



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



# SPIRIT

YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne | Spring 2016  
347 West Berry Street, Suite 500  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802 | fwymca.org



## Dear Friends,

When I was asked to write my letter for this issue of SPIRIT there were several things I wanted to tell you about. Then, Dorothy, one of our long time staff members with the YMCA's Youth Service Bureau (YSB), sent me an email to let me know how we are fulfilling our mission.

You may notice that we are in the middle of our Annual Campaign, which raises money to help those in need. We are able to offer free programs like Safe House because our members and stakeholders care about others. Please read the email I received below so you can see how many community partners came together to help two young women in need.

"I was so proud of the entire staff at the YSB and YMCA Child Care Services site who worked together to help two young women from Flint, Michigan who were in crisis last week. A YSB intern noticed the two girls crying as they sat on the stairs inside the YSB office. Seeming hopeless and defeated, they stated they came to Fort Wayne from Flint, Michigan three months ago to find jobs and a better life. One of the young women left her 2-year-old child with her mother in Flint.

Upon hearing about their situation, many people including several agencies were quickly mobilized to assist the girls with their needs including returning back home to Flint.

Ellie provided guidance and immediate housing. Greg, Sue and Teresa (YSB Staff members) secured the girls' belongings behind a work station to minimize attention while the staff addressed their needs.

Amy found the girls a safe place to stay that night. Lisa, Director of YMCA Child Care Services and her staff, provided the girls with clean shirts while Amy and Lynn (YSB Staff) offered the girls coats (literally off their backs).

I transported the girls to Wayne Township, where we were greeted by caring and professional staff members who understood the urgency of returning the girls to Michigan. Mike made sure the girls got fed when he heard they hadn't eaten in over 24 hours. After getting fresh clothes, food and some sleep, Mike picked the girls up and transported them to board a bus headed to Flint on Friday at 3:00am.

**When asked what made them stop here, the girls said that while they were walking in downtown Fort Wayne, they noticed the Y logo and knew they could find help inside just like the Y helps people in their home town of Flint."**

This is just one example of how we put Christian principles into practice daily. I am proud to lead this great organization!



Marty Pastura  
President and CEO  
YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne

\*For information about how you or a loved one can access emergency services such as these, please continue to page 2.

You are Cordially Invited to  
the 11th Annual  
YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne



Sponsored by:



**Brotherhood Mutual**  
Insurance Company



Robert Rogers will be the featured speaker at our 11th annual YMCA OF GREATER FORT WAYNE Good Friday Breakfast.

In August 2003, Robert's life completely changed one night when his family died in a flash flood.

Remarkably, 10 years later, God restored Robert with a happy ending you won't want to miss.

Through his family's story, Robert will share God's Good News, and share his message about how to **Live a Life of No Regrets.**

The Good Friday Breakfast will be held on Friday, March 25 at 7:30am at Hotel Fort Wayne on Washington Center Road. The cost is \$25 per person or \$500 per eight-seat table sponsorship. A buffet breakfast is included and business casual attire is requested. The event is open to the public but seating is limited. Reservations are required by March 21, 2016 and can be made by contacting Gayle Dragoo at 260.918.2151 or [Gayle\\_Dragoo@fwymca.org](mailto:Gayle_Dragoo@fwymca.org).

# GROWING TO SERVE YOU BETTER. COMING SOON! THE NEW SKYLINE YMCA



The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne's newest branch, the Skyline YMCA located at 838 S. Harrison Street, will open in downtown Fort Wayne in late April. This new Y located on the ground floor of the Ash Skyline Plaza spans 10,000 square feet and features state-of-the-art fitness equipment including a Queenax functional training station, Tour De France Cycling Bike and Free Motion Incline Trainer. Group exercise classes will be offered along with individual and group personal training. Showers and locker rooms will make lunch time workouts a breeze. This location will also focus on social responsibility through a Togetherhood program which will invite Y members to lead and participate in volunteer service projects that benefit our community.

A Bike hub managed by Fort Wayne Outfitters will offer the convenience of bike storage and shower access for days when you bike to work. As a member, you can have your own assigned bike storage space for \$10/month; non-members for \$15/month. A Bike Commuter membership is also available which includes an assigned bike storage space and access to the locker/shower room for \$25/month. The Bike Hub will be accessible 24 hours per day for your convenience. For inquiries about this new location please contact Brian West at [brian\\_west@fwymca.org](mailto:brian_west@fwymca.org) or call 422-6486.

## SAFE PLACE

The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne is one of four youth service agencies across the state to launch Safe Place, an outreach and prevention program for youth in need, and join efforts with the ten existing Indiana Safe Place programs to make help and safety immediately available to Indiana youth. Indiana is the only state to provide funding, through the Indiana Youth Services Association, for this highly effective prevention and outreach effort.

Safe Place is a national program designed to reach out to youth who find themselves in crisis situations or need immediate help. Once a youth goes into a Safe Place site (identified by the Safe Place logo), trained staff makes sure he/she is all right and calls the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne designated staff person. A trained staff person will go to the Safe Place site and talk to the youth to determine what kind of further help is needed. Residential services for the youth and counseling for the youth and their family is offered.

If you or someone you know needs a safe place to stay please call Crisis Line at 260.466.7077 or Text SAFE and your current location (address – city – state) to 69866. [www.nationalsafeplace.org](http://www.nationalsafeplace.org)

For Youth....Someplace to Go. Someone to Help.



## NEW FACES, NEW PLACES!



**GENIE GARDNER**  
Membership Assistant,  
YMCA Metropolitan Office



**VALERIE HOLLEY**  
Program Director,  
YMCA Child Care Services



**JEANETTE JOHNSON**  
Program Director,  
YMCA Child Care Services



**SAMARA QURESHI**  
Membership Director,  
Whitley Y



**KRISTEN WARE**  
Membership Director,  
Jorgensen Y

## HELPING PEOPLE



Four years ago, Mildred knew she had to do something to improve her health. Diagnosed with diabetes, high blood pressure and degenerative arthritis, weighing in at 300 lbs. she took 28 pills each day. While he was preparing to join the military, her son encouraged her to join the YMCA. Mildred joined and invited the Y to become part of her weight-loss journey. Since then she has lost a total of 196 lbs! She no longer needs medicine for diabetes, hypertension or pain.

Mildred says her favorite thing about the Y is the staff who always talk to her about future goals. "When you exercise, it doesn't just affect your physical body, but your mind. I need that positive reinforcement. I don't feel lost anymore."

"I can run around with my kids, go ice skating and roller blading. These are all simple things, but I was so heavy I couldn't do those things before. Just because I've reached my weight loss goal, being healthy is still something I have to work toward every day between working out and eating right," Mildred added. That is also something she stresses with her children so they don't have to go through what she's gone through.

Thanks to generous donors, The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne is able to impact the lives of people like Mildred every day. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact your local branch. If you are interested in donating to the Annual Campaign, which makes financial aid possible, visit: [www.fwymca.org/annual\\_campaign.php](http://www.fwymca.org/annual_campaign.php).



# BEST SUMMER EVER!

When school is out, kids in grades K-6 can have fun making crafts, playing games and being active with their friends at a Y day camp! Registration is open now for spring and summer breaks!

Visit [fwymca.org](http://fwymca.org), pick up a brochure or call your local branch for more information!

## 2016 Summer Day Camps Available:

- Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family Y
- Camp Kekionga
- Glenwood Park School
- Jorgensen Family Y
- Parkview Family Y
- Renaissance Pointe Y
- Whitley County Family Y



# CAMP POTAWOTAMI REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER 2016

YMCA Camp Potawotami has been building community, faith and friendship in a beautiful, safe environment for over 90 years! Camp is a lot of fun, with swimming, games, campfires, mud hikes, climbing, archery, arts and crafts – more packed into one week than most kids experience all summer!

But Camp Potawotami is more than that: It's about learning who you are and becoming what you want to be. It's about learning new skills, healthy habits and making new friends. At Camp Potawotami, kids build relationships and self-confidence while growing and finding themselves – and the excellence they are capable of.

No matter what their interests are, there is something for all kids at Camp Potawotami! For more information on programs and registration, visit [fwycamp.org](http://fwycamp.org) today! Still have questions: email [katie\\_taylor@fwymca.org](mailto:katie_taylor@fwymca.org).

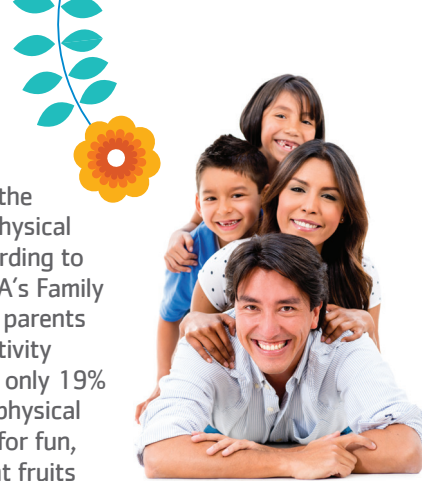


# HEALTHY KIDS DAY

Many U.S. children do not get the recommended daily hours of physical activity or healthy foods. According to the latest findings of the YMCA's Family Health Snapshot – a survey of parents that gauges their children's activity levels during the school year – only 19% of children get 60 minutes of physical activity, only 17% read books for fun, and only 12% eat at least eight fruits and vegetables daily.

The YMCA wants to help you be healthier! Join us for Healthy Kids Day, Saturday, April 30 at YMCAs in Allen, Whitley and Wells counties from 10am - 1pm. Healthy Kids Day will feature free, educational activities at your local Y which help you and your family learn how to live healthier lives.

**Bring your neighbors to the Open House and introduce them to your Y Family!**  
**We will be waiving the \$75 enrollment fee on April 30.**



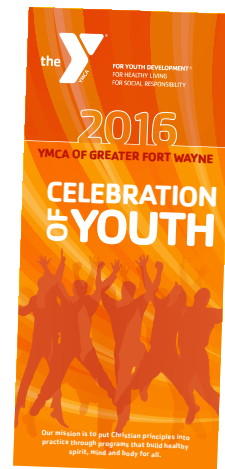
# CELEBRATION OF YOUTH AWARDS

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2016.

Do you know a high school junior or senior who has made unique and exemplary contributions to others? If so, we want to hear from you!

Each year the Celebration of Youth Awards, sponsored by the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne and Wells Fargo Bank, recognize six students who have shown innovation and outstanding achievement in their academic studies and exemplify the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

For complete details and to download a registration form, visit [fwymca.org](http://fwymca.org) or contact Nicole Hansen at 260.918.2144.



# STAY CONNECTED.

Keep up-to-date with the latest Y news, events and programs and connect with other members. Like us on Facebook, ask us a question or share a story!

Scan this QR code to download our FREE YMCA app.



[Facebook.com/gfwymca](https://www.facebook.com/gfwymca)

[HereForYou@fwymca.org](mailto:HereForYou@fwymca.org)

[twitter.com/YMCAFortWayne](https://twitter.com/YMCAFortWayne)

[FindYourselfAtTheY.org](http://FindYourselfAtTheY.org)

[fwymca.org](http://fwymca.org)





**YMCA OF GREATER FORT WAYNE**  
 347 West Berry Street, Suite 500  
 Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
[fwymca.org](http://fwymca.org)

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**HERE FOR GOOD**  
 2016 SESSION & CLASS REGISTRATION DATES  
 YMCA OF GREATER FORT WAYNE

SESSION DATES 2016		REGISTRATION BEGINS	
		Member	Program Participant
WINTER I	Jan. 4-Feb. 21	Dec. 7 (2015)	Dec. 14 (2015)
WINTER II	Feb. 22-Apr. 10	Feb. 8	Feb. 15
SPRING	Apr. 11-May 29	Mar. 28	Apr. 4
SUMMER I	Jun. 6-Jul. 17	May 16	May 23
SUMMER II	Jul. 18-Aug. 28	Jul. 4	Jul. 11
FALL I	Sep. 12-Oct. 30	Aug. 15	Aug. 22
FALL II	Oct. 31-Dec. 18	Oct. 17	Oct. 24

[fwymca.org](http://fwymca.org)

## SPRING SESSION:

**April 11 - May 29**

Registration begins soon! Member registration begins March 28th, Program Participant registration begins April 4th. Pick up a magnet with 2016 Program Registration Dates from your local branch!

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS:

**Charles W. Kuhne Charitable Trust** – A second grant of \$25,000 for the construction of the Jackson R. Lehman Family YMCA, which will serve thousands of northeast Fort Wayne residents. This trust’s total gift is now \$50,000.

**Redwoods Group Foundation** – \$1,500 for the Safe Place program, which provides youth in crisis access to immediate help and supportive resources through the YMCA’s Youth Service Bureau.

**Flora Dale Krouse Foundation** – \$20,000 to support the Integrative Arts Program, in which the Y partners with local artists to provide arts opportunities to children who participate in our After School and Summer Learning programs.

**Howard P. Arnold Foundation** – \$2,000 for the 2016 Annual Campaign, which provides financial assistance to children and families to help them participate at the Y.

**Otto Haas Charitable Trust** – \$7,000 for the Safe Place program, which provides youth in crisis situations access to immediate help and supportive resources through the YMCA’s Youth Service Bureau; and \$5,000 for YMCA general operations.

**Parkview Community Health Improvement Program** – \$25,000 for the YMCA’s Diabetes Prevention Program, which helps adults reduce their chances of developing type 2 diabetes and improve their overall health and well-being.

## MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

YMCA Mission Partners provide financial resources to strengthen our community and move us all forward. The continued support of these companies allows the YMCA to carry out our mission – making a meaningful, enduring impact in our community.



To inquire how your business can become a Mission Partner, contact Nicole Hansen at 260.918.2144 or [Nicole\\_Hansen@fwymca.org](mailto:Nicole_Hansen@fwymca.org).

Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.