



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

YMCA OF METROPOLITAN LANSING

September 2015



Dear Friends,

As the summer season has come to a close, I'm reminded of all of the exciting accomplishments we have made in our community. The collective impact of the work of the Y and its community partners has been significant and has changed the lives of countless youth and families. I look forward to finishing this year strong as we embark on some exciting endeavors to better our community and our work here at the Y. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to moving this community forward.

Here are a few ways the Y is committed to changing lives year-round:

- **The Parkwood YMCA successfully completed their Capital Campaign for renovations** by raising over \$550,000 in contributions and held their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on September 21st at 11am, at the Parkwood Y. In our continued efforts to meet the changing needs of all of our communities, we recognize and congratulate the Parkwood YMCA staff and volunteers for this achievement. The newly renovated and expanded space for group classes, as well as a new cardio and strength center will not only serve the needs of our current members and participants but create new opportunities to engage and serve our community.
- **On August 19th the YMCA of Lansing invited Congressman Mike Bishop of Michigan's Eighth District to spend an afternoon with the children at the Westside Community YMCA Day Camp** to share in the fun as well as to see the positive impact that the program, staff and the organization are having on thousands of kids in the Greater Lansing area this summer. Congressman Bishop visited multiple sites within the Day Camp and had the opportunity to meet and interact with the staff as well as many of the children. The YMCA recognized and encouraged Congressman Bishop to continue his leadership and support of the Child Protection Improvement Act.
- **The YMCA delivers thousands of great lunches this summer!** As part of our year round food program in partnership with the Walmart Foundation, the YMCA of Lansing was able to provide 1,578 lunches this summer to over 100 kids daily at 2 outreach locations. Thanks to the support of our partners on this project; City of Lansing, Lansing School District, Sodexo Magic, Lansing Parks Apartments, and Summer Place Apartments, who helped to make this possible for these kids! Our Summer Feeding program not only provides much needed meals for children during the summer months, but it also ensures that they have the opportunity to participate in a 1 hour session of SPARK games and physical activity each day.



- **YMCA Summer Camp Kids take a stand against summer reading loss!** We know that kids can lose up to 3 months in reading achievement over the course of the summer. By incorporating reading into the daily programming, 219 summer camp kids each day attending the Parkwood Day Camp at PaWapi, Oak Park Pre-School, and Mystic Lake Camp racked up 359 hours of reading this summer! Plans are already underway to incorporate summer reading at all YMCA camp locations for 2016!
- **YMCA of Lansing sets a new summer camp registration record,** Throughout the course of 13 weeks this summer, over 7,000 kids explored nature, learned new skills, tried new activities, increased their self-confidence, gained new independence, and most importantly they made new friends. Their participation in YMCA summer camp not only made it a “summer to remember” but continues to help in their personal development but incorporating the 4 character values (Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility) of the YMCA in everything that they do.
- **The YMCA successfully launched the “Lansing Swims”** water safety program in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, Lansing Schools, and the Lansing Park and Recreation Department. With the support of a \$7,500 of grant funding, this program is able to provide free water safety instruction for 500 kids this year. Because drowning is the 2nd leading cause of death for kids 14 years and under, it is critically important that children are taught essential water safety skills so they remain safe around water, and if they fall in, they are equipped with the skills needed to get to safety.



With your continued support, we are able to nurture the potential of kids, improve our community’s health and well-being, and give back and support our neighbors. Thank you for helping the YMCA strengthen the foundations of community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Scheibel
President/CEO
YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing



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