

The Good Works of the YMCA



Communities

YMCA Newsletter

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

Summer 2010



Participants enjoy themselves at the Futsal Marathon during Healthy Kids Day at the Family Y



Summer Camp Interns at the Pawtucket Family YMCA in the kitchen getting orders for Family Pasta Night



The water level at the Quidnick Reservoir rose to record levels due to historic flooding



The YMCA of Pawtucket receives American Camp Association Accreditation at all locations





Message from the General Director

The economy has so often been the topic of conversation for many charities lately. As we all navigate creating efficiencies, boosting revenues and ensuring cost effectiveness, I am proud to report that the YMCA has also spent this time recommitting to its core mission: creating strong kids, strong families

and strong communities. As great change came over the past two years, the YMCA of Pawtucket believed all the more in the importance of maintaining its core services and programs – remaining the grassroots, community institution it has always been.

While we have certainly created various efficiencies and sought to raise additional dollars over the past two years, the Board of Directors has not lost sight of its long-term objectives. Capital improvements are underway at our Westwood Branch and very soon now the Board should have some exciting news about our plans for a new YMCA building at MacColl Field. It has been our vision to establish a comprehensive facility with outdoor and indoor recreation, education and aquatic venues that could serve the families of northern Rhode Island. We believe the creation of this new facility will blend with the 125 acres of existing outdoor facilities already there, to create a great campus for youth and families to enjoy.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the 2010 All Star Benefit, co-sponsored by the Pawtucket Red Sox, and also proudly sponsored by Navigant Credit Union, Citizens Bank and many other friends of the YMCA was a great success on Memorial Day. Over \$25,000 was raised from sponsors and ticket buyers and this year's winner of the trip to the Major League All-Star Game in California was Daniel Frazier of Cumberland. Funds raised go directly to our Support A Child Campaign – to ensure that all youth who need access to our camps and programs receive it. Thank you to all who supported the event.

Enjoy this issue of Communities as it is full of examples of the YMCA continuing to offer its broad range of programs to young and old, as well as individuals and families. You have my warmest wishes for a pleasant summer. As families seek safe and exciting opportunities for their children this summer we will continue to work to make those opportunities available to all. Whether it's teaching safe swimming or providing the enjoyment of what the outdoor environment does to a child's world - these experiences plus the value of positive role models help to shape a child's world and value system. We grow children to be fit, responsible, honest and caring. Your support allows us to reach more children.

Esselton T. McNulty, General Director
YMCA of Pawtucket

YMCA of PAWTUCKET 2010

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- Susan Reed, President
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- Catherine Eastwood, Asst. Treasurer
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- Charles White



William Hunt (Past President) and Susan Reed (Newly Elected President) attend the 120th Annual Meeting held on February 4, 2010.

YMCA of Pawtucket Gets ACA Accreditation



All of the camps offered at the YMCA of Pawtucket recently received accreditation by the American Camp Association. The ACA is a community of camp professionals who, for nearly 100 years, have joined together to share knowledge and experience and to ensure the quality of camp programs. The American Camp Association has a diverse 7,000 plus membership. Through the camps at the YMCA of Pawtucket, children learn powerful lessons in community, character-building, skill development, and healthy living. These lessons cannot be learned anywhere else.

The YMCA of Pawtucket is very pleased to have received the ACA accreditation so that it can promote to parents and families that its camps all meet some 300 national safety and health standards – reassuring all that their child is in an environment in which he/she are well cared for, the facilities are up to code and there is a high value placed on comfort, cleanliness and good working order of facilities. There is no other oversight of camps, making the ACA seal of approval an important one. Rhode Island was considering applying state childcare regulations as a way of governing camps. The YMCA felt that the ACA process

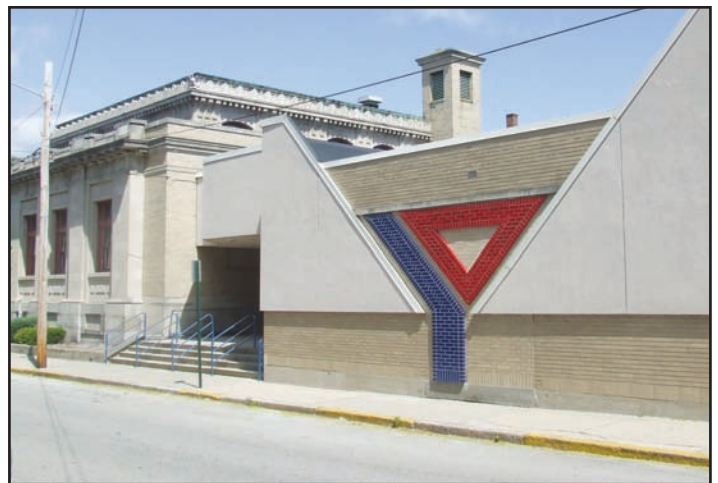
was more appropriate to its camps and more rigorous and is pleased to have invested the time in reviewing the national guidelines and making various improvements to ensure accreditation.

The ACA is the only organization that accredits all types of camps, with up to 300 national standards for health and safety. ACA's accreditation program educates camp owners and directors in the administration of key aspects of camp operation, particularly those related to program quality and the health and safety of campers and staff. The standards establish guidelines for needed policies, procedures, and practices. The camp, then, is responsible for on-going implementation of these policies. "ACA accreditation assures parents that the camp they have chosen has had a regular, independent safety audit that goes beyond regulations in most states," explains Marla Coleman who is past president of the American Camp Association. "It helps parents select a camp that meets industry-accepted and government-recognized standards."

A New Collaboration: Greater Woonsocket YMCA

As a result of the pressures of the recession over the past two years, The Greater Woonsocket YMCA was faced with severe financial problems. The Executive Director and Board of Directors of the Greater Woonsocket YMCA consulted with the YMCA of the USA and agreed that it was important for it to develop additional support from another YMCA. The Boards entered into a management agreement to assist the Woonsocket Y in developing a plan to help it out of its financial problems through long-term improvements.

This has already proven to be a strong partnership as the two institutions entered into a camp agreement that permits youth to attend all camps offered at MacColl Field YMCA. It is a great opportunity for Woonsocket youth to be able to utilize the facilities at MacColl Field including the swimming pools, spray park, water slides and the large wooded area that surrounds it. The partnership also makes it possible for Woonsocket parents to take advantage of the before and after-school care, extending their summer camp experience. The Greater Woonsocket YMCA has, for years, been without a fully developed home for summer camp and now its youth members, ages 4 – 15, will have an array of attractive options at MacColl Field YMCA.





Good Works

JC Penney & YMCA Grant Reaches Out to Families in Distress

As a result of a growing problem of families losing employment and state subsidies, many children have been dropping out of the programs at Heritage Park YMCA, an early learning center. In response, Heritage Park YMCA applied for a JC Penney grant through the YMCA of The USA. This project supported 10 children, the majority of whom were from single parent families that had been barred from the state subsidy program due to a change in income guidelines and had no other childcare options. Without grant funding, these parents would have been faced with significantly reducing their work hours or giving up their jobs all together.

One shy 7 year old boy from a single parent household was helped enormously by this grant. His mother had lost financial assistance due to changes in the state subsidy determination. With the support of the YMCA staff, the young boy learned skills that helped him participate in group activities and deal with the children who had bullied him. T She said “the YMCA has made all the difference and I am very grateful for the support from JC Penney.”

AYP Gives YMCA General Director the Star Award!

Esselton McNulty received the Association of YMCA Professionals Star Award in June. Since 1871, the AYP has been recognizing professionals for their achievements with youth. McNulty was honored with the Star Award for his record of accomplishment over a long tenure of some 30 years as a YMCA leader. McNulty said he is “honored by the award. Youth development has been a lifelong endeavor for me and I feel incredible motivation each time a child learns to swim, a teen engages in community service or a youth learns responsibility through play.” AYP recognized 6 individuals at its ceremony in Newport.



The Youngest YMCA Children Walk for Life



Toddlers, preschoolers and school-aged children enrolled at the Heritage Park YMCA walked 2.5 miles to support the American Cancer Society in their Relay for Life event. To raise funds for cancer research, the children asked their families, friends and neighbors to sponsor the event which occurred in June. Sharon Friedman, Heritage Park’s Executive Director said “our children offered compassion and caring for others that is a lifelong lesson. Heritage Park YMCA is proud to support the local community with these acts of service and be able to help those people in need.” Relay for Life events were held in 18 communities throughout Rhode Island.



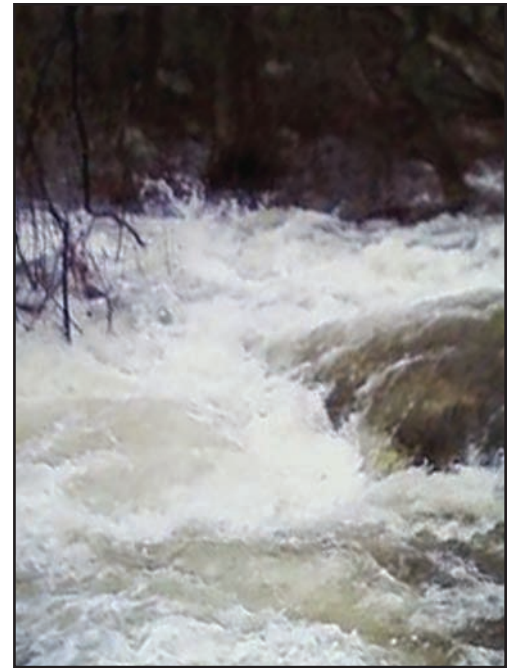
Volunteers Save Quidnick Reservoir Dam During Historic Flooding

The flooding that impacted much of Rhode Island in early April took a big toll on the Westwood YMCA. Westwood is adjacent to the Quidnick Reservoir, where the water rose high enough to endanger the earthen dam that contains it. This quarter mile long dam, built in the 1830s, protects nearby streams that feed Stump and Johnson's Ponds and ultimately reach the Pawtuxet River.

The YMCA had to rely on neighbors and emergency responders to work to prevent the dam from eroding and rushing into the countryside and homes downstream. Staff and volunteers made sandbags to fill holes that were eroding the dam. Coupled with sandbags delivered by Coventry Public Works and the National Guard, they reinforced the dam while the Army Corps of Engineers and other responders recommended that people in households downstream evacuate.



Today the YMCA is repairing the dam and assessing what improvements can be made for the future. Don Thomassen, YMCA Director, said that the "YMCA is very grateful to all who responded to the threat of enormous harm to the camp and its neighbors."



Interns Host Family Pasta Night at the Y



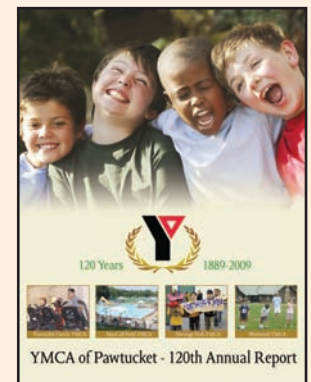
The Summer Camp Interns at the Family Y are very busy this summer with a program that they run on Wednesday nights. Aimee Johnson, Intern Director says "we are trying to encourage family togetherness. Our directive is to sponsor a dinner where families can sit down and enjoy each other's company and hopefully enjoy a good meal." Interns have served hundreds of meals since its launch in June and it continues to be a big draw. Pawtucket Family YMCA members were able to enjoy dinner prepared and "served" by Interns at no charge. The only requirement for dinner is that families spend quality time together and have a conversation.

GD USA Inhouse Design Award for Annual Report

The YMCA of Pawtucket is very pleased to receive the 2010 American Inhouse Design Award from Graphic Design USA for its contest submission in the Annual Report category.

The Inhouse Design Awards are a prestigious showcase for outstanding work by inhouse designers. These awards recognize inhouse designers and their departments for their talent, for the challenges they face and for their contributions to their businesses and institutions. The 2010 competition consisted of 24 categories and over 4,000 entries from various industries throughout the United States. In 2008, YMCA of the USA won for its entry of Member News Poster.

Congratulations go out to Donna Marie King, Communications Coordinator/Graphic Designer.



YMCA Healthy Kids Day a Huge Success!

The YMCA celebrated Healthy Kids Day at two of its locations on April 18, 2010. It is a fun, activity-filled festival that is free to the community. Celebrating the day's key call to action, "Put Play in Your Day", Healthy Kids Day is a national event designed to promote healthy kids and families in spirit, mind and body.

YMCA



HEALTHY KIDS DAY

MacColl Field YMCA



Karate Demonstrations



Healthy Kids Information



Line Dancing

Pawtucket Family YMCA



A Petting Zoo



Futsal Marathon



Cinderella



Resource Fair

Y People in Profile

YMCA Programs Helped This Child's Development

Ryan loves to create and make things with his hands. Since he was a young boy, he has been engaged in various artistic projects. Five years ago, Ryan came to YMCA Childcare as a shy, introverted young boy. Like many other



Ryan (sitting right) working on an arts and craft project during Art Camp at Westwood YMCA

children with Autism, he struggled with daily obstacles. Over the years, the YMCA has worked very closely with him and he has made great strides in his development, including his communication skills and interactions with other children.

His father mentioned how lucky he was to have the YMCA there for him.

He said, “the staff make an extra effort to be Ryan’s friend. The reason that I chose the YMCA for childcare was the staff to child ratio. It allows for counselors to be more involved with each child’s needs. Working full-time, the extended after school program was also convenient for me. Ryan looks forward to going to childcare or camp every day and gets very excited about the activities. He is always coming home with something like the lifesize cut-out of himself that he made at Art Camp last year ... it’s still in his room.”

Diagnosed with Autism at 2 years old, Ryan’s has benefited from the YMCA as a committed partner for his care. It is evident that Ryan has made great progress since he first entered YChildcare and continues to refine his artistic talents. Pat Falvey, YMCA Childcare Coordinator at Westwood said “Ryan is a great kid. I love his sense of humor. After meeting him, you can’t help to be drawn to his personality. He is always joking around with me”

In Memory of Betty Johnson



The YMCA of Pawtucket would like to recognize Elizabeth (Betty) Johnson, a local historian who passed away this year. Through her wealth of knowledge of Pawtucket and her love of research, Ms. Johnson was instrumental in providing a wealth of information for the YMCA of Pawtucket’s first *Communities* newsletter. When approached for her help, Ms. Johnson was so delighted to be able to assist the YMCA in this endeavor, that she spent nearly two hours in the house she grew up in, now known as the Joseph Spaulding House, going over pictures and stories of Pawtucket’s history. While reviewing old documents and pictures, you could not help but to embrace and feel the passion she had for her city, its community and culture. There is so much history to be shared through the intensive research of Ms. Johnson and the YMCA is most grateful to have had this opportunity to be personally connected to Betty Johnson.

Antonio Pires - An Active Member of Our Board



Tony Pires is an active member of the Board of Directors of the YMCA and brings a wealth of business and community experience to bear on the various issues and programs under review by the Board. Tony is retired as the Managing Partner of Troy, Pires & Allen, LLC – an East Providence-based insurance firm. He also served as a State Representative from Pawtucket for more than fifteen years, many of them as Chairman of the House Finance Committee. He is an active member of many civic groups including the Pawtucket Foundation, the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program and served as a softball and Little League coach. Tony is pleased to serve on the YMCA Board of Directors. “I am a strong believer in youth involvement in physical and sports activities because of the life lessons learned regarding the need for individual commitment and dedication in order to build not only a strong team today but an entire community tomorrow.”



YMCA OF PAWTUCKET COMMUNITIES

Did You Know?

- The Y supports people throughout life - baby/parents, pre-school, school age, teen, adult and seniors.
- The Pawtucket Family YMCA membership is valid and can be used at any other Massachusetts or RI YMCA facility.
- The year 2006 marked the 100th anniversary of the first swim lessons offered by the YMCA

2010 Support-A-Child Campaign is Underway!

YMCA charitable gifts provide scholarships for children who want and need Y programs but may not otherwise be able to afford them. These programs include day camp, child care, youth sports, water safety, before and afterschool care, and summer camp.

Your tax-deductible contribution to the YMCA will help provide a host of programs for kids. Please make a difference in a child's life.

Giving online is easy. Give it a try today!



**Donate Today By Visiting
Us on the Web at:
www.goymca.com/aboutus**

Communities is published by the YMCA of Pawtucket, Inc., a nonprofit corporate entity representing four YMCA branches: Pawtucket Family YMCA, Heritage Park YMCA Early Learning Center, MacColl Field YMCA and Westwood YMCA. We provide physical and educational programs along with childcare services.

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Westwood YMCA
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Mission Statement: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build character and promote a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

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