

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

SUMMER 2015

WHY YOU GIVE

THE MANY REASONS FOR SUPPORTING MWYMCA... IN YOUR WORDS

A few months ago, we invited some of our donors and volunteers to share why they support Meeting Waters YMCA. We used a Y-USA created activity called Why I Give which asks contributors to share their reason(s) in six words. The diversity of responses was powerful. Here are a few reasons people shared:

- "A great investment in my community."
- "To grow and help others to grow."
- "To provide meaningful opportunities for youth."
- "Supporting our neighbors is everyone's responsibility."
- "Because our communities are worth it."
- "Supporting opportunities and access for all."
- "To help. To support. To grow."

While no two responses were exactly the same, we saw a few themes emerge. Most people talked about their donations in terms of an investment—in their community, their neighborhood or their community's youth. We were inspired by the many people talking about the personal growth they experience.

We'd love for you to join us in this activity. Why do you give? Why do you support us, our mission, and those we serve? Enclosed with this newsletter is a "Why I Give" form. Please complete it, have someone snap a photo of you with your six words, and send that photo to Steve at steve@meetingwatersymca.org. We'll use some of the photos we collect on our facebook page, and in requests and thank you notes to new donors. Thanks in advance!



Photos: Recently-elected Board President Dave Chase shares why he contributes "time, talent and treasure" to Meeting Waters YMCA. Emily Hewes, Y-ASPIRE at Green Street School Site Director and Y Day Camp Assistant Director, is our youngest major donor.



OTHER MWYMCA NEWS

DAVE CHASE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MWYMCA BOARD

Walpole resident Dave Chase was recently elected President of our Board of Directors. Dave succeeds Dr. Vernon Temple in this role. Dave is an organization development consultant focused on helping human services, environmental, social justice and educational institutions achieve their missions. He is also a faculty member at Antioch University New England. Dave was a "Y kid" growing up in Bangor, ME.

STEVE FORTIER RECOGNIZED BY KEENE STATE COLLEGE

MWYMCA Executive Director Steve Fortier is the 2015 recipient of Keene State College's Sprague Drenan Award. In the college's press release, it was noted that Steve "is a tireless advocate for support of the students, the college, and our alumni membership." Steve received the award on June 6th during KSC Reunion Weekend. MWYMCA Program Director Susan Fortier was recognized with the same award in 2013.

REMEMBERING "CHICK" MILLER

Long-time MWYMCA Board member and former President, Charles "Chick" Miller passed away recently. We are grateful for Chick's many years of volunteer leadership and his commitment to making sure we had the funds to serve all people in our service area. A memorial service will be held in Walpole, Chick's longtime hometown, on July 24th.

STORIES OF LIVES CHANGED... THANKS TO YOU!

A cheerful and bright kindergartner and his two younger siblings found themselves without a home over the winter. Their single mother lost her state child care financial assistance when she left her low-paying job to attend hair dressing school as a way to lift herself out of poverty. As she shared with us, "If I was doing drugs or not working, I'd qualify for all kinds of state assistance and housing. But, because I'm trying to better myself, I don't qualify for anything."

Inspired by her commitment and troubled by her situation, we took care of her Y-ASPIRE bill for several months while she was finishing school and settling into her new full-time job as a hair stylist. She told us, **"You were there when my family and I needed you the most. Thank you!"**

A single-mother of two needed a supportive, enriching environment for her older son again this summer. He struggles with ADHD, depression and mood regulation. "He lacks social skills, does not have many friends and usually plays alone. It seems, though, that when he was at camp, this was completely the opposite. He was so happy (which rarely happens) and seemed to have lots of friends to play with there. It's in his best interest that he be able to remain in a social situation through the summer where he can continue working on social skills and be doing things that make him happy."

We've awarded her financial assistance that makes four sessions of camp possible... providing her son with another summer filled with success, social skills development and friendships. She responded, **"Thank you for making this dream come true for him."**

Two New Americans—a single mother and her young daughter—needed Y-ASPIRE so mom could focus on her new career and her daughter could continue to build friendships and skills in their new country. The transition was costly so they reached out to us for some assistance.

We were delighted to help this family get settled into their new life in a new country by providing a partial scholarship until mom let us know she was able to pay for tuition on her own. She was grateful. **"Thank you so much for all you do. Your financial support has made a world of a difference to us. My daughter loves the Y-ASPIRE program so much that oftentimes, she does not want to leave when it's time to pick her up. We'd be lost without it."**



Our camp benches are always full—including many children who would not otherwise be able to attend if it were not for your support! Thank you!

BETTER TOGETHER

THANKS ROOTS ON THE RIVER!

Former MWYMCA Board member (including a few stints as President) Ray Massucco, promoter of the Roots on the River music festival, chose MWYMCA as the 2015 "Nonprofit Beneficiary" of the festival. Our history and stories of impact were shared in press and other promotion. We tabled at the Friday and Saturday events and we benefitted from nearly \$1,500 in donations to our Reach Out to Youth Fund. Thanks Ray!

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 other supporters to our camp Family Night on **Thursday, August 13th**. The event will kick off at 7pm. Please mark your calendar!

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 Day Camp, Leader-in-Training or, in the fall, Y-ASPIRE, please contact our Program Director, Susan Fortier, at sue@meetingwatersymca.org or 802-463-4769.

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

Questions, comments or ideas?
Steve Fortier
Executive Director
steve@meetingwatersymca.org
Or by phone:
(802) 463-4769



To see how we are living our cause every day, please follow us on facebook.