

REACH OUT TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

2021
IMPACT REPORT



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



HOCKOMOCK AREA YMCA



HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

the **Y** YMCA
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
RESPONSIBILITY
HOCKOMOCK MCA

At our Invensys Foxboro Branch, Eric and Jim prepare grocery bags for our weekly distribution for individuals and families in need. Beginning in March 2020, staff and volunteers began assembling grocery bags – valued at \$50 each – for distribution at our Y branches in Foxboro, Franklin and North Attleboro. To date, over 50,000 grocery bags have been distributed. Over time, other essential items including fresh produce, diapers, personal hygiene items 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.



More than anything else ...

OUR YMCA IS HERE FOR ALL

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are grateful to be part of communities full of caring people committed to improving the quality life in our neighborhoods by collaboratively working together to address community challenges.

Meeting the needs of our community was more important than ever in 2021. It was a year that underscored the mission of our Y, reinforcing our commitment to being here for our friends and neighbors to help strengthen the foundations of our community.

We are proud that our YMCA continues to make impactful contributions in the areas of food insecurity, child care, camp, health & wellness and other emerging needs. As we have been for the last fifty years since the incorporation of our Hockomock Area YMCA, we remain steadfast in our promise to be here in the days and years to come.

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.

Our commitment to collaboration and community building is at the heart of everything we do. We strive to bring communities together to live healthier lifestyles, to nurture the potential of children, and to bring community together in the name of social responsibility advocating inclusion, diversity and acceptance.

Our mission and vision is only made possible by dedicated staff, volunteers, donors and partners who support our cause of enhancing lives and enriching communities. On behalf of all of us at the Hockomock Area YMCA, we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

Our shared vision as a community organization – inspired by our collective purpose and passion – is a reality because of all of you.

Sincerely,

Eric G. Kevorkian
Chair, Board of Directors

James R. Downs
Chief Executive Officer



REACH OUT TO NURTURE THEIR POTENTIAL



"The first time I learned how to swim, I was two, in the ocean at my great-grandma's house," exclaims Amy. "I swim a lot at the Y now. I'm 43."

Amy is an active member of our YMCA and an adult living with special needs. She enjoys participating in HAY Fit, Camp Calcia and Stronger Together personal training programs. Amy also looks forward to swimming in the pool every week at our Bernon Family Branch in Franklin.

A top priority for Amy's mother Debby was to have her children learn to swim. Debby explains, "Before Amy's dad and I were married, we had a fellow in town who had just graduated from Harvard. The very next day, he drowned because he could not swim. I grew up on the beach, spending countless hours in the surf, but Amy's dad didn't know how to swim. As a college senior, he was forced to start learning as he had to pass a swim test to graduate." As newlyweds, Amy's parents lived at the beach, and they joined the Newburyport YMCA so he could learn how to swim better, and keep up with her.

When Amy was born, Debby explained that they were very isolated. "No one knew much about autism back then and families had few activities for their children living with special needs. We were very impressed with the way the Y handled itself and all the things that

they did. So, when we moved to Franklin, the Hockomock Y was one of the first places I looked for."

The Hockomock Y has become a home away from home for Amy, her happy place. Debby describes, "it reminds me of the movie, The Wizard of Oz, when Dorothy is in the farmhouse and she opens the door to the land of Oz and everything changes to color. That is what happens to Amy when she arrives at the Y, she just lights up. She's so excited to be there, because everyone is so happy, generous and considerate of her."

The Y provides a feeling of safety and acceptance. Debby shared that Amy experienced teasing through the years and because of that, she is usually attached to her hip. "But here at the Y," Debby emphasizes, "Amy can walk throughout the building and I know she's safe. She feels safe enough to ask for assistance at any time and they will reply to her. They're going to listen to her. There wouldn't be a thank you big enough. I get emotional about that, because they treat my kid like a human being. And that's important to me." And that's important to our YMCA.

Our YMCA is fortunate and thankful to have Amy and Debby as a part of our Integration Initiative and our YMCA family.



REACH OUT TO FEED AND CARE FOR CHILDREN



In February 2020, Jaclyn recalls not knowing what to do when she became guardian of her grandson Owen, “I had a little boy who needed safety, stability and socialization.”

The Y was just a few streets away from Jaclyn’s apartment and she knew the organization had a reputation of helping people. It was during the statewide pandemic shutdown that Jaclyn emailed the Y’s scholarship team. She received encouragement and a financial assistance application in return. “Even when the Y was closed to the public, staff emailed me to say they were here to help me. I felt so connected to people at a time when I felt so alone,” says Jaclyn with emotion.

Jaclyn started coming to the Y for the weekly grocery bag distribution on Wednesdays. Owen would accompany Jaclyn at pick-up where Y staff and volunteers would welcome them. “Owen fondly knows the Food Access program as ‘the snack truck,’” says Jaclyn.

When the Y re-opened, Jaclyn and Owen received a scholarship to be members and participate in programs.

Over the next year, Owen has thrived in gymnastics, sports and swim classes. So much so that when given the opportunity to try summer camp, Jaclyn describes Owen as jumping out of the car as quick as he could to join his Y friends and staff whom

he met in programs. “Owen was so excited! Camp has really helped Owen become more independent and he has learned how to trust others. Owen also learned how to vocalize his needs. He found his voice at the Y.”

Owen and Jaclyn’s Y involvement continues to deepen. Owen has his group of friends and Jaclyn has found support and friendship with other moms at the Y – members and staff alike. “Our life has changed drastically and it’s moving forward. The Y is our family,” declares Jaclyn. Owen is now in preschool and Jaclyn credits the Y for helping him grow into the happy boy he is, in a safe, nurturing environment.

When reflecting on the support Jaclyn receives through the Y, she refers to this quote she believes strongly in, ‘See the light in others and treat them as if that’s all you see.’ “Even with masks on during the pandemic, there was a bright light shining at the Y. People at the Y see each person’s potential and there’s no judgement. We have found our place in the world here at the Y,” adds Jaclyn.

We are grateful that Jaclyn and Owen are part of our YMCA family.



REACH OUT TO CREATE A PLACE TO BELONG



Terry, a grandmother from Bellingham had unexpectedly acquired care of her five-year-old granddaughter Lily. Terry and her husband weren't sure how they were going to care for Lily without the resources and support they would need to raise their granddaughter. They needed a place to turn for help.

Terry, an active member of the Bellingham Council on Aging, shared her story with the center's director who immediately made a phone call to the Hockomock Y. Within a few days, YMCA staff worked with Terry to enroll Lily in our summer camp, receiving financial assistance to attend camp for the full summer. "Honestly, that phone call from the Hockomock Area YMCA saved my life in more ways than you'll know," beams Terry.

"Lily had never played with kids and she had never spent a lot of time outdoors," shares Terry. "I knew Lily needed interaction with kids her own age. She needed structure in the worst way; a time for lunch, a time for rest, a time to have fun and be a kid."

Early on at camp, Lily gravitated toward the counselors and adult interactions. But it didn't take long before Lily began feeling more comfortable and talking to everyone at camp. Her camp counselors share that after 11 weeks of camp last summer, Lily had become a very happy, loving and social

camper. "Lily has things to talk about now, and she has friends she's never had because of the Y," says Terry.

Swim lessons are built into each camper's day. It's a chance daily for campers to cool off from the summer's heat and receive vital fundamental safety and aquatics skills. "Swimming is a big thing with Lily. She never swam. She never had any idea how to do it. And now Lily is in the pool swimming and she's proud of herself," adds Terry.

Lily is eager to start her day at Y camp. At the end of the day, she lights up to jump on stage for closing ceremonies to take part in a sing-a-long and dance with her friends. "At the Y, Lily has learned to trust people and care about people. Camp has afforded Lily so many opportunities and brought her so much further than I could have possibly dreamed," adds Terry.

When Terry is asked by friends and neighbors how Lily is doing, she shares, "Lily's at the Y, and she could not be in a better, safer, more nurturing place than at the Hockomock Y because I'll tell you, they bring these kids a long way."

Our Hockomock Area YMCA is grateful to be the place of connection and community for Lily and Terry.



ED HURLEY

PRESIDENT & CEO

1994 - 2022

Ed Hurley recently retired after leading the Hockomock Area YMCA for 28 years. Ed's legacy is multifaceted, and perhaps the most important part of his tenure can be found in the YMCA's community-centric impact.

Lasting impact requires weaving together community partnerships, a deep understanding of the issues at hand, philanthropic investment, and the fortitude to stick to your goals. These are cornerstones of Ed's style and approach and continue to be important parts of how our Y engages with our 15 area communities.

According to former Board Chair Mary Clermont, "Much has been said about Ed's important and lasting role in creating a truly dynamic and impactful organization. Perhaps the one area that stands out most in my mind is Ed's ability to forge relationships from different parts of our communities and create partnerships to address new and emerging issues."

Ed came to the Hockomock Y during a critical time in its history, having to deal with operational uncertainties while building a foundation of philanthropic support and community relationships.

It was during those early years that he established a critical base of leadership and culture, building piece-by-piece an

organization that stayed true to the values that he, his policy volunteers, and our communities held dear. "For sure," noted Clermont, "Ed had some strong views of success, but he never operated in a vacuum. His leadership style was built on a team approach, deep engagement, and the flexibility to overcome the obstacles. That's true leadership."

New YMCA CEO Jim Downs, a long-time colleague of Ed's, understood the magic early on. "Bringing together different people, resources, and charitable support under one tent is not an easy task, but I witnessed, and often was a part of, those moments when he connected the dots. Ed would call it the 'secret sauce' to our Y's approach to meeting important community needs."

Jim embraces this approach and promises to carry it forward. "To some in our communities taking time to build community partnerships might still seem like a task too hard to accomplish, but to our current Y team, that's just how we've been trained to operate. That's Ed's legacy and it's not going away."

Our YMCA will be forever grateful to Ed Hurley for his leadership, commitment and passion as our President and CEO.



YEAR IN REVIEW



Dedicated volunteers and staff distributed 505 Thanksgiving meals



Together with our generous community, we were able to provide 651 gifts to families during the holidays



The community participates in our Spier Family Kindness for Kids 5K & Family Day at Patriot Place with proceeds helping to fight hunger through our Food Access initiative



Campers explored our summer educational garden



Staff and volunteers provided 25,020 bags of groceries in 2021 valued at \$50 each to people in need in our communities



Our LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program participants and alumni at the Spier Family Kindness for Kids 5K & Family Day



Dante Scarnecchia was our 2021 Legends Honoree



Kids enjoy learning how to swim and being safe around water



Innovative summer camps were offered at all branches serving 1,425 kids per week



Kids discover what they can achieve at our Kyle R. Van De Giesen Outdoor Leadership Center

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



Gymnasts gain confidence and skills



YMCA members stay active and connected with their community



2,800 fully stocked backpacks were donated to students in all 15 communities



Our Legends Golf Classic was held at TPC Boston in October supporting our Integration Initiative



Our Food Access initiative served 154,672 grab and go meals to feed children in our communities in 2021



Our Theatre program held many successful performances, programs and summer camps



Provided child care to 787 children from infant to school age, keeping children safe and supporting working parents in our communities



Stronger Together, a premier personal training program, was launched at our Bernon Family Branch



Kids play, grow and thrive in our child care programs



Families enjoy being active and having quality time together

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.

Anonymous	Paul and Karen Lenahan
Jay Barrows	Garner and Marilyn LeStage
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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

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Amvets Campership Fund
Bernon Family Endowment for Reach Out for Youth and Families
Bernon Family Branch Maintenance Fund
Tony Calcia Endowed Camp Scholarship
Daniel Del Vecchio Endowment Fund
Gruppioni Family Endowment Fund
James Horne and Janet Cyr Swimming Scholarship
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REACH OUT TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

Our Hockomock Area YMCA has remained focused on how best to respond to the ever emerging needs of our communities. We strive to be there – for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds – and come together to support our neighbors who need the YMCA in their lives.

Thanks to the inspiring support of our generous donors, our Y invested **\$2,189,621** through confidential scholarships and program subsidies in 2021, providing life-changing funding for children and families in our community and being there when families need us most.

Our YMCA's life changing impact is only 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 through the following areas of focus:

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

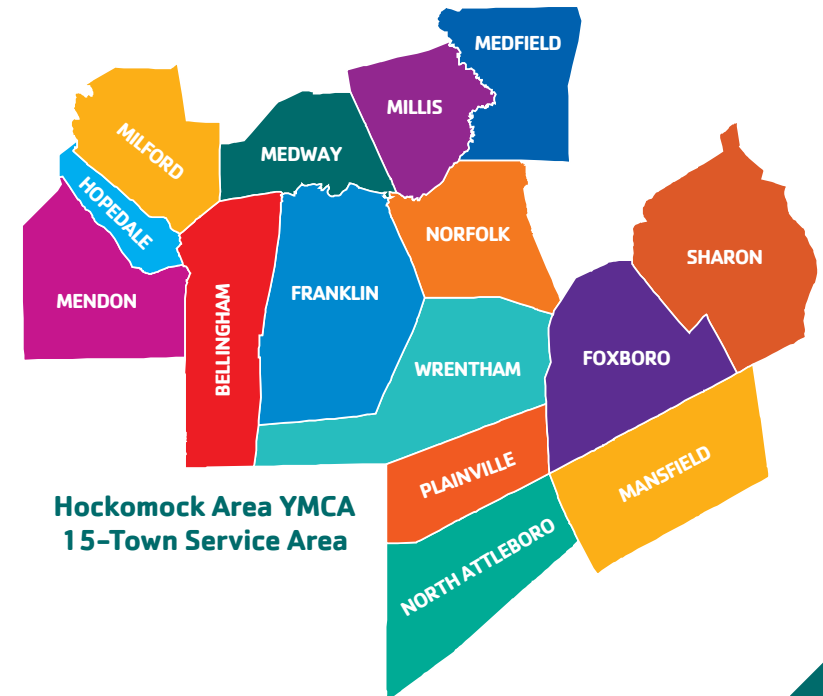
We nurture the potential of every child. We are proud to help kids build confidence and discover the world around them; from the youngest in our child care programs, to youth in our summer camps, to teens in our leadership development initiatives.

HEALTHY LIVING

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

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.



2021 BY THE NUMBERS



787

children were welcomed into our child care and early learning programs, providing a safe and healthy place to thrive and supporting working parents in our communities.



154,672

grab & go meals were served to children in our communities so no one goes to bed hungry. Since March 2020, over 402,000 meals have been provided.



326

people participated in evidence-based health programs including LIVESTRONG at the YMCA, Diabetes Prevention and MS Wellness, nurturing the whole person and addressing specific health challenges.



25,020

bags of groceries were distributed to people in need in our community every Wednesday at our branches. Since March 2020, over 50,000 bags have been provided.



2,800

fully stocked backpacks were donated to students in our 15 area school districts, preparing students with the supplies they need for the upcoming school year.



\$2,189,621

were provided in program subsidies and confidential scholarships to our neighbors in need to experience YMCA programs and services regardless of ability to pay.



1,425

kids per week experienced the best summer ever at camp, with 23% of campers receiving a confidential scholarship to attend.



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Kaitlin Nardini	Patrick Sullivan
Kelly Pelissier	

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CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT

EST 1972

the **Y** 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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