



YMCA OF GREATER FLINT 2021 IMPACT REPORT

MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER



**FOR
YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT**



**FOR
HEALTHY
LIVING**



**FOR
SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY**





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A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

DEAR FRIENDS,

Looking back on 2021, I am unbelievably proud of how the YMCA of Greater Flint positively impacted our community. There was hope we would return to how life was pre-pandemic, but we found ourselves adapting to the continuing changing of needs in our community and learning how to evolve to this 'new normal'. Though last year was unpredictable, I am comforted by the resiliency of our community and Y family. It is because of that resiliency, that we were able to provide life changing moments to families and youth throughout Genesee County.



In the first few months of the year, we continued our 2020 Emergency feeding program, providing 5,130 meals to our community. Camp Copneconic welcomed back summer campers and safely provided life-changing experiences to over 1,615 summer campers. Our Pierson Road branch welcomed back 4th graders through our partnership with the Flint Community Schools to provide drowning awareness and prevention programming. The Downtown Y provided financial assistance to over 750 community members, eliminating barriers that would prevent anyone from accessing resources to improve their overall well-being. Our Safe Places served over 300 youth in our after-school program, allowing youth to express their skills, talents and interests in a safe and supporting place.

As you turn the pages of our impact report, I hope you see that no matter what challenges the YMCA of Greater Flint faces, we will continue to remain a cornerstone of this community. I look forward to embracing those challenges head on, so we can continue to help our community heal. Let's continue to move forward, together.

SHELLY HILTON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BRANCH LOCATIONS

DOWNTOWN BRANCH SAFE PLACES OFFICE

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

PIERSON ROAD BRANCH CAMP BOOMERANG

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

CAMP COPNECONIC

10407 N Fenton Road
Fenton, MI 48430
campcopneconic.org
810-629-9622

SAFE PLACES HITS THE SLOPES



In the winter of 2021, the Share Winter Foundation and the Michigan Snowsports Industries Association partnered with YMCA of Greater Flint's Safe Places program to provide an opportunity of a life time for our community youth. The YMCA of Greater Flint's Safe Places program is our free community summer and after-school program for youth grades K-12th. Safe Places programming is offered at different community centers and churches around the city of Flint giving youth in our community a safe place to go after-school to get help with homework, make new friends and develop new skills.

With this partnership, youth in the Safe Places program were given the opportunity to travel to different ski resorts such as Crystal Mountain and Mt. Holly and practice the sport of skiing in a safe and encouraging place. This partnership allowed all who participated to continue to grow and step outside their comfort zone. Throughout the weeks, students were able to improve their skiing skills with the encouragement and motivation from the staff of not only Safe Places but from the different resorts as well.



POWER SCHOLARS ACADEMY



"That program brought unity."
- Priscilla Sumpter

Priscilla Sumpter, mother of Kimberly Sumpter-Williams, is a devoted single mother who works for the Westwood Heights school district.

Priscilla first heard of the Safe Place's Power Scholars Academy through Kimberly's school. With the challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic brought when it came to virtual learning, Power Scholars Academy offered a safe and motivational space for all to learn, grow and thrive.

Priscilla shared Power Scholars Academy was a great place for Kimberly to catch up and get extra help with schoolwork, but also build on the social skills that she missed while school was virtual. She also mentioned that it was an opportunity for her, as a mother to have a break, but knowing that her daughter was doing something that was productive and constructive with her time.

In the fall of 2021, the Power Scholars Academy program featured a family night every Wednesday while the program was in session. All families were welcome to gather, enjoy a meal, do activities, games, socialize and be a community.



SCHOOL YEAR DAY CAMP



Theresa Fox works in Flint Schools' Busing Transportation services. Theresa is mother to Ava and Mylanda and grandmother to Cory, who all attended YMCA of Greater Flint's School Year Day Camp that operated at Camp Copneconic in early 2021.

Created in 2020, School Year Day Camp was a program offered free to families to provide academic support for students from Flint who were learning virtually. In addition to supporting the students while they completed their virtual learning, camp staff provided enriching outdoor programming from Camp's Project EARTH Curriculum. After the school day was over, kids were able to play camp games, go on nature hikes and so much more. When a number of Flint Schools were still physically closed in early 2021, Copneconic continued the program to serve more students who once again, found themselves learning virtually.

Theresa had originally heard about YMCA of Greater Flint's after school program, Safe Places. After learning about School Year Day Camp, Theresa decided to send Mylanda, Ava and Cory to Copneconic to participate in the program, in hopes of the group being more apt to attend school, especially since there was staff there that were familiar with the "computer side" that came with virtual learning. As Theresa's grandson mentioned, "Home isn't for school".

Theresa shared that by going to school year day camp, they were more likely to attend school since they knew that they were going to have fun afterwards.

"It made me feel good that they were interacting and socializing in a positive manner, as opposed to getting in with the wrong crowd." – Theresa Fox

A PASSIONATE PARTNERSHIP



Chelsea Horton works in Early Childhood Education with Lake Fenton Community Schools. Chelsea is in charge of the day to day activities of the early childhood programs that serves youth from two and half to five years old.

Early on in her career, Chelsea shared that she always loved the idea of outdoor education and "taking education beyond the four walls". She had decided to reach out to YMCA Camp Copneonic see if they had any pre-school programming in their outdoor education curriculum. At the time Copneonic did not have any, but staff was extremely open and excited about the potential opportunity for new programming.

Chelsea sat down with the staff of Camp Copneonic and presented her passion project. After working in collaboration with staff at Copneonic, a presentation to the superintendent, pieces started to fall into place.

Every week a group of students ages four and five have the opportunity to experience innovative and engaging outdoor curriculum at Camp Copneonic. Since the partnership has started, Chelsea voiced that they have seen huge growth at the social emotional level, allowing the students the freedom to explore more openly and independently to reaching higher levels of thinking.

"Kids learn most when they are able to experience things in a different ways, with their whole self."

- Chelsea Horton

DIVE INTO DROWNING PREVENTION



In 2021, Pierson Road YMCA was able to welcome back over 100 4th graders from Flint Community schools to teach critical drowning awareness and prevention programming. With drowning historically being one of the leading causes of accidental death for youth in Michigan, the YMCA of Greater Flint sees that the need for this education for our youth in our community is imperative.

The programming consists of a combination of in classroom education and practicing different types of aquatic skills in the Pierson Road YMCA pool. The atmosphere during this programming is a safe place that allows students to step out of their comfort zone and build confidence not only in the water, but in themselves as well.

NATIONAL YMCA WATER SAFETY STATISTICS



With **2,200** pools, the Y is collectively the largest operator of swimming pools in the United States.



Nine in Ten parents see swimming as a key life skill for children- on par with first aid skills and the ability to prepare a meal.



More than **1 million** kids take swim lessons at the YMCA in the USA each year.



LAYLA GRAHAM DAY CAMP



Teresa Graham and daughter Layla Graham love traveling and keeping active when they have time to do so. Teresa, an accountant for a school district, was looking for online safe summer camps that would allow Layla to have fun outdoors and enjoy the summer weather while Teresa worked.

Teresa shared that in her initial search for finding Layla a summer camp, that after finding Camp Copneconic her friends and a former camp employee had nothing but positive remarks to say about camp.

Layla was a first time day camper in summer of 2021, and loved it! When asked her favorite memory Layla mentioned it was "Having fun at the lake. The beach parties and I loved the blow-up water stuff!"

"Day Camp allowed for Layla to have an amazing summer. She met new friends, had fun each day, and learned about various things. Camp made sure that she understood the importance of swim safety, believing in herself and having a great time. She had fun even when it rained. She absolutely loved camp. She missed one single day of camp and I had to hear all about it especially since it was a beach party day and she missed the plate awards. But camp, being as awesome as they are, saved her plate award for her and she received it the following week," shared Teresa.

Teresa also noted that she felt confident that Layla was enjoying her self each day and didn't have to worry that she was bored or wanting to go home. And that the adult safety protocols during pick up, COVID-19 and general camp safety protocols made her feel as though Layla was in a safe environment and that she did not have to worry about her safety while she was working.

It's just an all-around great experience for your child from the first day of summer break until the last."
- Teresa Graham



AUSTIN LEOFFLER OVERNIGHT CAMP



Austin, 10, started to attend YMCA Camp Copneconic when he was four years old. Ashley Zetwasky, Austin's mother, found Camp Copneconic through a quick Google search and attended Copneconic's Open House to find out more information about camp. Open Houses are held throughout the year giving parents and children the opportunity to sample programs, activities, and ask questions.

After attending an open house, Ashley signed Austin up that night for Day Camp. "It gave Austin the opportunity to explore various faces of summer vacation that he normally wouldn't have been able to do," noted Ashley. "He gets to enjoy being outside all day and do activities he normally wouldn't have - archery, kayaking, sailing, ziplining to name a few. In addition to the activities though, he also learned Camp Copneconic's values and was able to meet so many new friends."



Pictured Above: Austin and Camp Copneconic Staff Member

Throughout the years that Austin has attended Copneconic, he has also had the opportunity to experience overnight camp programming. Overnight camp is available as an opportunity for those entering the 4th grade.

Austin noted that his favorite memories at overnight camp are the music contest, ziplining or splashing Justin, one of Copneconic's program directors, with a giant orange water jug!

Ashley shared that overnight camp programming taught her to give Austin the opportunity to do things on his own and for Austin as a camper, it helped him become more independent. It also teaches campers teamwork and values.

"When you drop them off [know] that your kids are 110% safe and that they will have the time of their life"
- Ashley Zewatsky

EVA SASEEN PIERSON ROAD MEMBER



**"IT'S LIKE A BIG FAMILY"
- EVA SASEEN**

To Eva Saseen, the Pierson Road YMCA is more than a swim and gym, it is a place for healing and for recovery.

In 2018, Eva was in a head-on collision which led her to being in a coma for over a month. After a couple of years and some recovery, Eva was discharged from physical therapy, encouraged to get a gym membership with personal training so that she would be able to continue to heal from her accident. Since then, Eva has been recovering and utilizing personal training at the Pierson Road YMCA.

"We love that they have personal training," noted Eva and Deborah Saseen, Eva's Mother. Personal trainers at the Pierson Road YMCA were able to work in collaboration with Eva's physical therapist to help identify specific areas to focus on and help strengthen.

Eva also shared that she loved the direct focus and one-on-one feel of personal training at the Y. In addition to personal training, Eva also loves to participate in group classes such as stretch and flex and water aerobics.

THANK YOU DONORS

Many thanks to these donors who supported Y programs and services in 2021.

In Memory of Bob Banwell by B Thomas Smith Jr., Nancy Smith and Victory and Caroline Knowlton.

In Memory of Dale Walch by Alan Ferrari, George Predeteanu, Sylvia Bellairs, and Walt and Ellie Kasten

In Memory of Doris Paro by George and Terri Stewart

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Thank you to those who donate to help us continue our 2020 Emergency Feeding Program into 2021.

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Strategic Initiative Fund of the
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YMCA FOUNDATION

Supporting the YMCA of Greater Flint,
Yesterday, Today, and into the Future.

2021 marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the YMCA of Greater Flint Foundation. Since its inception in 1996, the Foundation has granted \$12,554,000 dollars of support in programming, projects, infrastructure, and even operational support during the darkest days of the pandemic. The Foundation has played a vital role in helping further the YMCA of Greater Flint's mission of putting Christian principles into practice through programs which build healthy spirit, mind, and body.

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

The Foundation has a remarkable track record of supporting the mission of the YMCA; however, our work is far from done. The needs of the community have never been greater and it's the goal of the YMCA of Greater Flint to keep pace with those needs. As the YMCA looks to the future, the focus remains on long term sustainability to ensure the vital programs the Y provides impact the community for years to come. The YMCA of Greater Flint continues to be committed to being a place for all to feel a sense of belonging as they achieve goals, gain confidence, grow and thrive.

For the Foundation to continue to support the amazing work of the YMCA of Greater Flint, 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 and philanthropic planning.

Sincerely,
Jeff Snider
President, YMCA of Greater Flint Foundation





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In 1996, by action of the YMCA of Greater Flint Board of Directors, the Foundation was formed. This action would prove to solidify and guarantee the YMCA of Greater Flint's future 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.

OUR FUTURE

The YMCA of Greater Flint Foundation is committed to the continuous work of the YMCA within the community. YMCA values will be preserved and will constantly perpetuate to serve people of all ages, faiths, ethnic backgrounds, and economic status. We will persist in providing funding which will put the YMCA mission into action and will enable the YMCA of Greater Flint to build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities for years to come.



2021 IN REVIEW

THE MISSION OF THE YMCA OF GREATER FLINT IS TO PUT CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT BUILD A HEALTHY SPIRIT, MIND AND BODY FOR ALL.

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



48
Overnight
Camp
Mock Rock
Performances.



300
Youth Attended
Our Afterschool
Safe Places
Program.



100
4th Grade
Students Taught
Water Safety
and Drowning
Prevention.

FOR HEALTHY LIVING



48,681
Miles Were
Travelled On
Treadmills At
Pierson Rd.



42,000
Pairs Of Goggles
Were Used In
Downtown's
Pool.



FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



5,825
Day Camper
Temperature
Screenings.



5,310
Free Meals
Distributed
Throughout The
Community.



2,196
People Recieved
Membership
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Assistance.