

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

FALL 2016



DEVELOPING “ZOE”

In a creative outreach campaign from YMCA of the USA, one-year old Zoe is running for President—“potentially in 2064.”

Zoe represents the potential that every child possesses. She isn't just one kid, she's every child who deserves a shot at greatness. She represents the kids in your community who gain the skills and confidence they need to reach their full potential through programs at the Y.

Here are a few planks from Zoe's Presidential platform:

- **Afterschool Programs (like Y-ASPIRE):** Every day, one in four kids is left unsupervised after school, putting him or her at a higher risk for negative influences and activities. The Y's afterschool programs provide safe spaces for children to feel accomplished, build new friendships and develop a sense of belonging.
- **Summer Camps (like Y Day Camp):** When kids don't spend time outside, they are more likely to develop behavioral problems. Parents regularly say that they see positive changes in their kids who spend their summers in a camp environment.
- **Meal Programs (such as those at Y-ASPIRE and Y Day Camp):** One in five children don't know where his or her next meal will come from. A proper diet is essential to physical, mental, social and emotional development in kids. We fill gaps in access during the summer and after-school hours by providing free healthy snacks and meals to kids at our Y-ASPIRE and Y Day Camp programs through collaborative partnerships with local school districts.
- **Safe Spaces:** Nearly 40% of kids surveyed in 2013 and 2014 were exposed to violence or abuse over the previous year. All kids deserve a safe, positive environment that helps them develop socially and emotionally. We provide safe spaces and empathic staff.
- **Family Wellness:** Parents today realize the influential role they play in developing their children's lifestyle health behaviors. They need guidance and support to be positive role models and to create a healthy home environment. We provide this guidance and support.

We thank you for investing in our efforts to develop future community leaders... and, who knows, maybe a President!

OTHER MWYMCA NEWS

EXPANDING ENROLLMENT CAPACITY AT Y DAY CAMP

Our 53rd consecutive summer of “developing skills, friendships and memories” will impact even more young lives as we expand our enrollment capacity to 88 campers per session in the summer of 2017. This will allow us to positively influence another 90 young lives in the months where many young people slip backward academically and get involved in risk-taking behaviors. We'll hire four new staff members next summer to make sure that all parents who want their children to attend our enriching summer camp program can do so. This summer, we were full with waiting lists for 7 of our 9 sessions. Expanding enrollment capacity—and making sure our Reach Out to Youth Scholarship Fund is strong—will ensure that we can change more young lives.

Y-ASPIRE... MORE THAN AFTER- SCHOOL

Did you know that Y-ASPIRE runs not only after each of the 180 school days each year, but also for full days on all vacations, teacher in-service and parent-teacher conference days, and even most holidays? Y-ASPIRE was designed by Sue and Steve to meet the needs of working parents and their employers. While we help children learn, grow and thrive in the out-of-school hours, over 500 parents are working and contributing to the local economy with a peace of mind knowing that their child is in a safe place with nurturing leaders.

STRENGTHENING OUR Y TO BETTER STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNITY

The heart and soul of any non-profit, charitable organization is its Board of Directors. In recent months, our Board of Directors has gained strength as it guides our efforts to “strengthen the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.”

Over the past few months, Valerie Bailey and Dr. Anne Nordstrom have joined our Board of Directors. Each brings enormous talent and passion—along with valuable experiences—to our organization.



Anne is the Evaluation Coordinator in the Center for Behavioral Health Innovation at Antioch University New England. She is a sociologist with more than 25 years experience measuring success and progress in change efforts in the public and non-profit sectors. Anne has a Ph.D. in Sociology, an M.A. in Community Social Psychology, an M.B.A in Sustainability. She lives in Walpole.

After decades in senior leadership positions at the Student Conservation Association, a national non-profit based in Charlestown, NH, Valerie Bailey went into non-profit consulting about a year ago. She specializes in strategic planning, project planning and development, human resources management, and interim executive leadership. Valerie served on the Meeting Waters YMCA Board in the mid-2000s and on its Strategic Planning Task-Force in 2012. She lives in Charlestown.

In June, Dr. John Hagen replaced David Chase as our Chief Volunteer Officer. John recently retired from the US Air Force after 28 years of service. He is now a lecturer in the Commonwealth Honors College at UMass-Amherst. John has a Ph.D. in International Relations along with four Masters Degrees. As a kid growing up in Burlington, the Y had a profound influence on John’s life. He attended Y Camp Abnaki in the Champlain Islands and then, when he was old enough, served on the camp’s staff. Shortly after moving to Guilford two years ago, John did some research to find his local Y... he joined our board soon thereafter.

We’re grateful for the volunteer leadership of so many passionate and talented people—past, present and future.

We’re looking to expand our Board of Directors as well as engage many non-board volunteers on our committees. If you are interested in serving but are not sure how/where your skills, passion and talents can best be utilized—or if you know of someone whose assets match up well with our mission—please be in touch with Steve (steve@meetingwatersymca.org or 802-463-4769).

Photos (l-r): Dr. Anne Nordstrom, Valerie Bailey, Dr. John Hagen.

BETTER TOGETHER

PLEASE JOIN US

For the 18th straight year (every year since its founding in 1999), we’ll be celebrating Lights On Afterschool! at Y-ASPIRE sites. LOA! is a national day of advocacy and support for afterschool programs and the vital role they play in helping children thrive, families be strong, and communities be safe. We’re hosting three events at Y-ASPIRE sites: Dummerston School on Thursday, October 13th; Rockingham Central Elementary School (BF) on Wednesday, October 19th; and Academy School in Brattleboro on Thursday, October 20th. All events will take place from 4:30-5:30. We hope you will join us for one (or more!) of our Lights On Afterschool! events. For planning purposes, if you will be joining us, please let us know by writing info@meetingwatersymca.org or calling us at 802-463-4769. Thanks!



ANNUAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Look for our community outreach in early November. We thank you in advance for your ongoing support of our mission and services.

PAPERLESS ROI

To help us reduce our costs and our environmental footprint, we’re offering to email ROI to you as a pdf document rather than sending it by mail. If you would like to opt in to the email distribution list, please email Steve at steve@meetingwatersymca.org with “ROI” in the subject line. Thanks!



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