



The State of the Findlay YMCA

Annual Report

January 30, 2018

Good afternoon and thank you so much 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 some 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 Board member and Chairman of our membership committee and the Blanchard Valley Health System, we appreciate being here.

I am truly blessed to be surrounded by a staff team that shows up for work each morning believing that by the end of the day, they have had the opportunity to have real impact on people because of their efforts. I have said often that our enterprise is not about large buildings or pools ; our work is simple its about changing lives, it's about instilling values in kids today so they will make significantly 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 every day in

every program. In our Y Child Development Center you can see firsthand daily how our staff are heroes with our infants up through our 5th grade students we touch a lot of lives for working families. There are so many examples here...we simply could not list them all.

Let me now lift up 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 caring about our members experience really matters most. Please Let me welcome three new leaders Rhonda Logsdon, Ben Taylor, Nikki Parmelee and Bob Cook to our YMCA, we are excited to work alongside you this year.

It has been five years since 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. Supporting our Open Doors program allows all people to become engaged with our programs. No one is **ever turned** away at the Y due to financial challenges

Now...I am very passionate and excited about our future and with your leadership and support we will be advancing our cause. This past November the Board approved our Capital Campaign after 4 plus yrs of preparing and following a critical pathway so now... we are under way and into our quiet phase-as you take a moment to view our project renderings you begin to feel and realize our true potential for better tomorrow in Findlay/Hancock County and our region. In the coming weeks you will hear more about exciting Capital work! This period of time will shape our future and mark our

history of serving the community -**in 2018 we celebrate 130 yrs** of mission impact.

I am proud of the ongoing development and strength of the Board and officer team. Michael Needler Jr. has been an outstanding board chairman these past two years, Michael it seems like yesterday you accepted the call to serve the Y. Thank you, Michael for your support, vision and passion. But were not done yet! Now Michael turns the Leadership of the board over to JJ Preston.

We had our 9th summer of service to the city at Riverside pool where we served over 19,000. This a key partnership that matters to us. We appreciate our work with the city and now with the community's large recreational soccer program coming under our Youth Sports dept.'s leadership our city collaborations will extend to Emory Adams fields.

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, Marathon PC, Ohio Logistics, Findlay City Schools and the United Way, without their support this program could not be possible.

In May, the 18th Annual Black Swamp Golf Classic was held and thanks to Chairman Doug Hiegel, the sponsors and the highly devoted golf committee, the proceeds directed Youth development by providing activities & sports to address youth obesity in our community and inspiring kids and teens to live a healthy lifestyle, in late June the all new Youth Physical activity center was open for children 8-13 yrs, a big hit at the Downtown branch -the happy faces of the kids being active is really awesome to see.

Our Annual Heritage Society reception was held in November to honor the Michael Needler Sr. and our those working to advancing our endowment

and sustain our mission and with the special dedication of the new Michael Needler Family Fund by the family to support youth sports and fitness. A big thank you to Great Scot stores and Michael and his team for being the title sponsor of the Jingle Bell Jog 5k!

It has been amazing to see the steady growth of active older adults and we very focused on serving these individuals, the Y used to be quiet place in the late mornings and early afternoons but no only longer -you can see proof of this every day and if pickle-ball is your game our East YMCA Branch is exploding with older adults on the courts! This is our fastest growing membership category. It is incredible to see how much the YMCA means to older adults, they will tell you it's the best part of their day!

Speaking of membership we surpassed our income from last yr. and on Nov. 1st we launched a critical new Young Adult category for those 18-26 yrs with immediate positive results in fact we have seen over 170 new Y. Adults join us.!

One of our bright spots in 2017 was our Annual support Campaign capping off with the inaugural 20Men that Cook led by our devoted Chair's Kerry and Christian Pedersen and with Jennifer Treece keeping everyone organized, we raised a record \$155,000 to insure the Y is accessible for all people and new youth program can be developed.

As the year closed we brought on our first ever Corporate Youth Sponsor Hylant Insurance for \$25,000 - we believe we will serve over 3000 kids in a Y sport this year with the addition of soccer!

Please always know that your passion for our cause is deeply appreciated and we look forward to a successful year in 2018 and beyond.

Thank you again for being with us today!

