

YMCA OF GREATER FLINT

# 2019 IMPACT REPORT



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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## NOTE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

Year after year, the YMCA of Greater Flint continues to astonish me by how much impact we have on the community. In 2019, we served 32,000 residents of Genesee County, we were able to help solve 8,140 math problems in our Safe Places program and we were able to send 419 kids to Camp Copneconic on scholarship. I hope you turn the pages of this impact report and realize we couldn't have done it without the people of the Y. With your help we are building strong kids, strong families and a strong community. Thank you for your time and your talent.



As your new CEO, I hope to continue to the expand the mission of the YMCA of Greater Flint throughout Genesee County. I'm excited to see what the future of the Y holds and the possibilities that we encounter in 2020. Let's continue to strengthen our community, together.

**SHELLY HILTON**  
YMCA of Greater Flint CEO

## BRANCH LOCATIONS

### DOWNTOWN BRANCH

411 E. Third St.  
Flint, MI 48503  
flintymca.com  
810-232-9622

### PIERSON RD. BRANCH

G-5219 W. Pierson Rd.  
Flushing, MI 48433  
flintymca.com  
810-732-9622

### CAMP COPNECONIC

10407 N Fenton Rd.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
CampCopneconic.org  
810-629-9622

The YMCA of Greater Flint is a 501 c(3) non-profit whose mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

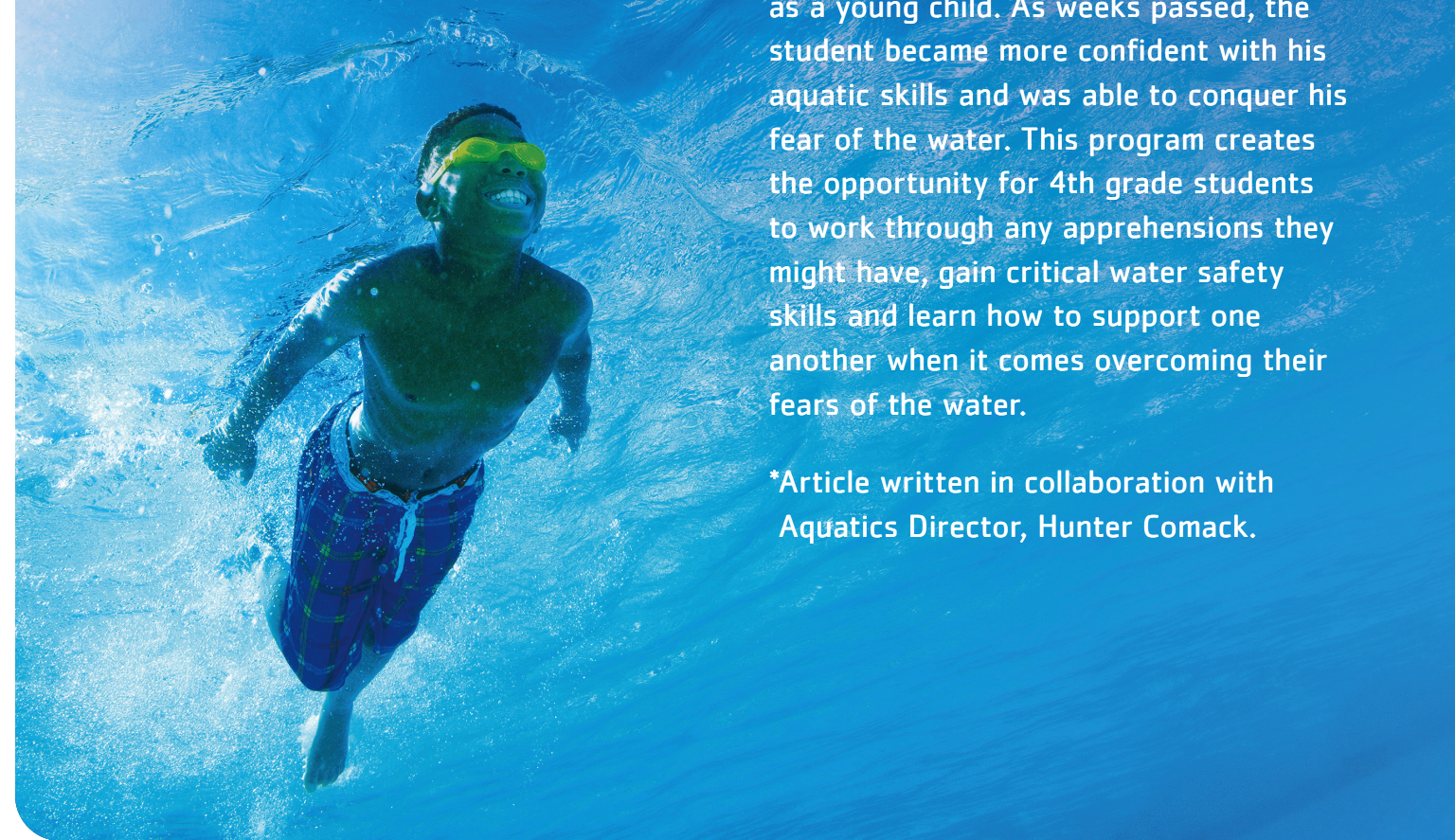
# JUST KEEP SWIMMING!

**Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death for youth in Michigan. Here's what the YMCA of Greater Flint is doing to change that.**

The Y has created programs such as 4th Grade Swim program to help combat this startling statistic. Because of this program, 313 students from Flint Community schools are able to learn about water safety, and practice different aquatic skills such as floating, jumping to the water and freestyle."

Pierson Rd. Aquatics Director, Hunter Comack, was able to experience this impact first hand with a particular student from Doyle-Ryder Elementary. This student refused to get into the water and fell ill right before class started. After calming the student down, it was learned that he almost drowned as a young child. As weeks passed, the student became more confident with his aquatic skills and was able to conquer his fear of the water. This program creates the opportunity for 4th grade students to work through any apprehensions they might have, gain critical water safety skills and learn how to support one another when it comes overcoming their fears of the water.

\*Article written in collaboration with Aquatics Director, Hunter Comack.



# A FLINT FALCONS FAMILY

To Lindsey Spiewak, mother of seven, family is extremely important. When it came to her children participating in sports, she wanted to find a sport that they could all participate in together. After trying sports such as, soccer, dance, and karate, which led them to never being together as a unit, the Spiewak family decided that swimming was going to be their sport. Since 2013, the Spiewak family has been swimming with the YMCA Flint Falcons.

“It’s been awesome for our family!” said Lindsey. “Not only are our children siblings but they are also teammates!”

The YMCA Flint Falcons is the Flint area’s competitive age group swim team. They are a USA (US Olympic Team sanctioning body) and YMCA affiliated team. The YMCA Flint Falcons recently held their first three-day swim meet and it was a huge success.

“We have a very unified team on all fronts: the parents, the coaches, and the YMCA staff, all working together to make sure our swimmers have the best experience both in and out of the water!” said Lindsey.



“

I am extremely grateful that the YMCA here in Flint has given my children a chance to learn the sport of swimming and a chance to participate in a sport with some of their best friends!

Lindsey Spiewak

”



## AN OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

YMCA Camp Copneconic works to remove barriers that prevents children from attending camp. For the first time in 2019, Copneconic was able to provide scholarships to students who otherwise would not be able to attend camp with their peers to participate in Copneconic's Outdoor Education Program. This program is a way for groups to have a hands-on, outdoor, environmental education experience while also participating in fun recreational and team building activities.

This scholarship was named after Vickie Weiss, a local teacher who passed away in 2019. Vickie was a huge advocate for outdoor education and brought her classes to Camp Copneconic for years. Black Elementary was the first school to receive this scholarship and was able to bring every student that wanted to come to camp! Jen Kennaugh, one of Black Elementary 5th grade teachers, also a huge advocate for Outdoor Education, mentioned that she likes how it reinforces science lessons from school and brings the classroom outside. Some of her students have never had the opportunity to interact with nature and explore the outdoors.

"I truly believe that... the outdoor education that they get from camp stays with them for a lifetime, ...the team building, character education and cooperative efforts are invaluable," said Kennaugh. "My students come back from camp like a big family who have shared something that has changed their lives!"

For more information about supporting the Vickie Weiss Scholarship Fund, contact Pam Bailey at [pambailey@flintymca.org](mailto:pambailey@flintymca.org)

“ Thank you for the scholarship that allowed me to go to camp. I had so much fun! I went on a giant swing, did archery, made a corn husk doll, and more! My cabin even pranked the boys' cabin and the other girls' cabin! Camp was one of my favorite things I have ever done! Thank you again!

**5th Grade Student,  
Black Elementary School**

## MONICA & AUDRINA RIZZO

### MOTHER DAUGHTER RANCH EXPERIENCE LEADS TO CIRCLE C RANCH OVERNIGHT CAMP

Three years ago, Monica Rizzo happened to be watching an episode of the Real Housewives of Atlanta that featured YMCA Camp Copneconic. After a quick google search and a registration to Copneconic's Mother Daughter Ranch Camp, a new tradition between mother, Monica, and daughter, Audrina was born.

Mother Daughter Ranch Camp is a three-day program where mothers and daughters learn how to saddle, ride and care for their horses. Not only do participants learn how to care for their horses, but they also have the opportunity to participate in traditional camp activities. This weekend led to Audrina expanding outside her comfort zone and participating in one of Copneconic's overnight camp programs, Circle C Ranch. This program is a week long program designed for riders of all levels who want to advance their equestrian skills.

"Audrina wouldn't have experienced camp," said Monica. "She wouldn't even spend the full night at my sister's house! This weekend led her to doing the Circle C Ranch, [a] week long camp, by herself She is talking now with some girls to coordinate which week they are going. This summer will be her third summer and she looks forward to it."



“ We have started many traditions throughout the years, but this one is my favorite.

**Monica Rizzo**



“ She cries when she leaves camp because it’s another 365 days until she gets to go back.

Kim Wolfgang



## EMILEE KOSTIZEN OVERNIGHT CAMP

Emilee Kostizen passed through the gate of YMCA Camp Copneconic for the first time when she was just three years old. Emilee, now 15, has been a camper for 12 years. The last four summers Emilee was able to experience the magic of overnight camp. Not only does she love to partake in the camp activities such as rock wall climbing and tubing, but she appreciates the opportunity that she’s been given over the years to create lifelong friendships.

“I wouldn’t have known all the friends I have now,” said Emilee. “I have so many connections to different people.

Not only is Emilee a huge fan of the Copneconic’s overnight camp program, but her mother Kim Wolfgang is as well.

“This is literally her favorite week of the year,” said Kim Wolfgang, mother of Emilee. “This is one week that kids can unplug. There is no communication to her unless I’m writing her a letter. They get to be kids, no snap chat or social media. I love that she is away from everything for a week.”

“ You get to meet lots of new people and learn how to do new fun things. I especially love the horses and learning how to ride them and take care of them!

Graham Altrock



## GRAHAM ALTROCK DAY CAMP

Going to Camp Copneconic is a no brainer for return camper, Graham Altrock, 10. Graham has been attending Copneconic Day Camp for the past four years and thoroughly enjoys his time at camp. He looks forward to it during the school year and he can’t wait for it to start. Some of Graham’s favorite activities are the Zoom Toss Zip Line, archery and Gaga Ball.

“I think it is wonderful, for all the reasons Graham thinks it’s wonderful because if he didn’t then I wouldn’t bring him back,” said Darci Altrock, Graham’s

mother. “I love the variety of camps offered and the different activities offered through the day. The counselors are amazing and seem to know all the kids by name, they always seem to be having as much fun as the kids are!”



“ Being able to bring all these kids together gives a sense of community. It’s a week for them to be confident!

Nicole Matti, ADA Camp Midicha Director

”



## A LIFE-CHANGING PARTNERSHIP!

American Diabetes Association’s Camp Midicha has been around for over 60 years. And throughout those 60 years, ADA Camp Midicha has formed a strong partnership with YMCA Camp Copneconic. ADA Camp Midicha gives kids who have either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes the opportunity to go to camp while also helping campers learn how to manage their diabetes. In 2019, ADA Camp Midicha hosted over 500 campers at Camp Copneconic.

This week of camp gives youth more control over diabetes management. In fact, 91% of campers were able to perform at least one diabetes management skill independently. Though it’s week full of learning, it’s also a week of summer camp. Eating s’mores, zip lining, kayaking and singing campfire songs makes the magic of camp come to life and creates memories for campers that last a lifetime.



## A SAFE PLACE

Jimica Leonard is a stay at home mom and lives in an apartment with her husband and four children Elle, 15, Sidnee, 13, Nate, 9, and Mikayla, 7. Jimica was born in Flint, MI but lived in Jacksonville, FL for 20 years. Jimica and her family moved back to the Flint area in 2017. Her family have been a part of the Y Safe Places program at Mt. Olive Baptist Church for the past two years. Y Safe Places is a free community based summer and after school program for all youth grades K-12th. It is offered by the YMCA of Greater Flint at churches and community centers across the city of Flint.

“Safe Places has been a very positive experience for my children,” said Jimica. “They weren’t raised here and I feel like they Y helped me introduce Michigan to them.”

Her two oldest girls were able to attend Camp Copneconic in the past year and have been active participants in the Girls on the Run program. Her children have also taken fun field trips with Safe Places. Through one of the field trips, her children even learned how to roller blade!



“ Safe Places gives me an opportunity to not worry about them when they get out of school It gives me an opportunity to grocery shop and do things while they are away and knowing they are safe.

Jimica Lenoard

# ADRIENNE GOERING

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Adrienne Goering, a competitive synchronized swimmer, recently moved back to her hometown of Flint, MI after living in Brooklyn, New York for the past 20 years. After joining the Downtown YMCA, she noticed that the Downtown YMCA was holding a swim-a-thon. Adrienne had never really participated in a program like a swim-a-thon, but was interested in raising fund to help support kid's aquatic programs at the Y and to test herself as a lap swimmer.

"I trained to test my own strength and stamina and am proud to say I swam 100 laps in an hour," said Adrienne. "But I'm most proud and grateful that I had many many supporters who helped me raise money for the youth aquatics programs! It's invaluable that area kids are given opportunities to learn water safety and to join the swim team and have fun in the water!"

**“ I, myself, am a ‘graduate’ of the 4th grade swim and water safety program the YMCA provides to Flint schools. 40 years ago! I have clear memories of learning to float, to stay calm in the water in emergencies, and how to tread water correctly in this same Downtown YMCA pool along with my classmates from Walker Elementary. In fact, 3 of my backers for the swim-a-thon also went through the YMCA program around the time I did. I ended up taking lessons to learn swimming strokes and how to dive.**

ADRIENNE GOERING



# MARK BAUMAN

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

For YMCA member Mark Bauman, running has been a lifelong passion. In fact, it's been such a strong passion that Mark recently was inducted in the Greater Flint Athletic Hall of Fame.

"It was quite a thrill for me," said Bauman. "And to be able to have my friends and family there. It was a thrill of a lifetime."

Throughout his running career, Bauman has run 50 Boston marathons and has successfully opened a store called Bauman's Running and Walking Shop. Bauman is an active member of the YMCA. Not only does he sit on the YMCA of Greater Flint Board of Directors, but he also coordinates the New Year's Even Run, an 8k run and a 5k walk, and assists in many other races that take place at the Y.

"For me personally, I do a lot of running and walking out of the Downtown YMCA," said Bauman. "And if I didn't, I would have to find a new group to run and walk with or we would have to meet somewhere else."

Congratulations Mark! We're excited to see where your running career takes you next!

**“ The Y is important to the community because of all it offers to the community. Youth programming, after school programming, senior programs and more!**

MARK BAUMAN



Photo courtesy of My City Magazine



# ANDRE BROWN

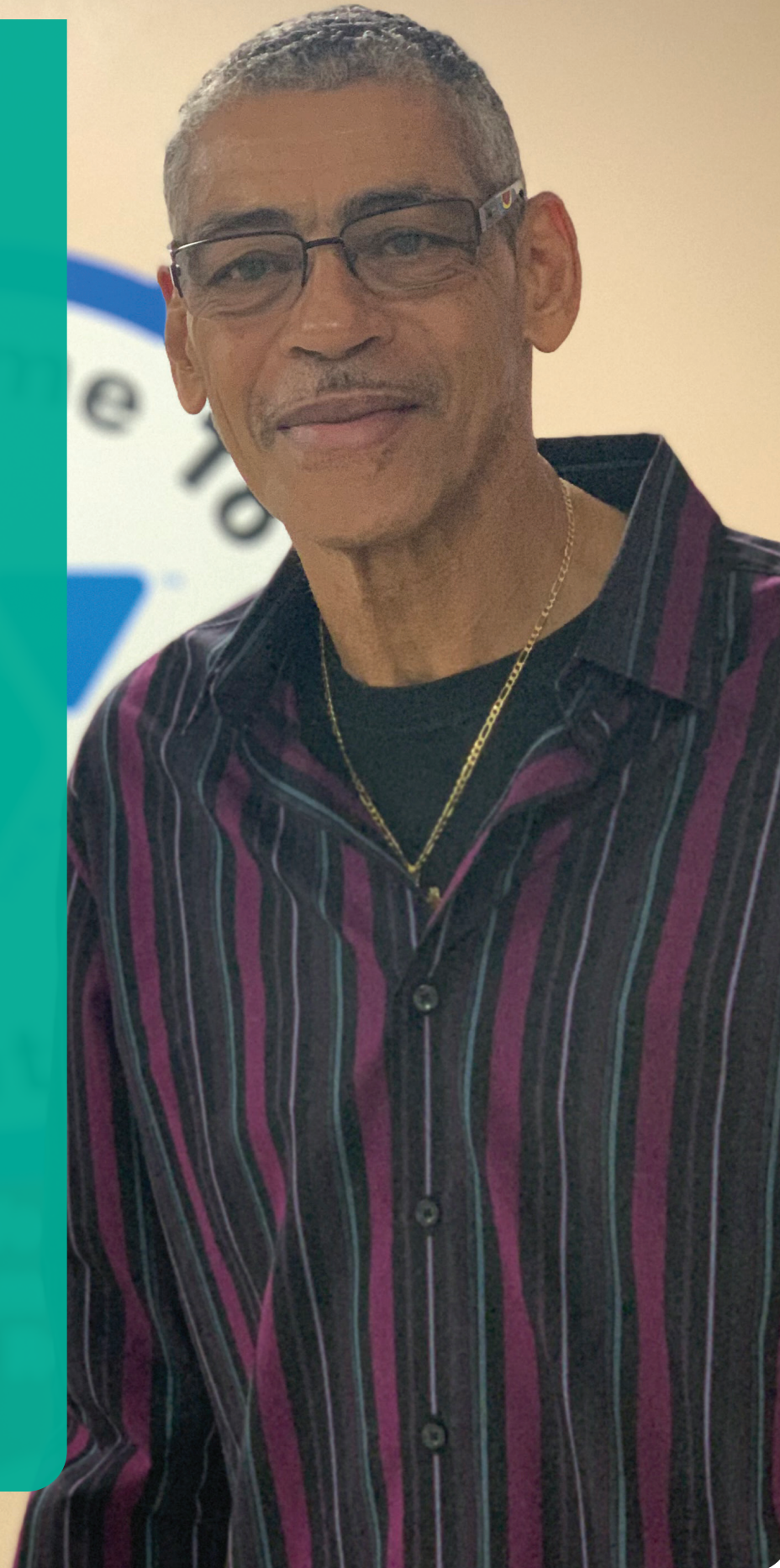
## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Though Andre Brown, 67, first came to the Y as a child back in the 1960's, he really didn't start regularly coming to the Y until the 1990's. It was then he really started to connect with the people at the Y and participating in the programs that the Y has to offer, such as the Y's yoga classes.

"It's a great place to belong to," said Brown. "And belonging to it, you will find a lot of things to do and you will meet a lot of great people."

Brown mentioned that most of his family has passed away and that his children live out of town. But the Y gives him the opportunity to be social in the community and it's very important that the community continues to support the Y.

“ The Y is my family. ”  
ANDRE BROWN



## YMCA OF GREATER FLINT FOUNDATION THANK YOU

Since 1879 the YMCA of Greater Flint has been a pillar of the community with outstanding staff and volunteer leadership, a strong national organization, and substantial resources. These strengths have resulted in positioning our YMCA to serve and meet community needs for generations to come.

It's been an honor & privilege to serve the YMCA of Greater Flint for the past 15+ years in many capacities, including operating board president from 2012–2014 and beginning in 2017, the president of the YMCA of Greater Flint Foundation.

Since its inception in 1996, the YMCA of Greater Flint Foundation has provided \$11,414,000 of support in programming, projects and infrastructure. This has helped further the YMCA of Greater Flint's mission of putting Christian principles into practice through programs which build healthy spirit, mind and body.

While this is a remarkable track record, our work is far from finished. The needs of the community have never been greater and it's the goal of the YMCA of Greater Flint to keep pace with these needs. For the YMCA of Greater Flint Foundation to maintain a commensurate level of support, foundation asset growth is essential. The recipe for growth comes from great stewardship, prudent investment management and gifts, donations and estate bequests from "friends of the Y" like yourself.

While the foundation board is committed to unwavering stewardship and prudent investment management, we hope that you'll please consider including the YMCA of Greater Flint in your charitable contributions as well as your estate & philanthropic planning.

Sincerely,

**JEFF SNIDER**

YMCA of Greater Flint Foundation President

In 1996, by action of the YMCA of Greater Flint Board of Directors, the YMCA of Greater Flint Foundation was formed. This action would prove to solidify and guarantee the YMCA of Greater Flint's ability to serve youth, teens, adults, families and seniors throughout the community. Initial Funding of \$8 million was transferred from cash assets in the YMCA Endowment Fund, and the first meeting of the foundation was held on June 26, 1996. Gifts to the YMCA Foundation have been carefully preserved and allocated primarily for projects that enhance the YMCA's ability to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.



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## 2019 PROJECTS

### THESE ARE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE YMCA OF GREATER FLINT FOUNDATION:

Partner With Youth  
\$125,000

Pierson Road Repairs  
\$20,000

Camp Maintenance Building  
\$185,000

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Andrea Nordberg  
Andrea Sprague  
Anne & Ron Studd  
Anne M. Hasseld  
Anne Thorndike  
Anonymous  
Ashley Schlager  
Audrey Rabideau  
Aunt Phyllis and Uncle Paul  
Bailey McGinness  
Becky Scherr  
Belen Kintner  
Binsons infusion services  
Blake Wesley  
Bonnie Korttila  
Bruce Buchner  
Caitlin Emling  
Carol Mathias  
Carol Stull  
Cassandra Dreffs  
Catelin Robinson Millhouse  
Christina Flint  
Cooper McBiterson  
Craig MacLean  
Creed Bratton  
Cristine DePaiva  
Cruz Family  
Cyndee Risner  
David & Andrea Smith  
Dick & Stella Duckert  
Donald Gavagan  
Doreen Anzalone  
Dutra Family  
Elizabeth Duffy  
Elizabeth Hudson  
Ellen McMurray-Gavagan  
Erin Carnes  
Evan  
Frederick Becker  
Gabrielle Brizendine  
Gage the Destroyer  
Gustina Sell  
Heidi Weber  
Ivan Lindsay  
Jack & Patti Frawley  
Jake Lamson  
Jami Waddle  
Jane Connelly  
Jane Kutchey  
Janelle Procnunier  
Jen Rudd  
Jennifer Giddings-Essenmacher  
Jentery Farmer  
Jeremy and Amy Piper Fund  
Jerry Orwin  
Jess Clapp  
Jill emling  
Jill Erfourth  
Jillian Ferry  
Jillian Norwood  
Jim and Sue Boerger  
Jim Janisch  
Jimmy Becker  
Joe & Jodi Sklenear  
John Mitchell  
John Ploucha  
Jordan and Ashley Siegel Scholarship Fund  
Julia Sandoval  
Kaitlyn Dougherty  
Kara Sokol  
Karen Quinn  
Kari Koske  
Katy Brigden  
Kelli Catrell  
Kerri McCuaig and family  
Kerry Huebbers  
Konnor Kesselring  
Laura & Sam Lobar  
Laura Cerrito  
Laura, Sam, Matt, & Marcelle Lobar  
Laurel  
Lauren Bellflower  
Lauren Conley  
Lauren Crane  
Lauren Dietz  
Lesley  
Linda Minogue  
Lisa McKinley  
Lisa Noe  
Lora Salenbien  
Loretta Ferry  
Lucy Appel  
Madi Wilhelm  
Margaret Durham  
Marie Morgan  
Mario Chavez  
Mary Jo Dreffs  
Mary Lou Teceno  
Mary Nelson  
Megan Gavagan  
Meghan Emling  
Mel & Steve Royce

**Camp Copneconic Summer Staff**  
Jamison Angus  
Olivia Anzalone  
Spencer Atkinson  
Kyle Ayotte  
Elisabeth Becker  
Ryan Behan  
Montana Bishop  
Elaine Borges  
Przemyslaw Bratz  
Jennifer Tussey  
Viktoriai Verezhak  
Ismail Wilson  
Chin Ka Wai Clara  
Callie Bryant  
Freya Bullard  
Keely Carlson  
Caitlin Carman  
Logan Carter  
Nicole Chan  
Sophie Charboneau  
Megan Connelly  
Derek Deighton  
Jim & Susan Delp  
Madeline Dutra  
Joseph Dykman  
Meghan Emling  
Terese Feldpausch  
Jillian Ferry  
Matthew Flynn  
Brigid Flynn  
Harry Foord  
Ryan Gavagan  
Amelia Gavulic  
Ali Hannish  
Halima Harper  
Katararina Jones  
Jacob Juhl  
Shannon Kase  
Jordin Kennedy  
Tyler Kieft  
Rylea Kivari  
Jacob Klokeid  
Chloe Kotarak  
Tara Lampe  
Jonathan Lane  
Monica LeDuc  
Rachel Loomis  
Mary Martin  
Blaine McArthur  
Jonathon Bailey  
McGinness  
Cori Melly  
Maggie Mitchell

**Memorials**  
In Memory of Ben Handa by Coland & Linda LeGrande, and George and Terri Stewart  
In Memory of Ben Wylie by George and Terri Stewart, Pam Bailey, Paul and Janet Wenstrom,, Fritz and Anne Cheek, Anonymous, YEO & YEO, John and Joanne Vivian, Betty Wenzlick, Thomas B Halligan  
In Memory of Gary Jones by Katarina Jones  
In Memory of Coland Wesley ("Bud") LeGrande Jr by George and Terri Stewart  
In Memory of Leah by Patty & Ralph Woodside  
In Memory of Linda Mangapora by Wendy Branson, Greg and Jeanette Renn, Phyllis and Nancy (Mangapora) Squires, and B & C Britton.  
In Memory of Vickie Dee Weiss by Alan & Rebecca Ross, Amy Schlussel, Andrea Wright, Andrew Kruse, Anonymous, Anthony & Judy Puidokas, Barbara Reehl, Betty Lou Campbell,

Delanie Moulton  
Taylor Mufalli  
Sandra Nehring  
Caralyn Pietras  
Austin Poley  
Hunter Puestow  
Amalia Rawsthorne-Gane  
Megan Reiche  
Alexandra Richardson  
Erica Ritter  
Sophie Rolph  
Anna Rousseau  
Hollie Rowlands  
Hannah Rutherford  
Renee Salenbien  
Haylee Skank  
Hannah Smith  
Dominique Speher  
Madeline Thompson  
McKenna Treve  
Jennifer Tussey  
Viktoriai Verezhak  
Ismail Wilson  
Chin Ka Wai Clara  
Karen Oconnor,  
Karen Sue Strong,  
Kevin & Kouhaila Hammer, Kimberly A Brown, Lilly Brinn and Family, Lindsay Covert, Lynne Parker, Marcia Selley, Mary Delzer, Mary Jean Lamberson-Allard, Mary Shaw, Mary Weiss, Matthew Karr, McGrath Elementary School-Douglas and Karen McMahanm Michigan State University, Motion Resources, Inc, Mr. & Mrs. Kay Reed, Neil Graham, Norman Abdella, Pam Murdoch, Patricia Erickson, Patricia Rockafellow, Polen Mortgage & Realty Company, Polly Yorke, Robert Rordin, Robert Ransom, Rodney and Ellen Lounds, Sandra Jones, Sharon Hammer, Shelly Fenner-Krasny, SS Ahrens, The Library Media Staff at Grand Blanc Community Schools, The Robertsongifford Family, Thomas C. Yeotis, Tom, Kathy and Jennifer Gould, Win & Jodie Cooper, Your MSU Family, Yousif B Ghafari

# 2019 STATISTICS

**2,420**  
people attended  
Aqua Aerobics  
at Downtown



**\$231,475**  
of financial aid was  
provided to members



**105,393**  
free high fives given  
at Safe Places

**900**  
buddy checks at  
Camp Copneconic



**63,223**  
miles were traveled on  
treadmills at Pierson Rd.

**12,500**  
water balloons deployed  
at Day Camp



YMCA OF GREATER FLINT

**2019  
IMPACT  
REPORT**

