



TRANSFORMING LIVES

2023, ISSUE 3

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
– Coretta Scott King



As I reflect on these powerful words spoken by Coretta Scott King, I feel grateful to be part of a community that exemplifies compassion. Your unwavering support plays a pivotal role in shaping the Y, and our community, into a space where kindness, generosity, empathy, and belonging flourish.

On behalf of our GSCYMCA team, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your commitment to make a positive impact. Your donation has not only provided much-needed financial support, but it has also contributed to the building blocks of a community that cares for one another, fosters understanding, and seeks to uplift those in need.

Thanks to your generosity, we continue to deepen community impact through transformational programs. Over this past year:

- We celebrated our Sesquicentennial Anniversary – 150 years of transforming lives and strengthening community!
- We launched a new Y Achievers Program in under-served communities to support high school students with post graduate success, including higher education, trades, workforce development, and more.
- We taught over 400 children vital water safety skills through our Safety Around Water lessons in the Franklin Township and Plainfield communities to prevent accidental drownings.
- We launched Camp Dragonfly, a new summer camp for children who have experienced trauma or grief to help them heal through caring support.
- And, many other notable achievements.

In this volume of Transforming Lives, I hope you see the positive transformations achieved through your generosity. Together, we are building a community where compassion is the driving force behind every action, and where the well-being of each member is a shared responsibility. Once again, thank you for your generosity, compassion, and commitment to making our community a better place.

Gratefully,

David M. Carcieri

David M. Carcieri
President/CEO



Guests celebrating at Greater Somerset County YMCA's Sesquicentennial Anniversary Gala.

THEN. NOW. ALWAYS. 150-Year Legacy

You champion community!

On November 3, more than 250 guests attended the Sesquicentennial Gala to commemorate Greater Somerset County YMCA's remarkable 150-year history of strengthening community, as well as to honor 21 longtime Y advocates who were recognized for their leadership, dedication, influence, generosity and positive impact.

While welcoming guests, President & CEO David Carcieri commented, "Greater Somerset County YMCA continues to be the bedrock of positive change. Our Sesquicentennial Gala is more than a celebration of our YMCA, it is a celebration of the vibrant communities we serve, the lives we transform, and the devoted volunteers and benefactors who help fulfill our mission every day."

Board of Directors Chair, Greg Romano added, "This is a time to reflect and to look forward. The needs of our communities are ever evolving, and the Y plays an indispensable role in building resilient, compassionate, and thriving neighborhoods. The Y is the heart and soul of the community. It strengthens the social fabric by offering a sense of belonging, support, and hope that is immeasurable in value."

During the 'Raise a Paddle' portion of the evening, the Y's mission was brought to life by showcasing stories of transformational impact. Longtime Y member, Erika Evleth, and former NY Jets player and Y member, D'Brickshaw Ferguson, served as volunteer auctioneers and inspired guests with their own heartfelt stories about the meaningful influence of the Y in their lives.

The strength of the Y's mission is attributable to our devoted, generous donors and volunteers, as well as to community partners, including our event sponsors: Simon Quick Advisors, Life Fitness, Peapack Gladstone Bank, and Pfizer. Thank you all for your support and making the event a night to remember!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 7

Annual Meeting & Annual Campaign Kick-off

APRIL 10

Volunteer Spirit Awards & Annual Campaign Celebration

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Through your support of the Y, you transform lives every day.
We hope these Y stories bring to life the measure of your impact.

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We are so grateful for the Saturdays in Motion program. Our daughter loves to attend, and we've been super impressed by the well-trained, teen volunteers. As parents of a child with special needs, we are able to sit back and take a break from our hectic lifestyle while she feels free and enjoys herself. The fact that the program is free of charge is HUGE. We pay so much for weekly therapies for our daughter, to have a no-cost program of this quality is truly appreciated.

– Erica

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In my 20s, I learned that I had Stage 4 cancer. The diagnosis and treatments were a physical and emotional shock. I spent my life building muscle and even became a yoga instructor; but, in remission my muscles, joints, and whole body hurt. I tried rebuilding strength, but it caused muscle strain. Then I found LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA. The program hugely improved my quality of life by making exercise accessible despite my physical limitations. The program helped me to regain strength, relieve stress, and rebuild my confidence. The Y invests in people and the community. The importance of the Y should not be taken lightly; it has truly changed my life.

– Parissa

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This summer, my three daughters and I arrived in the United States from the Dominican Republic. While adjusting to a new life, I was grateful to be connected with the Y and its summer camp. The Y's Camp Dragonfly helped my daughters manage a traumatic change through fun in the sun, swimming, and friendships. The camp also allowed me time to navigate our new life. I am incredibly grateful for the Y's financial assistance, which has allowed my girls to participate in summer camp and child care; it is the stability we need. The Y is a place we feel welcome; a place we feel seen.

– Julissa

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About 15 years ago, I was laid off due to downsizing. I took a hit financially. I felt that the Y was a place where I could get the support I needed, and I was right. The Y has helped me socially and physically; and, the Y's financial support helped me get back on my feet. I come to the Y just about every day. I connect with my friends and exercise. The Y has enhanced my life greatly and I couldn't imagine where I would be without the Y.

– Artie

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At a young age, Hunter was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), and he also faces other health-related challenges including osteoporosis. Physical activity comes with inherent risk. Even routine activities increase his chances of breaking a bone. As a result, Hunter has lived much of his young life sheltered at home and, usually, he does not get to enjoy the same experiences as other 9 year-olds. But, the past two summers were different. Hunter came to Y Camp. At the Y, children are encouraged to be accepting of each other's differences, which allowed him to make new friends. The counselors patiently helped Hunter throughout the camp day and inspired him to try new things. Hunter will have a very hard road ahead of him. If he can enjoy being a kid as long as possible, that would be the best gift I could ask for. Y Camp gave my grandson the opportunity to be a kid, and enjoy summer, despite all of his medical challenges. All children deserve that opportunity.

– Margaret



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Swimming saved my life. When I was 5 years old, I nearly drowned. After that, my parents took me to the Y to learn to swim and I have developed a love for the water. When my wife and I retired, we became more involved with the Y. My wife does Aqua Exercise to help a back injury and stay healthy. As a scuba instructor, I do laps to keep my swim skills strong. The Y focuses on community needs, it helps everyone to stay healthy, and it builds friendships. The Y is so important in our lives and in the community.

– Craig

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HONORABLE MENTION

Well-deserved Recognition

We were thrilled to learn that Steve Oliver, member of Greater Somerset County YMCA's Board of Directors, was recently awarded with Honorable Mention recognition for the Community Service Award in the 2023 Invest in Others Awards. The Invest in Others Awards program recognizes financial advisors who are making a difference with charities across the country and around the world.

The nomination was evaluated based on Steve's leadership, dedication, contribution, inspiration, and impact. The award is given in the spirit of leadership contributions, distinctive service to a nonprofit, and impact on the community, all of which are at the heart of the Community Service Award.

In recognition of Steve's charitable work, Invest in Others has made a \$2,000 donation to Greater Somerset County YMCA. Congratulations, Steve!



PARTNERS FOR GOOD

Community Partner Support

Since Greater Somerset County YMCA's founding, our Y has consistently assessed urgent, emerging, and evolving needs to support our communities. Many organizations recognize the value of our work to empower young people, improve health and well-being, and support neighbors... and, they collaborate with us on our efforts to 'do good'.

It is the collective support of donors and partners, which helps under-resourced neighbors to thrive through the Y's vital programs and services. Together, we continue to drive transformative impact and move community forward.

We are honored by the trust and continued generosity of our corporate citizens. Through a shared commitment to enhancing the community, in which we live, work, and play, we would like to acknowledge the following partners for their philanthropic support:

- Bank of America
- Catalent
- Daiichi Sankyo
- Iron Ridge Wealth Management Group
- Janssen
- M&T Bank | Wilmington Trust
- Peapack Private Wealth Management
- Pfizer
- Rainbow G&J Painting
- Raritan Family Healthcare
- Regeneron
- Schilke Construction
- Somerset Patriots
- Tri-County Orthopedics
- Wells Fargo

PERFECT MATCH

Matching Gifts

Recently, we have been thrilled to see a growing number of devoted donors who have doubled, or even tripled, their donations to Greater Somerset County YMCA through company matching gift programs. It is a wonderful way to deepen your support of the community through charitable giving to the Y. These are some of the matching gift companies supporting the Y's mission:

- Abbott Laboratories
- AbbVie Pharmaceutical Research
- Allegis Group Foundation
- AIG
- American Express
- AT&T
- Bank of America
- Barclays
- Bayer Corporation
- BlackRock
- Bristol Myers Squibb
- CBRE
- Century Group
- Chubb
- Colgate-Palmolive
- Corebridge Financial
- Crum and Foster
- Daiichi Sankyo
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
- Dun & Bradstreet
- Eli Lilly
- Exxon Mobile
- Experian
- First Eagle Investment Management
- Gap, Inc.
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Goldman Sachs
- Guardian
- Guidewire
- GW&K Investment Management
- Hackensack Meridian Health
- IQVIA
- Johnson & Johnson
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- Jones Lang LaSalle
- Kramer Consumer Healthcare
- Lincoln Financial
- Macy's
- Mastercard
- Marsh & McLennan
- McKinney and Co.
- Milipore
- New York Life
- Northern Trust Company
- Novartis
- Oracle
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Philips Van Heusen
- PNC Foundation
- Prudential Foundation
- Qualcomm
- Silicon Valley Bank
- Sirius XM
- Target CW
- Truist
- UBS
- United Health
- Verizon
- Wakefern Food
- Wells Fargo Advisors

If you are interested to see if your company has a matching gift program, please visit the gscymca.org/ways-to-give page of our website. We are so grateful for your support!

MISSION CRITICAL

Grant Partners

Charitable foundations and grantors are critical to the work of nonprofit organization, and we are grateful that many see Greater Somerset County YMCA as an agent of change working toward the benefit of all. Their investment in our cause strengthens community in our three areas of impact, specifically Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.

Through your generous support and theirs, children reap the benefits of summer camp and gain learning recovery; communities are safer through water safety programs; adults live healthier lives through chronic disease modifying programs; and, families have meals on their tables through food security initiatives.

We proudly acknowledge funders who, along with our donors, help us move more surely toward our mission, address important issues facing our community, and lay the groundwork for forward progress.

- City of Plainfield
- Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation
- Dunkin Joy
- Estelle Sands Foundation
- Franklin Township Community Development Block Grant
- Fred Rummel Foundation
- Greater Raritan Workforce Development
- Investors Foundation
- Johnson & Johnson Health Care Fund
- Mary Owen Borden Foundation
- New Jersey Department of Health & Human Services
- New Jersey YMCA State Alliance
- NJM Insurance Group
- Plainfield Foundation
- Princeton Area Community Foundation
- PSE&G
- Somerset County
- Somerset County Community Development Block Grant
- Somerset Hills Community Health Foundation
- Somerset Hills School District
- Summit Area Foundation
- Union County Community Development Block Grant
- USA Swimming
- Westfield Foundation
- YMCA of the USA

GREATER SOMERSET COUNTY YMCA

Association Office, 140 Mount Airy Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 | 908 630 3535

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Greater Somerset County YMCA is a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. The Y empowers everyone – no matter who they are or where they're from – by ensuring access to resources, relationships and opportunities for all to learn, grow and thrive. For information about Greater Somerset County YMCA and financial assistance, visit us at www.gscymca.org.