



The State of the Findlay YMCA

Annual Report

January 31, 2017

Brent Finlay, President/CEO

Good afternoon and thank you for being here!

On behalf of our staff I want to extend to you and your family best wishes for a healthy and happy new year! For those being here today and those for the first time let me extend a special welcome. Once each year I work to prepare comments that provide a review of the year just passed and talk about the challenges and opportunities for the year to come.

I want to thank our wonderful host Chris Webb and the Blanchard Valley Health System, we appreciate being here.

I am blessed to be surrounded by a staff team that shows up for work each morning believing that by the end of the day, they may have had the opportunity to have change lives because of their good works. I have said often that our enterprise is not about buildings; our work is about changing lives, it's about instilling values in kids today so they will make better decisions tomorrow. Our core business is about character development and developing leadership skills. And the only way we can do that is by putting hero's in the lives of kid's everyday in every program.

Let me lift the work of the Y Leadership team that surrounds me in our association; please know that we appreciate your great efforts and commitment to the YMCA. Our entire staff team understands passionate service and that caring matters most.

Four years ago, you entrusted the Executive leadership to me. Our community is in constant change that both complicates and provides opportunities for our future. A commitment to nurture the potential of kids, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility, the Y will ensure that every individual has access to the

essentials needed to learn, grow and thrive. The Y is and always will be, dedicated to building healthy confident, connected and secure children, families and communities. Our Open doors program allows all people to become engaged with our programs. No one is **ever turned** away due to financial challenges.

I am very passionate and excited about our future and with your leadership and support we will be advancing our cause.

I am proud of the ongoing development and strength of the Board and officer team. Michael Needler Jr. has been an outstanding board chairman this past year as we have worked to engage a talented and able board. I have said before and I will say again our work begins and our work ends with good people and I could not be more proud of the work of our board, staff and every volunteer.

In September, we launched a new signature program “Commit to be Well” powered by ACTIV TRAX to help all members create a pathway of healthy living. It took a few months longer to complete but our large Capital project this past year was the new metal roof and gutter system at our East Branch it does look great! We also purchased three homes on Hardin Ave. it was a busy year!

We had our 7th summer of service to the city at Riverside pool where we served over 24,000. This a key partnership that matters to us.

Our work in the Feed A Child program reaching hungry kids with a staple of food backpacks now serving over 820 children. Thanks to the partnership and fiscal support of the Halt Hunger Initiative, MPC, Ohio Logistics, Findlay City Schools and the United Way. without their support this program could not be possible.

In May, th^e Annual Black Swamp Golf Classic was held and thanks to Chairman Doug Hiegel, the sponsors and the golf committee with proceeds targeting to Youth development by providing activities & sports to address youth obesity in our community and inspiring kids and teens to live a healthy lifestyle.

Our Heritage Society reception was held in November to honor the Tom Buis family and our work advancing our endowment to sustain our mission –Thanks to Great Scott and michael for being the title sponsor of the Jingle Bell Jog 5k!

It has been amazing to see the steady growth of active older adults at our Y- pickle ball play at the east br. is on fire! This is our fastest growing membership category.

I continue to believe that the need for the programs and services of the YMCA have never been more important .Who can dispute that there is not a great need for an organization that instills values in kids today so they will make better decisions tomorrow. Or who can question our commitment developing leadership skills or building healthy lives or offering programs that lift up a child's self-esteem? We are reminded of our promise to serve all interested children even if they do not have the financial ability. Our 2016 Annual support Campaign led by our devoted Chairs JJ & Alyssa Preston and with Jennifer Treece steering the way, we raised just over \$100,000 to insure a Y is accessible for all people.

Please always know that your passion for our cause is deeply appreciated and we look forward to a successful year in 2017.

Thank you again for being with us today!