



THIS IS Y

Strengthening Community, one neighborhood at a time.

December 2017



I began this wonderful journey with you five years ago. I am so thankful for the accomplishments we have been able to make and the many lives touched by the important mission work of our YMCA's. 'tis the official season to be jolly, where the joy of giving energizes everyone of us".

It has been a great year in Findlay and Hancock County. I have come to know so many more caring and wonderful people that are very passionate about the Y and a micropolitan city that keeps shining amongst its peers. Julie and I are blessed to be here along your side and look forward to serving you.

I have also been blessed to work daily with a really caring and talented staff team that believes we are changing the world one child or adult at a time. I want to especially thank Michael Needler Jr., our YMCA Board Chairman, for his two year term and the significant hours we have spent

together helping shape the direction of the YMCA. It takes a highly committed group of volunteers to accept the important challenges and our Board of Director's understand that these new capital challenges and opportunities that will permit our Y to remain strong and relevant well into the future.

For Youth Development

Watching children develop their skills and abilities in swim lessons, tennis, gymnastics, dance classes and learn to dribble a basketball has always been a joy to see. I would also tell you that the work we do in our Y Child Development Center program is second to none as we care for over 268 children daily. I'm so proud of how our CDC staff performs everyday while moms and dads go to work leaving their children in our care. The Y Guides program builds bonds between fathers and children and continues to be one of our amazing programs.

Our commitment to helping children become healthy and more active is important work and I am excited to see the programming the Y is delivering to over 2300 children to reduce the onset of youth obesity. Our new YPAC as we call it (youth physical activity center) opened in late summer to help children achieve a healthy lifestyle funded by the Black Swamp Golf Classic to rave reviews. Its exciting to witness the faces of the many volunteer sports coaches who have invested time, inspired sports passion and our values in each young person they coach in our Y Sports Program. Thank you Y Coaches!

For Healthy Living

Its been one year since we launched the new signature program ACTIV TRAX called Commit to be Well and now over 450 members are using the free new program to guide their quest for wellness and nutrition at the Y branches. We are devoted to seeing you improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle. As we move into the new year we expect many more members will be orientated and using this top notch program! Call or stop by our Welcome centers to get started any time. Schedule a free session with one of our Wellness coaches for more information on this rewarding and free program and assess your fitness level. New programs are in planning and delivery stage to address chronic diseases and will play critical roles in helping adults return to and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

For Social Responsibility

A reception was recently held for 57 members and friends of the Y Heritage Society to celebrate the work our Endowment program. It will be a feature for strengthening the resolve of the Y now and well into the future. Our November reception honored Michael Needler Sr. for his lifetime of service to the community and the creation of the new Needler

Family Fund to promote Youth Fitness through YMCA sports and activity. We recognized three new families as Y Heritage Society members, Michael & Bethany Needler, John & Alissa Preston and Kerry & Christian Pedersen.

Our goal for 2023 is to have an Endowment Fund with assets of \$5,000,000 in order to provide children and families with a strong Y for into the future. Please contact me, Jennifer Treece or Tony Hixon from the Board for information on how to join the YMCA Heritage Society, leaving the Y in your planned giving. The proceeds from our 2017 Great Scot Jingle Jog 5K Run & Walk will be designated to the Needler Family Fund. Over 130 participants came out with bells on the shoes for the fun run!



I am proud of the year we have had with 18,800 visits to the City of Findlay Riverside pools, that we manage for the City. 790 children are currently served in the Y Feed-A-Child Program in conjunction with the Halt Hunger Initiative. With vital support from the United Way, Marathon Petroleum, Ohio Logistics, Garner Transportation and many individual supporters the program reduces weekend hunger in the community. The Y goes the extra mile in our community to make a difference.

Its one thing to say the Y prides itself on being a reflection of this community, that we welcome all regardless of age, income, religion or color. Its quite another to see the mission in action. As we close out 2017, I'm inviting you to review the good work we've accomplished to strengthen the foundations of our community.

Finally, we have been able to deliver and accomplish together this year our Community Annual Support Campaign raising \$154,000 led by the dedicated and passionate co-chairs Kerry Kirk and Christian Pedersen, a record amount of dollars were raised. I know we do have so much more work to do, We look to raise more dollars to further our aim to reduce youth obesity, lift up teen leadership development, feed hungry kids, provide children with affordable child care and provide financial assistance for our Open Doors program so any teen, adult or family can become Y members. No one will be turned away. A huge thank you to all our donors and those involved with making our campaign a tremendous success in 2017.

I would like to close by wishing you all the best as we approach the holiday season. This time of year often leads us to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for, and this is certainly the case for Julie and I. We are humbled by the pride and passion that many hold in their hearts for the YMCA and it continuously serves to motivate us as we progress toward an even greater organization. The promise of the future for

the YMCA shines bright, and we are excited to achieve everything together as ONE YMCA.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

God Bless You Always,
Brent Finlay
President and CEO



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