

ROI: REPORTING OUR IMPACTS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MEETING WATERS YMCA

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF MEETING WATERS YMCA

SPRING 2015

EXTENDING OUR IMPACTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND GLOBE

MWYMCA PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN NATIONAL MODELS

Over the past two months, your Meeting Waters YMCA has once again risen to national prominence. In early February, we learned we'd been chosen by YMCA of the USA as one of just 18 Ys in the country as "HEPA Champions." HEPA stands for healthy eating and physical activity. The HEPA standards are a set of policies and practices developed by the National Institute on Out of School Time and embraced by the YMCA movement. Recently, Y-USA commissioned an independent audit of local Ys adherence to 17 dimensions of policies and practices related to healthy eating and physical activity. Our Y-ASPIRE programs scored high in all 17.

As HEPA Champions, we'll share our policies, practices, staff training processes, communications tools and more with other Ys striving to be more supportive of developing healthy lifestyles in their afterschool programs.

In March, we learned that one of our talented staff members has been selected as one of just eight young YMCA leaders in the country to attend an international leadership development program. This July, Stacy Garciadealba, Site Director of Y-ASPIRE at Rockingham Central School, will attend the Roots for Reconciliation leadership forum being held in Ureki, Georgia (former Soviet Union). Stacy was selected because of all she does to develop cultural competencies, mutual respect, and global awareness.



These are just the latest national recognitions for one of the smallest Ys in the country (in terms of budget, not impacts!). In 2011, we were chosen by Y-USA as one of four "model success stories" of Ys leading healthy communities initiatives. In 2012, a 20 year-old MWYMCA staff member was the sole representative of the Ys in the US at an international summit of young leaders held in Uruguay.

Photo: Stacy and her Y-ASPIRE "kids" are ready for take-off. Each March, when the Y-ASPIRE theme is "Our World" Stacy leads her group on a journey around the world where they learn about the people, customs, traditions, food, languages and more in each country they "visit."

OTHER MWYMCA NEWS

GEARING UP FOR SUMMER CAMP!

We're excited for our 51st consecutive summer developing skills, friendships and memories through our Y Day Camp.

We will run four two-week and eight one-week sessions between June 29 and August 21st. Once again, a veteran staff of "Professional Role Models" led by Sue Fortier for the 17th straight year, will provide a nurturing environment and exciting hands-on learning opportunities for around 250 area youth, the majority of whom are from families with limited financial resources. We thank you for your support which makes it possible for ALL children to attend camp.

VISITING A PROGRAM

Our staff and board invite you to visit a program in your community to see our impacts first-hand. To schedule a visit to Y-ASPIRE or Y Day Camp, please contact our Program Director, Susan Fortier, at sue@meetingwatersymca.org or 802-463-4769.

SAVE THE DATE

On September 2nd, your YMCA turns 120! That's right, we were founded by an organizing committee of more than 100 people and incorporated on September 2, 1895. To celebrate this milestone with our supporters, we're inviting you and others to our camp Family Night on Thursday, August 13th. The event will kick off at 7pm. Please mark your calendar!

HOP THE GAP

Because of You, Youth Achieve More at the Y

When children and teens are out of school for the summer break, they can face challenges related to hunger, health, learning, water safety, and safe spaces, which prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Thanks to your charitable support, Meeting Waters YMCA plays a key role in helping hundreds of area youth overcome these complex challenges by providing a safe, nurturing place to learn, stay healthy and build relationships all summer long!

“Hop the Gap” is a fun and engaging way for us to talk about these challenges and what we do as a solution to overcoming them. Look for more from us in the coming months.

In the meantime, thank YOU for helping area youth successfully Hop the Gap between the close of the school year and when they head back after the summer break!



BETTER TOGETHER

In a couple weeks, we are going to launch our “WHY I GIVE” advocacy campaign. We’ll be highlighting the many different reasons various donors and volunteers are inspired to invest in our mission and cause. If you would like to take part, please let Steve know (contact info below). Thanks!



Our President, Dr. Vern Temple, with why he contributes time and financial resources to MWYMCA.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ACTION

How do more than 30 Brattleboro pre-school age children living in high-risk home environments get to a state-licensed child care or early learning program every day when their parents don't have a vehicle?

Meeting Waters YMCA’s Child Care Transportation Program!



For over a decade, we have provided more than 10,000 rides per year for Brattleboro’s most vulnerable young children (as determined by the state). We pick them up early in the morning and transport them to about a dozen different child care and early learning centers, including Head Start. We then go back at the end of the day to give them a ride home. While in our “child care center on wheels,” the children’s learning continues with books, conversations, songs, flashcards posted around the bus, and more.

Thanks to our Child Care Transportation Program, these children spend their days in enriching environments, developing a solid foundation for the future.

As we shared in the great press coverage of being named “HEPA CHAMPIONS,” our commitment to serving healthy snacks for all 200 days of Y-ASPIRE costs us more than \$15,000 each year.

Thanks to you and a grant from the Holt Fund, the children in Y-ASPIRE are surrounded with “unambiguous and uncompromised environments, messages and experiences in support of healthy lifestyles.”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! TOGETHER, WE ARE STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNITY!

Questions, comments or ideas?
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Or by phone:
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