those in need in the fifteen communities our YMCA serves.

Michele Roberts, EVP - Chief Marketing and Community Relations Officer, explains, “We feel that education takes many forms and can significantly shape, positively change or impact a person’s future. More than ever, we need to foster environments that provide equity, inclusion and tolerance and the work that the Hockomock Y is doing in relation to the Integration Initiative and Adventures in Respect is specifically focused on these values.”

With missions that naturally align towards a shared goal, the Y and the Bank have worked together to leave an indelible mark on the communities in which they have set roots. Michele continues, “As a community bank, we feel it is critically important that we understand the needs of our communities and are actively involved in supporting those needs. We have found the best way to do that is to align ourselves with strong community partners that share the same values and have a proven track record of making a real difference in our communities. The Hockomock Area YMCA has become a key partner that we trust and one that consistently delivers on their mission to strengthen the foundations of our community.”

The Hockomock Area YMCA is honored to present the Chair’s Award to Bristol County Savings Bank.

“The YMCA has become a key partner that we trust and one who consistently delivers on their mission to strengthen the foundations of our community.”

- Michele Roberts, Bristol County Savings Bank Executive Vice President

Bristol County Savings Bank has supported the YMCA’s Integration Initiative at our Legends Ball.

Integration Initiative participants welcome our 2019 Legends Ball Honoree Kyle Van Noy to Legends Ball.
Rodman Ride for Kids

Celebrating its 30th year in 2020, this beloved community event has been a source of hope, support and partnership to local youth-serving charitable organizations, and our Y is honored to be one of them.

Founded by Don Rodman, local philanthropist and passionate supporter of the Hockomock Area YMCA, the Rodman Ride for Kids’ mission is to ensure that all children have every opportunity to grow and succeed. Sadly, Don passed away in the summer of 2019, but the Rodman Ride for Kids continues with an enhanced motivation to honor his powerful legacy.

Amy Rossman, Executive Director of Rodman for Kids, adds, “Don Rodman had an unshakeable belief that every child deserved a chance to grow to his or her full potential. The Hockomock Area YMCA has a shared commitment to nurturing the potential of all kids. The Y’s work strongly aligns with our core beliefs, and supporting the Hockomock Area YMCA was a natural fit for Don and continues to be for Rodman for Kids.”

With a common passion rooted in enhancing the life of local youth, the partnership between the Rodman Ride for Kids and the Hockomock Area YMCA has helped to change thousands of lives for local kids at-risk served by our Y. Rodman for Kids President, Joe D’Arrigo, states, “Don built his business in Foxboro and surrounding communities. The Hockomock Y represents those same towns. The Y nurtures the promise and purpose that lies in all of us, but especially our children. With a brand built upon the notion that all kids deserve equitable opportunities to dream, succeed and thrive, aligning with the Hockomock Y is a no-brainer for Rodman for Kids.”

Amy continues, “We are proud of the longevity of our partnership, with the Hockomock Area YMCA being a Ride for Kids Affiliated Charity for nearly a decade now. Every year, we grow together. Don Rodman’s vision has become his legacy, and we will continue to partner, grow and help more kids for many years to come.”

“Don Rodman was a great friend to me and to our YMCA,” reflects Ed Hurley, President of the Hockomock Area YMCA. “Renaming our Character Counts Award is a fitting celebration honoring Don’s legacy and impact.”

All of us at the Hockomock Area YMCA are honored to present The Rodman Ride for Kids with our Character Counts Award proudly named in honor of Don Rodman.

“Don Rodman’s vision has become his legacy, and we will continue to partner, grow and help more kids for many years to come.”

– Amy Rossman, Rodman for Kids Executive Director
State Representative
Elizabeth “Betty” Poirier

A long-time partner of the Hockomock Area YMCA, a respected leader in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and champion of several local charitable endeavors, Betty’s life and legacy epitomizes service before self.

North Attleboro has been home to Kevin and Betty Poirier for more than half a century. Like so many others, when they had children, they first turned to the Hockomock Area YMCA for a safe and fun place for their children – the first step in a lifelong partnership for this dedicated couple and our Y.

After learning more about the Y’s mission and breadth of services, they were quick to become active volunteers and passionate advocates. When asked why Betty chose to get involved with her hometown YMCA, she replied, “The Hockomock Y does so much for so many in difficult situations. They help people who can’t help themselves. I’m grateful that my Y is there and that they always care.”

But that’s just one example of Betty’s impactful contributions to her beloved town of North Attleboro. Whenever she learned of a need, she designed a solution, and was easily able to engage others to help. Whether it was Lenore’s Food Pantry needing donations of food, local children needing backpacks, kids needing a pool to escape from the summer heat, or families needing help during the holidays – Betty made it happen. Father David Costa explained that, “Whenever I called her in my 24 years assigned to North Attleboro, she responded quickly and generously. Betty got things done. She NEVER said ‘no.’”

Another of Betty’s greatest gifts is the ability to bring people and organizations, like our Y, together for the common good. North Attleboro Park and Recreation Director, Steve Carvalho, states, “She is always bringing community leaders and residents together to make things better. She can always find someone who can and will be able to help those in need.”

“When asked what drives her to do so much for so many, Betty explains, “It’s my town, and I feel very much a part of this community. I’ve been lucky enough to have a platform to bring the needs to other people and I think generally speaking most human beings are caring and kind and if they are in a position to help those who are less fortunate, they are happy to do it, and if you give them the opportunity to do so, they will. I’m happy to use my voice to help.”

And our community, our YMCA, and future generations will continue to benefit from that powerful voice. For all the lives this remarkable woman and public servant has impacted, we proudly present the North Attleboro Red Triangle to Elizabeth “Betty” Poirier.

“I’m grateful that my Y is there and that they always care.”
– Betty Poirier
Developing and supporting learners who are prepared to think critically and creatively, problem solve, and be flexible and adaptive in the face of a rapidly changing world is a challenging goal for any school district. Milford Public Schools, serving more than 4,000 students, meets that challenge every day.

Superintendent Dr. Kevin McIntyre states, “We serve kids who are really motivated to learn and my colleagues do that with professionalism and compassion for the ever-changing social landscape, including rising poverty rates, as an example. When a kid is hungry, it’s hard to focus on calculus and chemistry.”

“That’s why our relationship with the Y is so positive and impactful, because our missions are very well aligned with goals that overlap and keep our kids at the center of our focus,” adds Kevin.

Since the summer of 2016, our YMCA has partnered with Milford Public Schools’ Nutrition Services Team and the Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition providing summer meals to students. In 2019, almost 14,000 meals were served, bringing the total meals to 44,205 since the beginning of this important partnership.

McIntyre continues, “We serve a diverse community, which we celebrate every day. But that means that we need a diverse set of programs as well and that’s where our Y relationship has helped a lot. Not only through our summer food program, but also through the Y’s annual backpack drive, STEM workshops, child care, and our athletic leadership summit. The Y is always there for us.”

Addressing new and emerging community needs in your own backyard is never easy. But when innovative, strategic thinkers and doers join forces to invite active collaboration, things change for the better.

McIntyre looks forward to the continued partnership with our YMCA, “I’m excited about what the future holds for kids growing up in Milford, and I’m really excited about what’s next with our Y partnership.”

The Hockomock Area YMCA is proud to present Milford Public Schools with the Bernon Family Branch Red Triangle Award.

“Our missions are very well aligned with goals that overlap and keep our kids at the center of our focus.”

– Dr. Kevin McIntyre, Milford Public Schools Superintendent
West Side Benevolent Circle

Our Y’s mission comes to life when we enrich lives through the support and passion of individuals and organizations with a shared commitment to strengthening communities.

West Side Benevolent Circle, a mainstay in the town of Mansfield since 1890, is a go-to organization for Mansfield families who need support in the areas of food security, clothing and other essential needs.

West Side, as many people refer to the non-profit, was started by a group of women from the west side of Mansfield who saw needs in the community and wanted to create solutions.

“Our motto was 130 years ago - and is still now - ‘neighbors helping neighbors,’” says the Circle’s President Dawn Saba. “The group was started before there were state and federal programs that provided assistance.” In the early days, this compassionate group of neighbors were behind initiatives to support Mansfield students including milk at lunch and eye exams in the public schools as well as the funding of school nurse positions.

“We’re proud to be addressing the emerging needs of our communities,” says Dawn. Most recently during the pandemic, West Side launched a summer meal program which provided over 5,500 meals and $30,000 in grocery gift cards for families. During the school year, West Side organizes a backpack food program which provides meals to students over school weekends. West Side also leads an annual holiday gift program, assisting and bringing holiday joy to over 350 Mansfield children.

Our Y and West Side have collaborated on several projects including food access initiatives, backpack drives and the holiday giving program. “I’m so proud of the way our organizations work together to do good and help people,” says Dawn. Every year, West Side identifies children in need and partners with our Y to provide summer camp scholarships and Y memberships. “To be able to give youth the opportunity to have the Y in their lives – especially kids who may need direction and a happy, safe and loving place – it is truly life changing,” says Dawn with emotion.

“West Side Benevolent Circle and the Hockomock Area YMCA give so much,” adds Dawn. “The impact of our work together has been amazing and extensive. We’re grateful to partner, to have an impact and to witness how our partnership helps others.”

The Hockomock Area YMCA is proud to recognize West Side Benevolent Circle with the Red Triangle Award.
2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2019 SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAM SUBSIDIES

In 2019, the Hockomock Area YMCA provided $2,124,800 in scholarships and program subsidies. Program subsidies include LIVESTRONG at the YMCA, teen centers and our teen leadership development programs.

The above financial statement is an excerpt from the 2019 Audited Financial Statements that was audited by Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd., dated January 31, 2020.
Sandy Whitaker recollects taking Mommy and Me classes and many other YMCA programs, following in her sister’s footsteps. “My sister was always at the Y, and so I was too. I love the Y, the environment. No matter what kind of day I was having, someone would always greet me and be willing to help,” recalls Sandy.

In fifth grade Sandy began competitive gymnastics, and at 13, became a Counselor-in-Training in our summer camp program at the North Attleboro Branch. She moved up the ranks to cadet, counselor, and then lead counselor.

An integral member of the Y’s competitive gymnastics team and department staff, Sandy thrives on helping others. “My favorite part of teaching is making a connection with kids, when they listen and understand, and then accomplish the skill,” beams Sandy. “I see their excitement, and it’s all because we had a connection.”

A recent graduate of Mansfield High and captain of her high school gymnastics team, Sandy’s relationship with the Y deepened through her work. “I remember my mom taking photos of me at each event during gymnastics shows when I was little, and now I’m teaching kids at those same events,” states Sandy. “I am reminded of where I started and how much I’ve grown, and now I can give that same experience to others.”

While a counselor, one of her campers lost his dad, and his mom was struggling. The Y awarded a scholarship. Sandy saw the impact this had on him and knew she wanted to help. To create awareness and raise money, she started Sandy’s Scrunchies. Sandy requested donations of old t-shirts, purchased elastic and thread, sewed and then sold dozens of hair scrunchies. “The kids would get excited to visit the camp office and buy them. We raised over $100 for the Y’s annual Reach Out for Youth & Families Campaign and for kids who need the Y in their lives, like my camper,” says Sandy. More importantly, Sandy was a role model on how to help others.

“My experiences here have been challenging, rewarding and insightful. The Y has helped mold me as I grow into an adult, by learning problem solving skills and building important relationships.” Sandy will attend Johnson and Wales University this fall. Sandy’s future is bright. “The Y will always play a significant role in my life,” declares Sandy.
Jake Purinton
Bernon Family Branch

Jake Purinton has excelled working with youth, adults and kids with special needs who are learning life skills through Aquatics programming at our YMCA. He has grown into a leader on the pool deck at our Bernon Family Branch.

As a boy, Jake enjoyed YMCA soccer and swim lessons with his triplet brother and sister. Jake’s brother participates in inclusive programming at the Y and his sister works with him in Aquatics. Jake is grateful for two summers of volunteering, where he learned the ropes before joining our staff with a purpose that is exemplary.

“I like helping kids. We do so in so many ways. It’s like nothing else when you walk into the Y!” declares Jake. His favorite experience is any time a child masters a skill they’ve been struggling to achieve.

A team player who is always active and involved, Jake is one of our Y’s most popular swim instructors, connecting easily with swimmers and requested by parents who want their children to continue to learn from this high energy young man.

Jake’s attitude is infectious. “If you’re confident in the water, you can be more confident in life,” says Jake. To him, swimming is a game changer. “It gives kids more confidence. It’s also just a great way to make friends.”

Additionally, Jake has a skill for pushing people of all ages and abilities toward the swim curriculum benchmarks and each person’s goals. Parents of children with special needs are particularly drawn to Jake because of his attentiveness and his consistent follow up.

Jake works to establish connections and trust. “It’s hard to swim when you’re tense,” he says. When kids in the hallway shout “Mr. Jake! Mr. Jake!” it signals to him their comfort.

Jake estimates that he has taught upwards of 300 swimmers in our community at our YMCA. And he says his memories of the Hockomock Area YMCA, “will always be of home, openness, acceptance, friendship and togetherness.”

Jake, a senior at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, enjoys competitive rock climbing and participating in Youth Congress. He is a National Honor Society student with plans to pursue a doctorate in Biochemistry, with a focus on genetics. Reinforced by his work at our YMCA, Jake will always have a passion for helping kids with special needs.

Emily Saba
Invensys Foxboro Branch

When you meet Emily Saba, you are greeted with a warm smile and a young woman filled with compassion and energy. A Mansfield resident, Emily recollects her earliest memories as a four year old doing ballet, basketball, camp, cooking and swimming at the Foxboro Y. Emily remembers looking up to each person who wore a Y staff shirt. “I just love the Y. I’ve always wanted to work there. To wear a Y staff shirt now, it means the world to me and comes with great responsibility,” exclaims Emily.

For 14 years, camp has been an annual summer ritual. She has been a camper, Leader-in-Training, Counselor-in-Training and Cadet. The past three summers, Emily has worn a staff shirt signifying ‘Role Model.’ When thinking about the skills she’s developed, Emily explains, “I strive to remember everyone’s name. If I see a child who might be sad or scared at camp, I do everything I can to energize and lift their spirits. It turns their day – and my day – around!”

Emily can be seen spreading joy and love to those around her. “The Y has made me confident and comfortable in who I am and who I want to become,” says Emily. “I’m not afraid to reach out to people and make a difference.”

Building community is important to Emily. Holding the position of president for both our Y’s Teen Leaders Clubs, Emily says about her experiences leading through Club meetings, community service projects and collaborating with the Integration Initiative, “I’m empowered to serve and help others.”

Through the Y, Emily has also met her best friends. “I’ve built friendships because the Y is a safe place. Kids can be real with each other here and true bonds are formed.”

“As a kid I wanted to be a scientist,” recalls Emily. “That all changed when I started working at the Y. My Y experience has been unforgettable and life-changing. My passion is working with kids. I want to continue to make a difference in the lives of children.”

Emily will attend Bridgewater State University in the fall, majoring in Elementary Education.
YEAR IN REVIEW

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA participants enjoying fellowship and support.

Athletes compete at the Spier Family Triathlon at Lake Pearl.

CVS Health receives the Chair’s Award for its leadership and dedication to enriching the quality of life in our community.

Our theater program performs Beauty & the Beast.

Kids and families experiencing Healthy Kids Day at Patriot Place.

Legends and our Unified Golf Team at the Legends Golf Classic at TPC Boston.

Kids learn to swim, have fun and be safe around water.

Volunteers are recognized at the 2019 LIVESTRONG at the YMCA celebration event.

Campers make friends and gain confidence at Y summer camp.

Kyle Van Noy our 2019 Legends Ball honoree at Legends Ball at Lake Pearl.
WHERE PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS MATTER

- Youth enjoying the Rockland Trust Family Splash Park at our Bernon Family Branch.
- Youth and teens volunteer at our Milford Summer Food Service program.
- 1,255 individuals were employed by our YMCA in 2019, more than half were 18 or younger.
- 4,373 campers enjoyed their best summer ever.
- Weigh to Change participants at our Spier Family Triathlon.
- Kids learn team work in our Youth Basketball League.
- Youth gain confidence in our gymnastics programs.
- 3,750 students participated in our Adventures in Respect bullying prevention program from 13 communities.
- 826 children were nurtured in our licensed child care programs.
- Community partners support our powerful innovative Integration Initiative at our 14th annual Legends Ball.

Our Integration Initiative participants show their support at our Annual Campaign Breakfast at Gillette Stadium.
Our commitment to serving our community is stronger than ever. We are supporting children, families and communities in real time and in real crisis. In March 2020 when we had to close our doors, we were committed to meeting new and ever emerging community needs and address the challenges people were facing. We strive to be there – for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds – and come together to support our neighbors in need and rekindle our hope.

OUR YMCA’S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

At the Hockomock Area YMCA, we are proud of the vital mission work we are providing to our members and our community during this challenging period.

EMERGENCY GRAB & GO MEALS

In partnership and collaboration with school nutrition and other community partners, we provided weekday grab and go meals as schools closed in March in the communities of Bellingham, Milford, North Attleboro and Wrentham.

We have provided more than 175,000 grab and go meals through the end of summer.

Critical community services like those addressing food insecurity will continue to play an important role in our Y’s safety net of programs for our neighbors and friends.

GROCERY BAG DISTRIBUTION

Beginning in mid March, staff and volunteers began assembling grocery bags – valued at $50 each – for distribution at our Y branches in Foxboro, Franklin and North Attleboro. Over time, other essential items including diapers, personal hygiene products and books were donated as part of the distribution. Donations came in the form of food deliveries to our YMCA branches by caring members, donors and community partners eager to provide support for neighbors in need.

We have provided more than 19,000 bags of food to neighbors in need through Labor Day.

BACKPACK DRIVE

Despite current challenges, one thing remains the same – having access to the proper supplies is an integral part of a student’s success. As many families face financial hardship as a result of the pandemic, we strive to ensure that kids have the tools they need to start this school year off right.

Through our recently completed 5th annual backpack drive, we provided school supplies and backpacks for 2,500 children in our fifteen area communities.
OUR YMCA’S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Our Y’s impact was made possible through the generosity of our compassionate donors, members, business and community partners, staff and volunteers working together to enhance lives and enrich our community.

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

In March, we began providing emergency child care, as approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at our branches in Foxboro and Franklin for first responders, medical personnel and other essential personnel.

We provided quality and safe child care to over 80 children per day through June. Our child care staff provided compassion care and this critical community need.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Our YMCA responded to out of school learning loss during the pandemic. A virtual Kindergarten Readiness Program was developed this spring and summer and 50 children participated weekly in our communities.

We also offered a Summer Learning program for 150 children in grades 1-4 through a generous grant from BellXcel. These virtual learning programs focused on reading, math, social emotional learning and enrichment.

SUMMER CAMP

We began offering summer camp in June. We worked diligently with our local boards of health to provide a safe and caring experience for our campers and staff. Although camp looked different this year, the spirit and magic of summer camp was alive and well.

Children participated in camps offered at our branches in Foxboro, Franklin, Mansfield and North Attleboro and at the waterfront at Silver Lake in Bellingham.
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.