

WHERE PEOPLE MATTER



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



2019 IMPACT REPORT

HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA

Integration Initiative participants Matthew, Bobby and Mike with Hockomock Area YMCA Board of Directors Chair Mary Clermont and Hockomock Area YMCA President Ed Hurley at the 2019 Legends Ball, celebrating inclusion and raising critical funding to support children, teens and young adults with special needs to participate in all YMCA programs and activities alongside their typically developing peers.



Front Cover: Hockomock Area YMCA members and trainers participating in our Foxboro YMCA 5K held at Patriot Place.

DEAR FRIEND,

Our Hockomock Area YMCA is a place where we inspire purpose in the lives we welcome through our doors.

We welcome everyone because we believe our communities are stronger when we come together. Coming together at our Y builds relationships and supports connections with others. Our focus is on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. And our powerful mission is to provide programs and services to all regardless of ability to pay.

In the pages that follow, you will read stories of individuals, families and communities who are healthier, more confident and better connected to others because they have a YMCA experience. We are grateful our Y is part of their stories.

Together, we make a difference. And we celebrate delivering our mission through dedicated volunteers, donors, staff and members.

Your support helps provide young people a safe, nurturing place to develop life skills, inspire people of all ages to learn healthy habits and to live fuller, more productive lives and build strong, vibrant communities where we live and work.

As we have for 119 years, we promise to be here to strengthen individuals, families, and communities in the days and years ahead.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff colleagues, thank you for supporting our YMCA. Everything our Y does is in service of making sure people and communities thrive...because that is what truly matters.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Clermont
Chair, Board of Directors



Edwin H. Hurley
President

More than anything else ...
**PEOPLE MATTER
AT OUR YMCA**

MEET ME AT THE Y WHERE CAMARADERIE THRIVES



Dan and Cheryl Farley's son Liam has been in the Hockomock Area YMCA's Integration Initiative for more than 10 years. Commenting on Liam's experience from the perspective of a parent, Dan said, "It is wonderful that Liam has had the opportunity to get involved in a way that's typical - learning teamwork, the value of hard work and leadership."

This sentiment expressed by a grateful parent goes to the heart of the original goal of our Initiative when it began in 2004. True inclusion, participating right alongside typically developing peers and all that goes with it, has been the hallmark of the program.

Liam, now 18, loves our YMCA and hanging out with the friends he's made. Liam listed what he enjoys most, "basketball, flag football, golf" and with a big smile on his face exclaimed, "Etcetera!" That smile and that word speak volumes about all the opportunities Liam has enjoyed since he started taking swim lessons at age 3.

Liam's dad added, "Including typically developing peers is one of my favorite things about the Integration Initiative. It takes a special kid to be able to want to do this in the first place." Two of those special kids are Joe and Tom Calabrese, Integration volunteer partners and neighbors of the Farley's. Their involvement and friendship with Liam extends from the neighborhood to the Y.

When asked how participation in the Initiative has helped and influenced Liam, Joe and Tom could not say enough. Joe beamed, "It's helped Liam so much with his social skills." Added Tom, "Liam's confidence has grown through the roof."

Tom commented, "Everyone should respect everyone because everyone has their own special gifts. We've learned so much from Liam, he's one of our friends." Joe added, "It's rewarding to see how happy inclusion also makes the parents."



Tom, Liam and Joe

"The unified partners have been role models on not only how to play the game, but how to form friendships. You can see this when they 'hang out' while off the court, talking and joking around, giving high fives, and giving pep talks when the game didn't go as planned," said Cheryl, Liam's mom.

When talking about Liam's involvement in Special Olympics his dad shares, "I have seen his confidence grow in how he plays, how he talks, and how he interacts with other kids."

One of Liam's favorite memories happened on the golf course two summers ago. At the Partners Tournament at MGA Links in Norton, Liam played with his grandfather Dick Sevigny. The memory brought a huge smile to Liam's face and he said proudly, "For years I've known Pepere was a terrific golfer. It was so much fun playing with him and I never expected us to win." His smile grew from ear to ear.

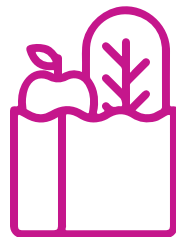


Joe, Liam and Tom in a unified flag football game



Liam and his grandfather

MEET ME AT THE Y WHERE LIVES ARE NOURISHED



Food is essential. We need it to grow, acquire energy and live productive lives. Yet access to food is a struggle for many people in our world and surprisingly, in our local neighborhoods.

Over the past year, our Y has worked with school districts and food pantries to create take home food programs onsite at local schools. These models allow students to discreetly access food, especially prior to the weekend when there are often challenges with reliable sources of healthy meals.

Children were arriving to school on Monday mornings hungry. In 2019, Community School in North Attleboro received a YMCA mini-grant through the generosity of Stop & Shop's Family Foundation. Since 2009, Stop & Shop has provided 160 mini-grants in the 15 communities served by our YMCA to schools and food pantry partners.

In one year, the program has grown into a robust school-based food pantry known as the *Fuel for the Weekend Program*, a volunteer-run initiative. Sarah Stone, volunteer program



Volunteers prepare food bags on Thursdays for pickup by families on Friday



Volunteer Program Leaders, Sarah and Liz



Sarah and Liz (center) with volunteers Madison and Samantha at the Fuel for the Weekend Program housed at Community School

director, reflects, "In the beginning, 10 families in need were identified to start receiving food bags every Friday. By March, we had 60 families." Sarah passionately adds, "There's no criteria. If you need food we're going to help you. There are so many people who don't have safety nets. Who's helping them? Life is too short not to help other people. So here we go!"

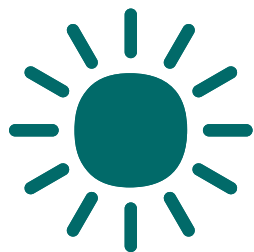
In September 2019, the option for families to pick up weekend food bags was further expanded for convenience and dignity. Program members can pick up at the school or at the Alternative Market downtown. Families can also choose other items like bread, peanut butter, can openers, detergent and personal hygiene products.

"Kids have so many challenges in life. Having an empty belly shouldn't be one of them. We're here to help," says Liz Couchon, volunteer program manager.

Stop & Shop and our Y are committed to partnering and expanding access to healthy food. "Feeding and nourishing our communities is first and foremost," says Jennifer Brogan, Stop & Shop's Director of External Communication and Community Relations. "The Hockomock Y's innovative programs like nutrition education and access are cutting edge. Stop & Shop is perfectly aligned with the Y as we strive to fight hunger together," adds Jennifer.

The *Fuel for the Weekend Program* has dreams to grow. Growth is not possible without Stop & Shop and dedicated volunteers like Sarah, Liz and the over 30 people who gather to make this program possible, helping to nourish our fellow neighbors in need.

MEET ME AT THE Y WHERE KIDS SHINE



The loss of a loved one can leave a void hard to fill. For children who have experienced a significant loss, the emotions that come along with that loss can be equally hard to understand or explain. Finding people who have experienced similar loss is an integral part of the healing process.

HopeHealth in Rhode Island offers an opportunity for children aged 4 to 17 to do just that through Camp BraveHeart – a summer camp program offering a safe, nurturing environment to help children cope with grief.

After meeting Hockomock Area YMCA President Ed Hurley at an event early in 2019, Suzanne Fortier, Vice President of Philanthropy at HopeHealth, and the organization’s Grief Support team met with Y staff. It was immediately decided that the North Attleboro Branch’s Camp Elmwood would be the host site for Camp BraveHeart’s first offering in Massachusetts. Participants were able to experience swimming, archery, ropes, music, campfires, arts & crafts, the educational garden, and so much more. Suzanne shares, “The Hockomock Area YMCA was welcoming and excited to host us. They opened up their campus for us and our kids – including their own staff, all at no charge.”

When Camp BraveHeart came to our YMCA in August, the experience for both the children and Y staff was impactful and inspiring. HopeHealth’s President Diana Franchitto called the experience “the most gratifying thing I’ve witnessed.” Fortier went on to say, “The Y made it very easy for our staff. These are all kids who have lost a loved one; about half of them have lost a parent. They are in a situation that does not feel normal to them, but the activities the Y did, particularly the ropes course, allowed them to have fun while feeling normal.” Their time at our Y also included discussions led by grief counselors and ways for the children to memorialize their loved one. At the end of their visit, the kids participated in a powerful



Camp BraveHeart staff and participants at our Y this summer

remembrance ceremony.

All of us at our Y are proud of the partnership with Camp BraveHeart. In addition to hosting Camp BraveHeart at our facilities again in 2020, our Y has started to host HopeHealth’s Dementia Caregiver support group at our branches. Both HopeHealth and our Y are excited to continue to find ways to collaborate and meet the needs of the families we serve.

Suzanne exclaims, “The relationship with the Y goes both ways. The Y team gets it. They were so moved by the kids and their stories. We are really aligned in the way we both care for our families.”

One camper summed it up best by saying, “I’m so glad I found this camp.”

And so are we.



Camp BraveHeart participants supporting one another



Y staff facilitating a ropes course experience for Camp BraveHeart at the Y’s Capt. Kyle Van De Giesen Outdoor Leadership Center

MEET ME AT THE Y WHERE CONFIDENCE GROWS



Juri Love discovered a wonderful way to set up her children for a lifetime of success. The single mother of Jaden and Jayla found her groove at our Invensys Foxboro Branch making sure her kids didn't fall into the group of children who struggle to thrive after a divorce.

"I was scared," she said. "I attended a mandatory divorce parenting class on how best to help kids handle the challenges after divorce, learning to reduce the stress kids might experience. During the class, I heard two-thirds of around 1 million children nationwide fail socially and academically after experiencing parents' divorce. That scared me. I was not going to allow my kids to become part of that statistic."

As a single parent struggling to make ends meet, it was recommended that she contact the YMCA to find important sources of consistency and community—two major success factors that help kids of divorced parents maintain their stability and thrive during



Jayla and Jaden enjoying the water together



Jaden at HAY Lightning swim practice



Jaden, Juri and Jayla on the pool deck of our Spier Family Aquatics Center

times of turmoil in the family.

Juri openly shares and celebrates her family's relationship with our Y and the fact that she receives scholarship assistance. "It's a wonderful caring environment for Jaden and Jayla at the Y and they are finding their way in the world." Juri continues, "Families can grow and become stronger when they have access to a place like the YMCA where they don't judge you, but welcome you with their arms wide open."

Nine-year-old Jaden has always loved swimming since taking swim class at six months old. He made the HAY Lightning Swim team in 2018 and Juri was not sure if he could continue due to divorce and financial struggle. "He's becoming a really good swimmer and very confident when he comes out of the water. That's priceless." Juri gives much credit to the Y for helping Jaden build his confidence.

Meanwhile, three-year-old Jayla is carving her path at the Y, starting with swim classes when she was six months old. Juri notes, "Jayla may not follow her brother as a competitive swimmer, but she loves the pool, and I feel very confident that my kids are safe around water."

Jaden was able to enjoy summer camp last year and both Jaden and Jayla attend vacation camps. They both love the experience.

When Juri is asked what pops into her head when she thinks about the Hockomock Area YMCA, she gratefully responds, "Knowing that the smiles on Jaden and Jayla's faces today are predominately because of the YMCA."

YEAR IN REVIEW



Celebrating and raising critical funds at our annual **LIVESTRONG** at the YMCA Celebration event



4,373 campers enjoying the Best Summer Ever in 2019



Families participating in our Foxboro YMCA 5K



Y Teen Leaders volunteering at our Healthy Kids Day at Patriot Place



Our unified basketball teams competing in the annual Christopher R. Morrissey Memorial Basketball 4 All Tournament



Legends and our unified golf team at the Legends Golf Classic at TPC Boston



2019 Legends Honoree Kyle Van Noy celebrating at the Legends Ball at Lake Pearl



The Milford Summer Food Service program providing 13,823 meals with the support of 75 volunteers



The new Spier Family Triathlon debuts featuring the Youth Splash & Dash event at Lake Pearl



3,750 students participating in our Adventures In Respect bullying prevention program

YEAR IN REVIEW



Kids in our youth programs gaining confidence and skills for life



Teens in our Leaders Club participating in a service learning project, rebuilding a school after the wildfires in California



5,375 youth receiving swim lessons and safety around water skills



Our Youth Theatre program completes 14 performances in 2019



In 2019 our North Attleboro Branch's new gymnasium debuts



826 children play, grow and thrive in our licensed child care programs



Families enjoying quality time together at the Y



In 2019, our Y employed 1,255 individuals, more than half 18 and younger



Integration Initiative participants enjoying the CVS Health All Kids Can Batting Clinic at Fenway Park



Recognizing outstanding teens as Youth of the Year recipients at our Annual Meeting

HERITAGE CLUB

The Heritage Club honors all those who have included the Hockomock Area YMCA in their estate plans or have made an outright gift to the Y's endowment fund. The foresight and generosity of these special people will impact our Y and our community for generations to come.

Jay Barrows	Garner and Marilyn LeStage
Alan and Carol Bernon	Suzanne LeStage †
Tony Calcia	Kevin and Gail Morrissey
Mario Capozzoli	William and Roseann Napolitano
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Thomas and Patricia Gruppioni	Gregory and Kathryn Spier
Herbert † and Cynthia Horne	Brian Voght
Edwin and Sue Hurley	Peter and Kathy Waisgerber
Thomas and Ellen Kimbrel	Thomas and Patricia Westcott †
John and Marie † LaRocca	Edward and Joanne Whalen
Victoria Lechner and Michael Lally	William and Eleanor Woodason
Paul and Karen Lenahan	Anonymous

† deceased

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Amvets Campership Fund
Bernon Family Endowment for Reach Out for Youth and Families
Bernon Family Branch Maintenance Fund
Gruppioni Family Endowment Fund
James Horne and Janet Cyr Swimming Scholarship
Lorraine Hubrich Memorial Scholarship Fund
George O. Johnson Jr. Camp Endowment Fund
George O. Johnson Jr. Employee Assistance Fund
Tom and Ellen Kimbrel Community Endowment Fund
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\$25,000 +

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MEET ME AT THE Y

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\$250 – \$499

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Thanks to the inspiring support of our generous donors, our Y awarded \$2,124,800 in confidential scholarships and program subsidies in 2019, providing life-changing funding for children and families in our community and being there when families need us most.

We believe that our cause is our community and we strive to better our community through the following areas of focus:

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

Because we nurture the potential of every child. We are proud to help kids build confidence and discover the world around them; from the youngest in our child care programs, to youth in our summer camps, to teens in our leadership development initiatives.

HEALTHY LIVING.

Because living a healthy lifestyle means living a full, productive life. The Y brings people together, helping thousands of health seekers receive the support and resources they need to strengthen their physical and intellectual health.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Because we strive to be there for our neighbors and our community. With your help, we welcome more than 15,000 people into our Y family through financial assistance and program subsidies. We believe it only takes one person to start a movement, and it starts with us.

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MEET ME AT THE Y WHERE LIVES ARE ENRICHED



SERVED 13,823 MEALS TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES at our Summer Food Service Program at three locations in Milford.



EMPLOYED 1,255 INDIVIDUALS IN 2019
526 of staff were under the age of 18.



SERVED 3,750 KIDS IN 12 COMMUNITIES THROUGH ADVENTURES IN RESPECT, our bullying prevention program.



PROVIDED \$2,124,800 IN CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAM SUBSIDIES ensuring our friends and neighbors in need benefit from a YMCA experience.



150 KIDS ENJOYED OUR NEW HORIZONS SUMMER CAMP, which provides increased support for campers with special needs in our traditional camps.



EXPERIENCED THE BEST SUMMER EVER WITH 4,373 CAMPERS.

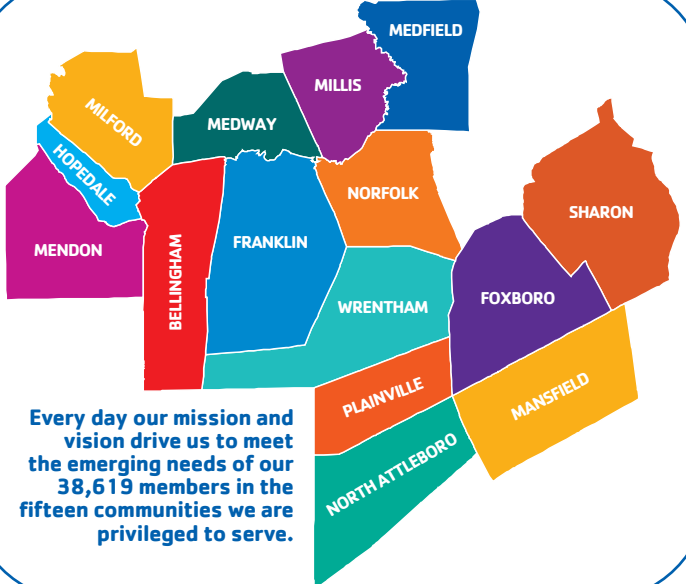
2019 BY THE NUMBERS



1,876 PROGRAM AND POLICY VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED APPROXIMATELY 31,626 HOURS, advancing our mission.



SERVED 826 CHILDREN THROUGH OUR PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS. We are proud to be the largest licensed provider of child care in our service area.



Every day our mission and vision drive us to meet the emerging needs of our 38,619 members in the fifteen communities we are privileged to serve.





HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA

OUR CAUSE

At the Y, strengthening our community is our cause. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income, background, or ability, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.



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.



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

North Attleboro 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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