



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



STRONGER TOGETHER

DEAR FRIENDS,

FRONT COVER:
Summer campers at Camp Silver Lake in Bellingham

Each year the sharing of our YMCA's Annual Report gives us an opportunity to celebrate our commitment to cause and community. Our Hockomock Area YMCA is a compassionate, human services organization dedicated to strengthening individuals and communities across our 15-town service area and beyond. Our commitment to collaboration and community is at the heart of everything we do.

We are **Stronger Together** and it's only fitting that this publication's theme guides us in our mission to provide people – from all backgrounds and abilities – the space to achieve health, feel confident and make connections at every stage of life. Our goal is to help others reach their potential and inspire purpose while responding to the emerging needs we see in our communities.

We reflect on 2022, celebrating a significant and exciting milestone – our 50th anniversary of the Hockomock Area YMCA. While the roots of our YMCA were planted in this area dating back to the early 19th century – where programs were first held in local schools and church basements – it was in 1972 that the merger of the Franklin YMCA and the North Attleboro YMCA established the organization we are proud of today. The vision at that time, developed by dedicated volunteers, staff and community leaders, was to create a regional, family-oriented YMCA with programs and services for all ages. In the 50 years since, we have been joined together by a shared passion to enhance the quality of life and enrich the communities we serve. This dedication and commitment will continue for decades to come.

On the pages that follow, we recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of inspirational individuals, families and organizations for their passion and commitment to making a difference in their communities. We are not able to do our cause driven work alone, as evidenced by our friends highlighted in this report.

We are hopeful that this annual report serves as inspiration for future impact as well as a reminder of our strength as a community. Thank you for being part of our YMCA family and for contributing to us being Stronger Together.

Sincerely,



Eric G. Kevorkian
Chair, Board of Directors



James R. Downs
Chief Executive Officer



Jim Downs, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors Farzin Karim and Eric Kevorkian at our Reach Out Breakfast at Gillette Stadium

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

Stephen Clapp

Stephen Clapp had just joined a law practice in North Attleboro when longtime YMCA leader and mentor John Pollis recruited him to the YMCA's Board. "I was the youngest person on the Board," he remarked, "and I was mildly intimidated by these incredible community leaders, but soon learned that we were all here for the same core reason: to serve kids and families."

Steve is this year's Chair's Award recipient, having served and supported our YMCA for five decades in many capacities, starting in the 1970s when he was asked to participate in raising the capital funds needed to build the new North Attleboro Branch—now known as the Hurley Family Branch—and its new outdoor pool that would soon become a main recreational attraction for local kids. Steve remembers, "I'm still delighted when I think about how many kids learned to swim in that pool."

Steve represents a special generation of longtime YMCA leaders—people who put others first, committed their talents and personal resources, and placed their own names and reputations on the line to build the foundation of what we now have as the Hockomock Area YMCA.

Current YMCA Board Chair Eric Kevorkian explains the reason behind

his decision to recognize Steve Clapp, "Nothing better epitomizes this year's theme—Stronger Together—than Stephen Clapp's years of passionate service, thoughtful counsel, and incredible public advocacy of our Y's values. His dedication to our Y's mission—including his term serving as our Board Chair in 1978—is written into the very genetics of our organization."

Reflecting back, Steve shared the reasons why the early Board members were focused on building a new North Attleboro Branch that would last generations and become the centerpiece of our current Hockomock Area YMCA, "In those days, we were often alone among other Ys in New England in our philosophy. We were ahead of the pack when it came to creating a Y that focused on kids and families. We didn't want a club-like atmosphere; we wanted family-oriented branches in our communities where families would grow together."

Steve's impact on our North Attleboro Branch and our entire Association—through the depth and breadth of his wisdom and guidance—will be felt for generations to come.

It is with this purity of intention and generosity of spirit that our YMCA is proud to honor Stephen Clapp with this year's Chair's Award.



"We were ahead of the pack when it came to creating a Y that focused on kids and families. We didn't want a club-like atmosphere; we wanted family-oriented branches in our communities where families would grow together."

– Stephen Clapp



DON RODMAN CHARACTER COUNTS AWARD

Recognizing passionate leadership in the community through instilling the YMCA values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility

The Lorusso Family

Without the partnerships the Hockomock Area YMCA has in the community, we would not be able to do the mission-driven work of which we are so proud. Those partnerships come in many forms – businesses, organizations, individuals, and families. The Lorusso family is a perfect example of a long-standing partnership that has resulted in immeasurable impact on our Y and our community.

Gerry and Leslie Lorusso have 5 children and live in Wrentham. As president of Lorusso Corporation, Gerry has always been one of the first to step up in a time of need. For more than 15 years, the Lorusso family hosted a YMCA Summer Camp at their beautiful lakefront property on the grounds of their majestic function facility – Lake Pearl Wrentham. The Lorusso family also host several YMCA events throughout the year. Whether it be for Legends Ball, Annual Meeting, Staff Recognition Luncheon or our **LIVESTRONG** at the YMCA Celebration, Gerry and his daughter Juliana, have greeted us with open arms and stop at nothing to make sure everything goes exactly as it should.

Gerry has been a member of our Board of Directors since 2008 and continues to lead with integrity, loyalty, and experience. He serves on several YMCA committees and has been instrumental in ensuring that the Hockomock Area YMCA continues to be able to provide a

safety net for those in need in the 15 communities we serve.

Gerry and Leslie have instilled in their children values that inspire them to give back to their community and that is especially true of Juliana, now General Manager at Lake Pearl Wrentham. She continues to be engaged in our Y as an active member of our Board of Incorporators, Board of Managers for the Hurley Family Branch and other YMCA committees.

When asked why it is important to the Lorusso Family to be partners with the Hockomock Area YMCA, Juliana explains, "Growing up, I always heard our family talk about the YMCA—whether it was our grandfather who, in the 1920s and '30s, met his lifelong friends playing basketball at his hometown Y, or our dad, who often spoke about all the incredible work the Y does for many people in our area. I felt such a sense of pride that our family was so involved with an organization that did so much for so many, regardless of their personal, physical, or financial situation."

The Hockomock Area YMCA is proud to honor the Lorusso Family with this year's Don Rodman Character Counts Award. We are grateful for their partnership, the impact they help us make as part of our Y family, and their friendship.



"Growing up, I always heard our family talk about the YMCA—whether it was our grandfather who, in the 1920s and '30s, met his lifelong friends playing basketball at his hometown Y, or our dad, who often spoke about all the incredible work the Y does for many people in our area."

– Juliana Lorusso

INVENSYS FOXBORO BRANCH RED TRIANGLE AWARD

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

Foxborough Police Department

To protect and to serve, the oath police officers around the nation take to keep their communities safe are synonymous with the Foxborough Police Department (FXPD). As a nationally recognized leader in public safety, FXPD has led the way in keeping the residents of Foxborough and millions of visitors annually safe through their professional and innovative protective measures. Equally impressive and commendable is the longstanding history and mission of serving the community at large including the Hockomock Area YMCA.

Throughout the years and under the leadership of Chief O'Leary, Chief Baker and current Chief Michael Grace, the Foxborough Police Department has been a true partner with the Hockomock Area YMCA's Invensys Foxboro Branch by allocating their resources, expertise and willingness to help in order to keep their community strong and safe. Chief Grace relayed that, "The YMCA is a dedicated, proven and reliable community asset that works hand-in-hand with the Foxborough Police Department to ensure our community is safe and resources are provided for those who may need them. Every time the YMCA joins or partners with other groups, the outcome is always better for those needed services."

As a model in community policing and child protection efforts, the FXPD has worked in unison with the Hockomock Area YMCA for many years in having their officers trained in the Stewards of Children curriculum facilitated through the YMCA. Their efforts and advocacy to keep children safe have been second to none and through their watch, have provided a safer and much more educated community.

"The YMCA is a genuine and compassionate community organization that truly cares and is invested in the well-being of others. From traditional programming to assisting with basic needs, the YMCA leaves no person behind," stated Sergeant Val Collins. Sergeant Collins oversees Foxborough's School Resource Officers and make sure they are heavily engaged with the YMCA and in particular summer camp and teen programming. Sergeant Collins explains, "In Foxborough, we have been able to make positive strides with our community policing programs and have bridged the gap between class time and after school time with our presence and involvement with YMCA year round programming."

In addition, FXPD have provided annual support through their relief fund donations and time to strengthen the Hockomock Area YMCA all while doing it for the betterment of the community. The deep history of helping others rings true with their physical presence in our branch and summer camp, providing support and programs for our youth, teens and adults.

"The YMCA is a symbol of openness and acceptance to all members of this great community," states Chief Grace. "The Foxborough Police Department and the YMCA have forged a partnership over the last 23 years that focuses on improving the quality of life for all members of our community."

The Hockomock Area YMCA and Invensys Foxboro Branch is honored to present the Foxborough Police Department with the Red Triangle Award.



"The YMCA is a dedicated, proven and reliable community asset that works hand-in-hand with the Foxborough Police Department to ensure our community is safe and resources are provided for those who may need them."

– Chief Michael Grace



HURLEY FAMILY BRANCH RED TRIANGLE AWARD

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

Our Open Umbrella

In 2019, when two moms—Sarah Stone and Liz Couchon—from North Attleboro's Community School learned elementary students were coming back to school on Monday morning with hunger pains, they formed the Fuel for the Weekend (FFTW) Program. Aiming to bridge the hunger gap, the program put food bags into backpacks on Friday afternoons full of kid-friendly snacks and easy to prepare meals for the weekend. By March 2019, they had 60 families participating. Fast forward to March 2023 and over 220 families are part of this powerful program.

"We all need to help each other," reflects Sarah. "The relationship we've built with the Hockomock Y means so much. It's two organizations sharing the same mentality to help people locally." It was during the pandemic that FFTW pivoted to provide food for as many people in North Attleboro as they could and through these efforts, found a home at the Hockomock Y. Liz smiles, "The Y provided a space for us to pack our food bags and prepare them for volunteer transport. It was ironic that I was packing food bags in a space where I spend a lot of time with my daughters years earlier playing in the Doran Family Kids Gym."

In the midst of the pandemic, the Y helped FFTW get the food they needed when supply chains were scarce. It was at this time that Sarah was writing bylaws to form an official non-profit and in June 2020, the organization: Our Open Umbrella was established. "We had always had dreams to expand beyond food assistance. We want to address clothing insecurity and provide for emergency related situations so we can quickly help others in crisis," adds Sarah. Since January 2023, the Hockomock Y has acquired the Fuel for the Weekend Program as an additional component to the Y's Food Access Program.

Our Open Umbrella is looking to remove the stigma of need at the middle school and high school level with a particular focus on clothing insecurity, with a goal to support the elementary schools in the future too. They are doing this by expanding their relationships and supports with school nurses, guidance departments and office staff. "We are reinvigorating the Kindness Closet at the high school. We recently provided 20 backpacks with clothing essentials. And we are working with school staff to identify students who need gift cards for clothing or items for after school jobs. We are also providing baskets of toiletries in the guidance department for any teen to take. No questions asked, just available for those who need it," adds Liz. In addition, Our Open Umbrella has begun a snack program. "We fill the snack baskets located throughout the high school, providing about 300 snacks a week. We have our logo on the baskets so kids know who we are. Our hope is that kids will feel more apt to come forward if they need more help and know we are a trusted organization," says Sarah.

Our Open Umbrella is comprised of 12 passionate board volunteers—led by Sarah and Liz—with a goal every day to serve and support the needs of youth in North Attleboro. The Hockomock Area YMCA is honored to present the Hurley Family Branch's Red Triangle Award to Our Open Umbrella.



"The relationship we've built with the Hockomock Y means so much. It's two organizations sharing the same mentality to help people locally."

- Sarah Stone



BERNON FAMILY BRANCH RED TRIANGLE AWARD

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

Franklin Food Service

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, we have been witness to heartache, struggle, and loss. But thanks to so many community partners, we have also seen resilience, a willingness to help, and empathy. The Franklin Public Schools Food Service Team is a perfect example of a partner who is willing to help. They stepped up when help was needed, and did whatever it took to make sure that children did not go hungry.

The Franklin Public Schools' Food Service Team consists of Colin Boisvert, Director of Food Service; Maura Crowley, Assistant Director of Food Service; Kristine Desmarais, Franklin High School Kitchen Manager; Deb DeFilippo, Franklin High School Cafeteria Lead, and Greg DeBaggis, Food Service Courier. This group has been an instrumental community partner over the last 3 years with our Y in the area of providing meals to our child care programs including our licensed early learning center in Franklin and remote learning programs from 2020-2021. The Hockomock Area YMCA is proud to have provided more than 500,000 meals since 2020, but that would not be possible were it not for partners like the Franklin Public Schools' Food Service Team.

Colin and his team are proud supporters of the Hockomock Area YMCA and the mission-driven work we do in the community, and they don't hesitate to help wherever they can – even if that help is needed outside of Franklin. When our Y was in need of a provider for meals for our North Attleboro Children's Learning Center, the Franklin Food Service Team did not hesitate to help, and they continue to come from Franklin every day to provide meals for these children.

When asked why it was important for their team to partner with the Hockomock Area YMCA, Colin explained, "We wanted to help because of all the Y does in the community. We are all in this together."

For being a steadfast community partner committed to helping our YMCA provide a safety net for those in need, the Hockomock Area YMCA is proud to honor the Franklin Public Schools' Food Service Team with this year's Bernon Family Branch Red Triangle Award.



**"We wanted to help
because of all the Y
does in the community.
We are all in this
together."**

- Colin Boisvert



YOUTH OF THE YEAR

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



Paige Taylor Invensys Foxboro Branch



When you meet Paige Taylor, you are greeted with a warm smile and a young woman filled with compassion and empathy. A Foxborough resident, Paige remembers attending the Y as a kid but her fondest memory was securing her first official job as a Y camp counselor at sixteen. "I remember going to camp counselor training and loving it! I'm a big fan of routine and rules and I was over the moon excited for this job," exclaims Paige.

For the past two summers, Paige has worked as a camp counselor at our Foxboro Y.

"I love working with children," declares Paige. By the end of her first summer, Paige was asked to work in the Y's Integration Initiative for the school year. She began teaching the Rec Mash Up and Ready Set Sports programs – fully inclusive classes for youth with and without diverse abilities.

Paige has an inherent ability to meet children where they are and is passionate about supporting them. When reflecting on the experiences she's had, Paige explains, "When I tell people I work at the Y, the first thing I share is that I work for the Integration Initiative. I could talk about it for hours! The inclusion movement is something the world needs more of. The Y is taking big steps, and I'm so proud of that."

Paige's involvement with our Y deepened, working in various departments including Child Watch and supporting Integration Initiative participants in Aquatics and Gymnastics. Paige can be seen at the Y five days a week building small communities of children in her classes along with their families. "As much as these kids have opportunities through the Y, I've received opportunities working with them and learning about myself," says Paige. "The Y is transformational."

Paige shares she's found her purpose. "My experiences here have changed me as a person and made me stronger. I've found a sense of purpose and that's hard to find at a young age," beams Paige. "Having a place like the Y, where you have responsibilities and where there's people who are counting on you and want you to succeed, it's just special. The Y is a perfect place to grow and learn. The Y is truly my second home."

Paige will pursue her passion and purpose as a Special Education major in college this Fall. We are honored to present this award to Paige.



Gracie Barker Bernon Family Branch



Gracie Barker's youthful energy brings joy to children and the Y is lucky to have her on our youth programs staff. Her favorite activities are obstacle courses, story time, field trips and special guest visits, all excellent avenues for getting to know the kids in her care and helping them thrive. Her childhood experience at the Y includes attending theatre camp, about which she says, "I loved camp because it was fun and I was able to make bonds with new friends all summer long."

Gracie has worked in Y child care, kids club, child watch and preschool programs. Additionally, she's taught swim lessons to participants with special needs. Her willingness to step up and do whatever is needed helps re-energize the branch following COVID-19. "The Y is so welcoming, how could you not fit in absolutely everywhere?" exclaims Gracie. "I love my journey with the Y."

Currently in her senior year of high school, Gracie helps encourage routine and physical activity for kids following the learning setbacks and decline in social experiences during the pandemic. She has assumed the responsibilities of site coordinator for the after-school program, which allows her the opportunity to communicate with parents and guardians and work in partnership in the development of her students ages 5-13.

"My goal is to make sure kids have a fun and exciting time at the Y,

one hundred percent, but I also want to see if there are any issues at home that I can help with," says Gracie.

"I want our kids to let out a true laugh every now and then and not be so serious and overthinking or getting in their own heads about things," says Gracie, who reflects on circumstances that had her grow up faster than most.

"I love seeing improvements in kids and I think it's my number one reason to work at the Y. I only want the best for each of them. Behavioral issues definitely occur, I know that all the kids go through different things. We create a safe place where kids can learn and just be kids," says Gracie.

Helping to create positive memories for all is important to Gracie. "I am most proud to have the opportunity to change as many lives as I possibly can and just to be someone that they can look up to. I really hope that I am changing their lives."

Gracie treasures every card and drawing from her students, which she keeps in a special box at home. She is passionate about psychology and forensics and plans to major in criminology when she starts college in the Fall. We are proud to honor Gracie as this year's Bernon Family Branch Youth of the Year.

Andrew Testa Hurley Family Branch



Andrew Testa is one of those teens that helps you see the goodness in the world. He is a quiet force invested in the YMCA's mission of helping people.

Andrew started coming to the Y at 6 weeks of age, with his 4-year old sister and 3-year old brother. His mom Lynette was looking to get them into activities and to reinvigorate herself. As Andrew grew, he took gymnastics, soccer and basketball classes with his dad coaching, and later, summer camp and School's Out. In middle school, he started attending the teen center. "I always had fun going, I knew my friends would be there. It shaped and bonded me to people that I am still friends with today." Andrew continued, "The people that work there embrace everyone and made them feel like they belong."

Andrew's love for the Y grew along with his love for gymnastics and camp. He naturally sought out work as a gymnastics instructor and camp counselor. Through his experience as a 10-year competitive gymnast, he thrived on teaching his students new skills, helping them reach and surpass their goals. Andrew has a natural ability to connect with and mentor his students. "The Y instilled in me a love for gymnastics. Now that I'm teaching the sport, I find it incredibly

special that I get to be the same influence that others had on me."

As a camp counselor, Andrew looks for the children who are struggling and helps them find their friend group. "I always wanted to be the type of counselor that I looked up to when I was little," said Andrew. "The Y helped me understand challenges that people face. My hope is to make kids feel better and happier whether it be by making them laugh, smile, or teaching them new skills."

Andrew goes well beyond what's expected of him. He comes in early and is always enthusiastic. He constantly looks for ways to improve his classes and takes the time to get to know his students and their parents, sincerely caring about their well-being. Last year he took a leadership role with Reach Out's Flip Fest by motivating his students, designing the shirt, and running a 3-hour live-stream event. The original goal to raise \$3,000 was surpassed by a whopping \$10,000. He's ready to lead again this year.

Currently a junior at Bishop Feehan High School, Andrew was just elected Captain for next year's Swim & Dive Team by his peers. Congratulations Andrew on this well-deserved award.

BOARD LEADERSHIP 2022

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Michael Patch, Chair

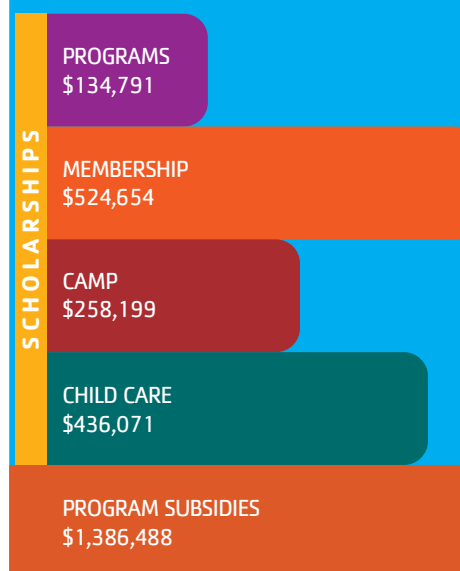
Stephanie Bacon	Jared Perkoski
Juliana Lorusso	Neal Reilly
Michael Michel	Stacie Skryz
Kaitlyn Nardini	Kristin Stieghorst
Kelly Pelissier	Patrick Sullivan



2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	2022	2021
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Public Support		
Forgiveness of PPP loan	-	\$2,000,000
Employee Retention Tax Credit	-	\$3,409,462
Annual Support Campaign	\$725,209	\$548,780
Capital Campaign Contributions	\$363,897	-
Contributions	\$3,884,020	\$1,978,801
United Way	\$18,164	\$17,664
Special Events	\$388,198	\$263,458
Revenue		
Program Fees	\$11,535,990	\$9,445,967
Membership Dues	\$5,790,154	\$4,302,606
Other Income	\$50,654	\$41,107
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$22,756,286	\$22,007,845
EXPENSES		
Programs Expenses	\$16,021,820	\$13,634,205
Support Services	\$3,136,449	\$2,577,857
Fund Raising Expenses	\$646,800	\$311,698
Total Expenses	\$19,805,069	\$16,523,760
Net Income from Operating Activity	\$2,951,217	\$5,484,085
Non-Cash Expenses		
Depreciation Expense	\$1,449,718	\$1,455,872
Net Loss after Non-Cash Expenses	\$1,501,499	\$4,028,213
Investing Activities Results		
Investment Income	\$95,502	\$80,934
Net Investment Gain (Loss)	(\$1,788,583)	\$1,149,917
Net Gain (Loss) from Investing Activities	(\$1,693,081)	\$1,230,851

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAM SUBSIDIES



In 2022, the Hockomock Area YMCA provided **\$2,740,203** in scholarships and program subsidies.



HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA

Bernon Family Branch

45 Forge Hill Road
Franklin, MA 02038
508.528.8708

Invensys Foxboro Branch

67 Mechanic Street
Foxboro, MA 02035
508.543.2523

Hurley Family Branch

300 Elmwood Street
North Attleboro, MA 02760
508.695.7001

**Mansfield Arts and
Education Center**

40 Balcom Street
Mansfield, MA 02048
508.339.3066



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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.