

YMCA OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

2024 IMPACT REPORT

in
motion





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AND PRESIDENT & CEO

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FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT & CEO

DEAR FRIEND OF THE Y:

On behalf of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, we are pleased to present our 2024 Impact Report, which highlights the depth and breadth of the Y's programs and services, along with the powerful outcomes of that important work.

In line with our mission of strengthening community by connecting all people to their purpose, potential, and each other, the Y supported hundreds of thousands of individuals across the region throughout 2024. Bringing our new community hub and camp business model to life meant putting plans in motion to deliver customized and impactful solutions for each of our communities.

We've leaned into our legacy as a leader in the areas of holistic health and wellbeing with a continued focus on fitness, sports and aquatics. Beyond physical health, expanded mental health offerings and other services ensure that our communities are able to prioritize their social and emotional health, as well.

This past year, the Y has expanded the ways in which we engage youth through early learning programming, day and overnight camps, and teen leadership programs. We also made significant progress in addressing inequities in health outcomes, digital skills, and employment opportunities through exciting new initiatives across our locations.

We believe that Ys are essential to the health, happiness, economic vitality, and connectedness of communities. When you read this report and learn more about the experiences of those whose lives have been changed by the Y, we think you'll agree that communities are in fact stronger when there is a YMCA present.

The YMCA of Metro Chicago's impact is only possible because of the individuals, families, and organizations that have committed themselves to our mission. Thank you to our partners, donors, volunteers, employees, and friends for your unmatched dedication and support.

We are confident that the momentum we generated together in 2024 will serve as a catalyst for our continued and exciting evolution, and we look forward to taking this journey alongside you.

Yours in service,



Steven P. Sorenson
BOARD CHAIR



Dorri C. McWhorter
PRESIDENT & CEO (OUTGOING)

Moving Toward ENHANCED HEALTH OUTCOMES

Advancing the holistic health and wellbeing of our communities has long been a cornerstone of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago's work. And the Y continues to evolve our programs and services in this area to respond to the changing needs of our communities. Youth basketball, independent and group fitness, and swim lessons for all ages are well-known Y offerings. But did you also know we boast one of the only Y-owned hockey rinks in the country, offer adult sports leagues, connect community members to mental health services, and provide customized resources and programming for groups such as active older adults and perimenopausal women? Now you do!

COMMUNITY HEALTH NAVIGATION

The Y's Community Health Navigator Program is dedicated to improving public health and individual wellbeing through a range of services that connect constituents to health care and other resources, all at no cost to participants. Trained Y staff are embedded in community, working both inside and outside the Y to identify those who need help navigating complex health care systems, and obtaining resources for mental and physical health.

"Serving as a Community Health Navigator on the West Side of Chicago, I am currently working with many individuals to help them navigate health systems with more knowledge and confidence," said one of our team members. "I am always excited and inspired by my clients' eagerness to

learn, lead healthier lifestyles, and improve their quality of life!"

Community Health Navigators have found that community members have been especially appreciative of resources such as information about nutrition and available food pantries, movement-related opportunities, and workshops that address behavioral health and chronic disease prevention. Community events organized through this program have created welcoming spaces where people can connect with others, build a stronger sense of belonging, and feel empowered to make more informed decisions around health.

In 2024, the Y's Community Health Navigation team conducted a total of **100 health events, with nearly 1,000 community members attending.**

The team completed disease-management assessments for conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and high blood pressure, which have led to improved self-management and greater health self-efficacy among participants. Staff work closely with individuals to ensure they receive appropriate medical care and are connected to medical homes when necessary.

In addition to direct community support, the Y also acts as a community convener, facilitating space for collaboration with partners such as Northwestern Medicine and Wellness West, working together to support our community's health needs and drive collective impact.



IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Cindy,* a participant in the Y's 12-week program focused on providing support to individuals navigating mental health and substance use disorders, expressed how grateful she was to see this program offered at the Y at no cost. She was connected to one-on-one therapy sessions and other support resources through the program.

"I was impressed by the quick follow-up. After signing up, I was contacted the very next day by a counselor, which made me feel supported right from the start," said

Cindy. "Talking to my counselor has been incredibly helpful in my grief journey. I finally feel like I have a safe space to express myself."

Xavier,* attended a Back-to-School resource fair event at one of our Community Hubs in 2024, where he connected with a Community Health Navigator about the services offered by the Y. Before enrolling with the Y, and despite a number of health concerns, Xavier had not had a medical visit in more than three years.

"Now, I have access to health care (and an at home blood pressure monitor), a membership at the YMCA, transportation services, rental/utility assistance, a monthly food stipend, and nutrition workshops, all at no cost. My Navigator helped me apply for financial aid, and we have put together a plan to manage my hypertension and overall wellbeing."

*Client names have been changed

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MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AT BUEHLER Y

BUILDING BRIDGES TO WELLBEING ALONGSIDE TRUSTED PARTNERS

In 2024, the Y launched a partnership with The Bridge Youth and Family Services to embed youth mental health services within the Buehler YMCA. This collaboration helps to address one of the most pressing community needs of the greater Palatine area.

For youth ages 0-21 and their families, The Bridge offers a convenient and welcoming space to access critical mental health services. Operating within the Buehler YMCA means that The Bridge can provide clients access to YMCA amenities and services to further enhance wellbeing. YMCA early-learning staff at the Buehler Y are also working with The Bridge staff to identify and address mental and behavioral challenges in the youth we serve, providing referrals to The Bridge, implementing strategies to reduce emotional classroom disruption, and increasing the likelihood of success in Pre-K to K transition.

Since opening, The Bridge has completed **203 counseling sessions** with community members within the Buehler YMCA location.



ROCK STEADY BOXING AT SAGE YMCA

PUNCHING BACK AT PARKINSON'S

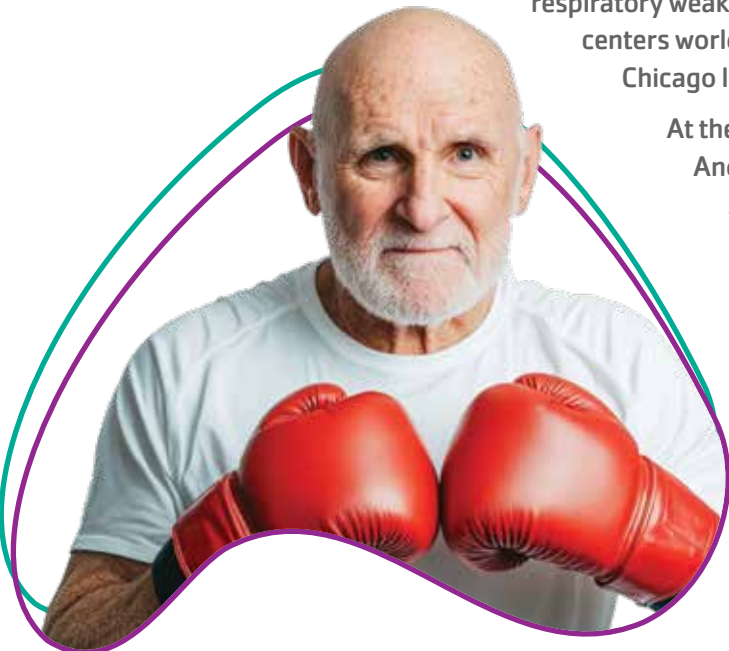
Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) is a no-contact boxing program specifically designed to address symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, such as imbalance, stiffness, posture, and respiratory weakness. RSB is offered at more than 800 gyms and fitness centers worldwide — including at several YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago locations.

At the Sage YMCA, Rock Steady isn't a class, it's a community. And the gains are more than just physical.

"I find camaraderie with others similarly afflicted with this disease, as we share common struggles and can cheer each other on," said Sage YMCA member Paul. "We also love to get together to enjoy other group activities like ping pong and pickleball."

Boxer David has been participating in RSB since the day it was first offered at the Sage Y.

"I'm so thankful for the instructors! They care, and they are really invested in seeing us improve!" he said.

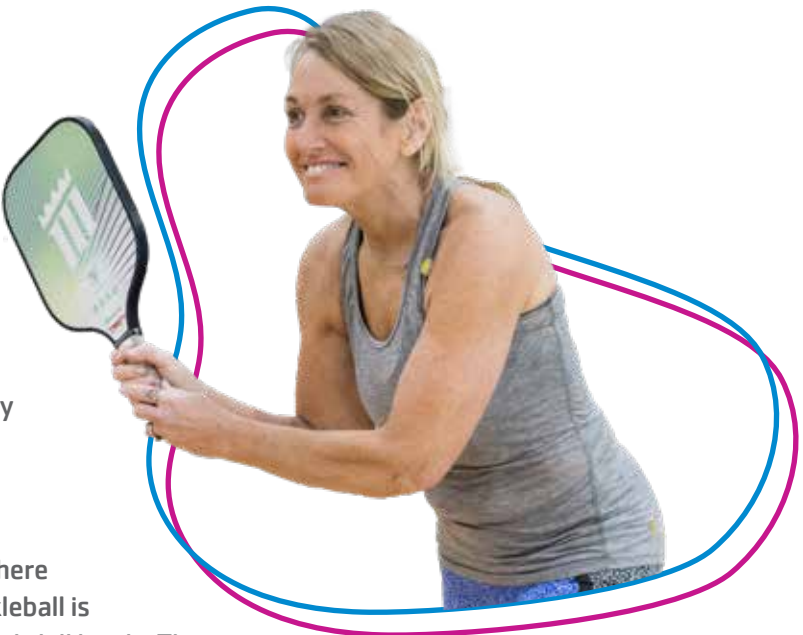


PICKLEBALL PROGRAMMING GROWTH

LINKING AND DINKING TOGETHER FOR FUN AND FITNESS

At the Y, we've been pickleball-ing since well before the sport became mainstream. Our staff and community members started way back in 2016!

In response to the rise in pickleball's popularity, the Y has expanded our pickleball offerings across a number of our Ys, such as the Foglia YMCA and Irving Park Y, where the community has especially embraced the sport. Pickleball is easy to learn and can be played by people of all ages and skill levels. This inclusivity means that everyone, from beginners to seasoned players, can join in and have fun together. Many of our pickleball communities organize tournaments and social gatherings. In addition to promoting physical movement, these gatherings provide a platform for people to connect, celebrate, and support each other.



INDIAN BOUNDARY YMCA MINI-PITCH

SCORING GOALS IN YOUTH AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WITH AN ASSIST FROM OUR PARTNERS

In partnership with the U.S. Soccer Foundation, the Y recently unveiled a new soccer mini-pitch at the Indian Boundary YMCA. The mini-pitch was installed in honor of the late W. Robert Reum, local philanthropist and father to Courtney Reum, who grew up playing soccer in the Chicago area and serves on the board of the Foundation.

At the grand opening event, youth joined the Reum family and representatives from the Foundation, Chicago Fire, Chicago Stars, and the YMCA of Metro Chicago for an official "first kick" and scrimmages on the new pitch.

This enhancement at the Indian Boundary YMCA provides an opportunity to use this innovative play space to expand youth and adult sports programs for the greater Downers Grove area, including evidence-based soccer programs delivered in partnership with the U.S. Soccer Foundation, that instill hope, foster wellbeing, and help youth and adults achieve their fullest potential.



WATER SAFETY AND SWIMMING FOR YOUTH WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

MAKING WAVES WITH INCLUSIVE AQUATICS PROGRAMMING

In 2024, the YMCA of Metro Chicago served approximately 3,000 participants each month through group swim lessons. And through a grant from Autism Speaks, our team was able to provide no-cost and low-cost lessons again this year to [50 youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#) (ASD). The program is part of the Y’s commitment to inclusion and to helping all individuals learn to be safe in and around the water.

Youth with ASD are 160 times more likely to drown than their neurotypical peers, and 32% of parents of children with ASD report that they have had a “close call” of drowning for their child. Participating in formal swim lessons can significantly reduce the risk of drowning.

Based on feedback from participants, their families, and instructors, the program experience was universally rewarding.

For some participants, the lessons were their first time stepping into a pool. Many of those same youth have continued to move forward with additional aquatics lessons and programming. For instructors, the program wasn’t only about teaching youth how to swim — it provided them with lifesaving skills and the confidence to believe in themselves.

“Seeing their excitement and hearing their plans to swim in the future reminded me of the profound impact we can have on our community,” said one of our instructors.



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IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL:

“My 11-year-old autistic son loves water, and our family has been searching for private swim lessons for several years now. The search has been difficult as we look for someone who could meet him at his level of learning.

“Finding the Hastings Lake YMCA and being able to introduce my son to basic lifesaving skills in the water has been amazing. His swimming lessons have been the highlight of his week. He is so excited and happy to go. The staff is patient, and it is clear they have vast experience with children of all abilities.”

“I hope other families have the opportunity to see their children flourish the way we have. Continued access to this program will help parents like me rest easier knowing their child has the basic skills to be safer in and around water.”



AQUATICS IMPACT:

In addition to our 3,000 monthly swim lesson participants, the Y also served the community through water fitness, swim team and swim club, swim camps, swim tests, open swim, birthday parties, lifeguard classes, community CPR classes, and private swim lessons. In particular, the Y team certified:

197 individuals in Lay Responder CPR

374 individuals in CPR for Professional Rescuers

99 YMCA Swim Lesson Instructors

530 Lifeguards

By training 530 lifeguards, the Y team is continuing to maintain high standards of safety at YMCA pools while also doing our part to address the national lifeguard shortage.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF RESILIENCE

In 2024, the YMCA of Metro Chicago worked with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing to [certify 12 of our staff members](#) in the National Council’s Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training. Certified staff were subsequently able to host eight community training sessions and [certify nearly 100 community members](#) as mental-health first-aiders.

MHFA training equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to mental health challenges in themselves and others. The training promotes early intervention, reducing the stigma surrounding mental health, and fostering a supportive environment where people feel safe to seek help. By teaching participants how to assess mental health crises, offer appropriate support, and guide individuals to professional resources, MHFA training can significantly improve outcomes for those experiencing mental health issues and helps create a culture of empathy, resilience, and understanding.

Before training, 54% of participants indicated they would be likely or very likely to respond to a substance use crisis, including an overdose. After the training, 100% of participants indicated they were likely or very likely to respond to a substance use crisis.

Training YMCA staff in Mental Health First Aid provides a strong professional development opportunity and also helps build organizational capacity that will result in higher-quality service delivery and the ability to provide support to partners across the sector.



“Usually, for cardio, I would run or use a treadmill. When the Peloton equipment was installed, I was excited to switch over to that!”

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP EXPANSION WITH PELOTON

PEDALING TOWARD ACCESSIBLE FITNESS FOR ALL

The Y and Peloton debuted a first-of-its-kind partnership in 2024 that provides YMCA members with world-class fitness options on-site and on-the-go: Peloton Bike+ and Row equipment is now installed in each of the Y’s Community Hubs and every YMCA of Metro Chicago member (18+) has complimentary access to Peloton App One.

YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago members can take advantage of the benefits of this partnership by using one of 77 Peloton Bike+ or 27 Peloton Row pieces of equipment in Ys across the region. If a visit to the local Y isn’t on the day’s agenda, fitness tracking capabilities and dozens of workouts, from stretching and yoga to high-intensity interval training (HIIT), are available for member use anywhere from the Peloton App.

YMCA Member Colton said, “Usually, for cardio, I would run or use a treadmill. When the Peloton equipment was installed, I was excited to switch over to that!”

Over the summer, we also paired up with our friends at Peloton to celebrate all things fitness at Faces of Fitness, a two-day activation in the River North neighborhood. At the festival, four fitness stages featured Chicago’s best-of-the best studio classes and instructors, alongside a Wellness Village of wellbeing partners.

Peloton’s Tunde Oyeneyin joined the party and led an energetic bodyweight strength class before participating in a meet-and-greet and photo op with hundreds of fitness enthusiasts from across the country.

We had Peloton Bike+ and Row equipment available for demos and a fitness challenge (with the chance to skip the line to meet Tunde!), meant to promote that Y membership now includes Peloton!

Faces of Fitness provided the Y and Peloton a unique opportunity to display our shared values and promote accessible, inclusive opportunities for everyone to embrace fitness. We aspire to unite people, inspire healthy habits, and show that fitness is for everyone, no matter where they are on their journey!



COMMUNITY ACTIVATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHICAGO SKY

SPURRING INVESTMENT IN WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS

As the Official Community Impact Partner of the Chicago Sky, the Y collaborated with the Sky and ABC Pilsen in August on a community event at the South Side YMCA’s HER Court. Fifty local girls enjoyed a basketball clinic, running drills and learning skills to succeed on and off the court. DJ Ca\$h Era kept the music lively, and there were also games, treats, and giveaways for all attendees! Following the clinic, coaches held an open-court session where all community members could join in and shoot hoops.

“The Sky’s partnership with the Y enables our team to share the excitement, empowerment, and fun of women’s sports with community members across the region!” said Marisa Ferrara, Director of Partnerships, Chicago Sky.

Initially unveiled in 2022, and designed by local artist Crystal Zapata, HER Court is the refurbished outdoor basketball court at South Side Y that celebrates girls and women in sports.

“The Sky’s partnership with the Y enables our team to share the excitement, empowerment, and fun of women’s sports with community members across the region!”



Wading into NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago is dedicated to advancing the health, happiness, economic vitality and connectedness of all communities. Yet, economic inequality continues to affect millions of individuals and families throughout the Chicagoland region and across the Midwest. The YMCA of Metro Chicago aims to address that challenge. Our work is more than support — we're fostering genuine trust, independence, and accountability, providing a range of activities, trainings, and resources to identify and reduce inequities. From paid workforce development opportunities to access to affordable housing and technology, we invest in individuals and families in ways that create ripples of impact for all.



WATER WORKS CAREER-EXPLORATION PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

In 2024, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago proudly celebrated the successful completion of our first cohort of Water Works, an innovative career-exploration initiative empowering local youth to dive into water related careers. From August to November, participants at three YMCA Community Hubs — the Irving Park, McCormick, and South Side YMCAs — gathered weekly to gain life changing skills, certifications, and information on career opportunities in fields from lifeguarding to oceanography.

Through expert swimming instruction, professional certifications, and bi-weekly field trips, Water Works opened doors for 58 youth, ages 16 to 24, to access meaningful work and future careers. Designed for transition-age youth from underserved communities, the program tackled barriers to water-related jobs and encouraged career paths that many participants had never considered. Thanks to funding from the Illinois Youth Investment Program, Water Works provided training, essential equipment, and a paid stipend, ensuring that participants could focus on their learning and development without financial concerns.

Our first Water Works cohort offered a pathway to employability through swim instruction tailored to individual skill levels, including support for students new to the water. Participants were able to earn lifeguard and swim instructor certifications, which position them for high demand roles in aquatics and recreation, particularly within the YMCA network.

Water Works enriched participants' experiences through career coaching, soft-skills training, and resume development, equipping them for professional success. Field trips offered real life insights into water-related careers, igniting new aspirations and showing youth the vast potential of careers that, while often overlooked, are both meaningful and lucrative.

"Working with the Water Works team was an incredible opportunity which opened a career path which I never thought would be accessible to me. Through the program I learned so much — about the aquatics industry, about swimming and lifeguarding, and about myself. I'll always be thankful for the doors this program opened for me" said Aria, Irving Park YMCA Water Works participant.

ILLINOIS WORKS PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

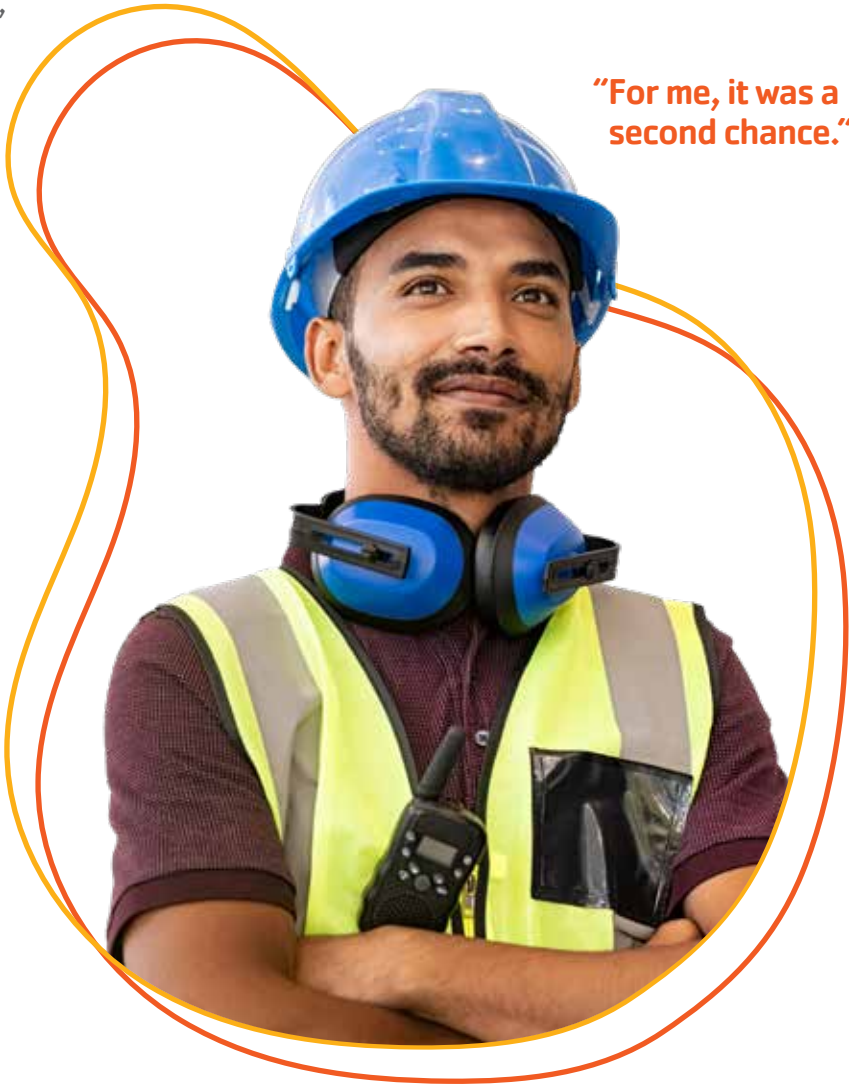
CONSTRUCTING PATHWAYS TO JOBS IN HIGH-GROWTH INDUSTRIES

Since our founding in 1858, the YMCA of Metro Chicago has worked to get our friends, neighbors, and community members connected with job opportunities. The Y’s ongoing workforce development efforts represent our renewed commitment to this 166+ year-old priority.

The Illinois Works pre-apprenticeship program, administered by the Y in 2024, prepared participants to successfully enter full-fledged apprenticeship programs certified by the U.S. Department of Labor. Illinois Works provided an overview of all trades, training in construction trade basics, and employability training. In addition to hands-on, practical training, participants were equipped with skills for job-seeking, such as resume creation, mock interviews, and more.

In 2024, the Y graduated a total of 64 individuals across three Community Hubs: South Side YMCA, Buehler YMCA, and Fry Family YMCA. Participants ranged from young individuals looking to establish their career to individuals who wanted to make a career change.

“For me, it was a second chance,” said Illinois Works Participant Miguel.



YMCA TECH HUBS, POWERED BY XFINITY

SUPERCHARGING DIGITAL ACCESS AND SKILLS ACROSS CHICAGOLAND

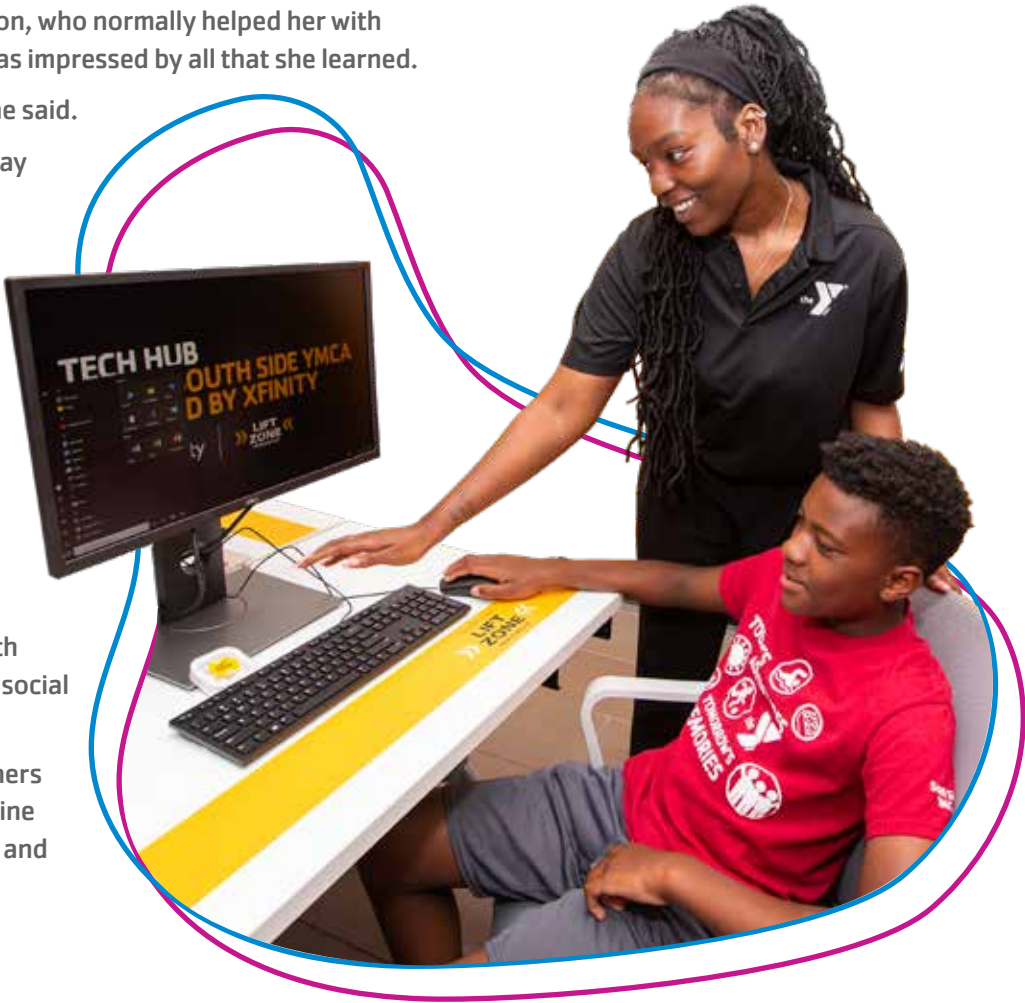
Through a partnership with Xfinity, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago established Tech Hubs at each of our six Community Hub locations in the City of Chicago. Tech Hubs are open to all community residents, free of charge, where they can use YMCA computers, access high-speed internet, and get support from one of our Digital Navigators. Community members can also call or email our Bilingual Community Help Desk to get help or to set up an in-person meeting at one of our Tech Hubs or at a different location.

Community member Thessodena took advantage of the Kelly Hall YMCA’s Tech Hub and digital-skills support after her friend encouraged her to do so. Thessodena’s godson, who normally helped her with technology-related tasks, was impressed by all that she learned.

“Now I’m able to help him!” she said.

Across the Tech Hubs, staff say that a majority of the community members who seek Digital Navigation help are seniors and active older adults — some upwards of 80 years old! Staff member Dwaine says that the seniors he helps tend to start with limited knowledge of digital devices and skills for the internet and leave with skills from online banking to social media and more.

“It makes me happy to get others involved,” staff member Dwaine said. “I want people to learn, and I’m here to help them!”





“The youth were all living in the same shelter and were initially very shy and reserved. By the end of the eight weeks of camp, they were interacting with other campers and making new friends!”

Empowering Our YOUNGEST COMMUNITY MEMBERS & Their Families

The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago remains a leader in licensed early learning programs, early childhood enrichment programs, before and after school programs, summer camps, overnight camps, teen leadership, and more! We offer youth of all ages a safe and nurturing environment in which to grow, learn, and thrive!

IMPACT:

- The YMCA of Metro Chicago has 14 licensed early learning centers, eight of which are Head Start and Early Head Start
- In 2024, 664 youth were provided high-quality early learning services
- 95% of children served by the Y receive individualized support for educational, medical, or dietary needs
- YMCA Pre-K classrooms were in the top 10% nationally for Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instruction Support
- In 2024, the YMCA of Metro Chicago served 10,000+ youth through before and after school programs
- During the 2023–2024 school year, our Association provided free, out-of-school time enrichment programs through Community School Initiative at 20 Chicago elementary and middle schools — engaging 3,196 students and 2,118 adults, including caregivers and community members

EARLY LEARNING & SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMMING

Whether it's attending to a teething infant, teaching the ABCs, or training on use of a 3D printer, the Y is always ready to jump in! The Y is a recognized leader in early learning, ensuring quality care and education for hundreds of youth and families across the city and suburbs. We're also the largest provider of before and after school care in the area. From summer camp to enrichment, our programs increase academic performance, build character, prevent neighborhood and community violence, and promote health and wellbeing. We enhance out-of-school spaces with special interest offerings to get youth engaged with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), targeted physical activity, and other skill building to set them up for success in their academic and extracurricular lives.

EARLY LEARNING SPOTLIGHT

One of the Y's newest Early Learning client families in 2024 is a single mother and her young children — including a newborn baby — who were living in a shelter after having recently arrived in Chicago. Because of their unfamiliarity with the city, this family faced numerous challenges and often felt isolated.

At the recommendation of a partner organization, the young mother enrolled her preschooler in one of the Y's Early Learning programs in the spring of 2024. Shortly after, and due in part to the family's increased stability, they were able to move from their temporary lodging into a friend's home. While the preschooler's school costs were covered through financial aid, the family still had very limited resources for purchasing goods, supplies, and furnishings for their new home.

Our YMCA colleagues came together and engaged partner organizations to provide this family with pots, pans, silverware, personal hygiene products, blankets, and items for the new baby, such as clothing and diapers. While the family is still facing challenges, they continue to persevere. Our client has expressed gratitude to our team and attributed her relative stability to the YMCA.

SUMMER CAMP SPOTLIGHT

In summer 2024, our team worked with a local elementary school to help newly arrived migrant families apply for state Child Care Assistance Program funding. More than eight students received financial assistance to attend eight weeks of summer camp each, at no cost to their families. We also leveraged our Y connections with partner organizations to outfit these youth with necessary summer supplies such as backpacks, swimsuits, hats, clothes. The YMCA's partnership with Local Lunchbox meant that free meals were available to them while they were at camp.

These campers say they had an excellent summer. They loved swimming at the Y, and many of the field trips they took were brand-new experiences. The Chicago Dogs baseball game was their favorite!

The Y's support of these families was made possible through the generous scholarship funds provided by our organization's donor community.

A YMCA camp counselor said, “the youth were all living in the same shelter and were initially very shy and reserved. By the end of the eight weeks of camp, they were interacting with other campers and making new friends!”

A NEW COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND AT MCCORMICK YMCA

SWINGING FOR THE FENCES WITH A STYLISH NEW PLAY SPACE

Late last year, the Y and our partners came together to build a new playground at the McCormick Y, open to all in the community, including to residents of the new housing development that opened directly across the street! With financial and volunteer support from Team Y, KABOOM!, Allstate, Cubs Charities, Evergreen Real Estate Group, and AIT Worldwide Logistics, everyone came together to make this youth-designed play space a reality for those in the Hermosa/Logan Square community.



YMCA CAMP INDEPENDENCE OVERNIGHT CAMP

FOSTERING MAGICAL CAMP EXPERIENCES FOR COUNSELORS AND CAMPERS ALIKE

At the Y, we're all about learning skills, developing character, and making friends — and YMCA Camp Independence is no exception! At Camp Independence, campers with spina bifida learn self-reliance, a love for nature, and the development of healthy practices and meaningful relationships, all amid the fun of traditional camp activities specially tailored to our campers' unique needs, including campfires, boating, arts and crafts, and swimming.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of our campers is the highest priority at Camp Independence. In addition to being accredited by the American Camp Association, we have a health officer on site during programs, and all our activities operate under strict policies and procedures. Staff members live in the Camp Independence Lodge with campers and are thoroughly trained in emergency and security procedures, including CPR and First Aid. We have a well-equipped health center on site, and during overnight camp, a health officer lives at camp and is available 24 hours a day.

When it comes to the magic of camp, don't just take our word for it! Like so many of our Camp Independence campers, Lizzy says that camp has helped her make progress toward her social and mental health goals, and Camp Independence is a place she feels safe.

"It's easy to build strong connections here, because everyone is very kind!" Lizzy said.

Returning Camp Independence Counselor Molly considers it her second home (her first home is Ireland!).

She calls camp, "a place where youth and adults with spina bifida can be comfortable in their own skin." Molly also says that seeing campers' joy about the magic of camp will "forever be my favorite thing!"

Molly also feels strongly that her work as a counselor at Camp Independence provides an unforgettable experience for personal and professional growth.



YMCA FAMILY CAMP NAWAKWA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

PREPARING FOR ANOTHER 100 YEARS UNDER THE STARS

Since opening in 1924, YMCA Family Camp Nawakwa has served as a nexus for connecting families from around the world with the great outdoors. Camp Nawakwa's unique family and group camp environment fosters a safe and encouraging and picturesque setting for people of all ages to learn new skills, strengthen relationships, enjoy the Wisconsin Northwoods, and discover their true selves.

In November, we marked a pretty big milestone — our Centennial Celebration!

Celebratory activities included a capstone gathering to mark the occasion, a Centennial Trail, commemorative displays, gatherings of alumni, and 100th anniversary Camp Nawakwa gear!



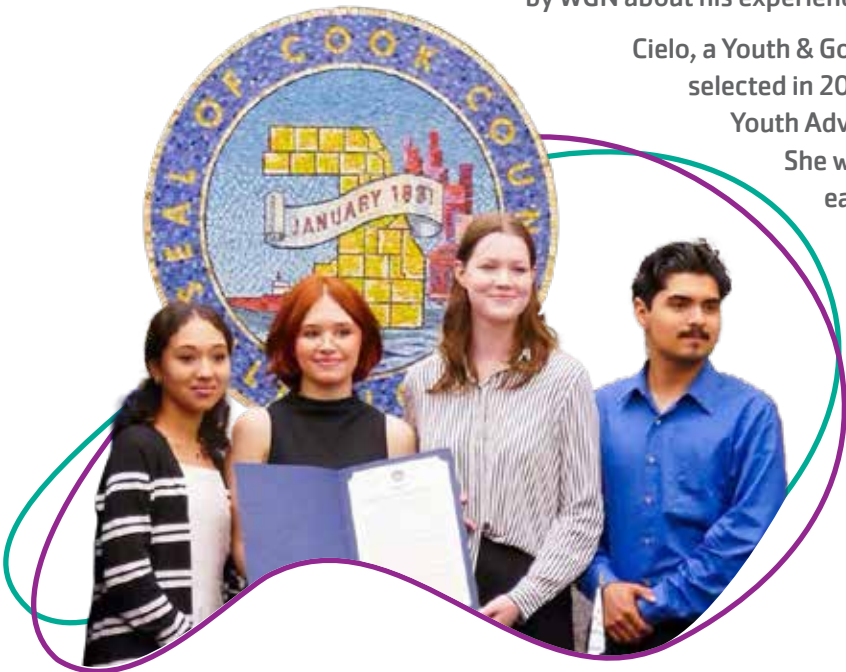
TEEN PROGRAMMING & YOUTH ADVOCACY

STIRRING A PASSION FOR ADVOCACY

If Y youth are our future, that future is bright!

Dominic, an active member of the Irving Park YMCA's Teen Leaders Club, the YMCA Teen Advisory Council, and YMCA Youth and Government, served on the 2024 Democratic National Convention's Youth Advisory Committee, when the Convention was hosted in Chicago. Dominic celebrated his 18th birthday attending the DNC and was even interviewed by WGN about his experience!

Cielo, a Youth & Government participant was selected in 2024 to be one of only two YMCA Youth Advocates from the State of Illinois. She will travel to Washington, DC in early 2025 alongside youth from every state. There, they will attend classes on the Y's Legislative Priorities, meet with national and local congressional staff, and work on leadership skills. The students then attend meetings with members of Congress on Capitol Hill to advocate for the Y!



TOGETHER, WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE

The support and generosity of our donors and partners empowers the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago to create outsized impact for the communities we serve.

Find all of our donors and supporters online at ymcachicago.org/partners



LEADERSHIP MATTERS: BOARD MEMBERS

THE FUTURE OF THE YMCA IS POWERED BY THE COMMITMENT OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE ON OUR ENTERPRISE BOARDS, COMMUNITY HUB ADVISORY BOARDS, AND CAMP ADVISORY BOARDS.

All location-specific Advisory Board members are listed on each hub or camp’s dedicated webpage. Visit ymcachicago.org/locations to search for a location and learn more.

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Bridget R. O’Neill RECORDING SECRETARY	Jeffery W. Douthit	
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Jeffrey W. Douthit	Dorri McWhorter	
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*January 1, 2024–December 31, 2024

LOCATIONS

BUEHLER YMCA

1400 W. Northwest Hwy.
Palatine, IL 60067
buehlerymca.org

CROWN FAMILY YMCA

1030 W. Van Buren St.
Chicago, IL 60607
crownfamilyymca.org

DR. EFFIE O. ELLIS YMCA

10 S. Kedzie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612
dreffieoellisymca.org

ELMHURST YMCA

211 W. First St.
Elmhurst, IL 60126
elmhurstymca.org

FOGLIA YMCA

1025 N. Old McHenry Rd.
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
fogliaymca.org

FRY FAMILY YMCA

2120 95th St.
Naperville, IL 60564
fryfamilyymca.org

GARFIELD YMCA

7 N. Homan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60624
garfieldymca.org

GREATER LAGRANGE YMCA

1100 E. 31st St.
LaGrange Park, IL 60526
greaterlagrangeymca.org

HASTINGS LAKE YMCA

1995 W. Grass Lake Rd.
Lindenhurst, IL 60046
hastingslakeymca.org

INDIAN BOUNDARY YMCA

711 59th St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
indianboundaryymca.org

IRVING PARK YMCA

4251 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL 60641
irvingparkymca.org

JEANNE KENNY YMCA

7600 S. Parnell Ave.
Chicago, IL 60620
jeanekenneyymca.org

KELLY HALL YMCA

824 N. Hamlin Ave.
Chicago, IL 60651
kellyhallymca.org

LAKE VIEW YMCA

3333 N. Marshfield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657
lakeviewymca.org

MARSHALL YMCA

3201 W. Monroe St.
Chicago, IL 60624
jmarshallymca.org

MCCORMICK YMCA

1834 N. Lawndale Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
mccormickymca.org

NORTH LAWNDALE YMCA

3449 W. Arthington St.
Chicago, IL 60624
northlawndaleymca.org

RAUNER FAMILY YMCA

2700 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60608
raunerfamilyymca.org

SAGE YMCA

701 Manor Rd.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
sageymca.org

SOUTH SIDE YMCA

6330 S. Stony Island Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637
southsideymca.org

YMCA CAMP DUNCAN

32405 N. US Highway 12
Ingleside, IL 60041
ymcacampduncan.org

YMCA CAMP INDEPENDENCE

32405 N. US Highway 12
Ingleside, IL 60041
ymcacampindependence.org

YMCA CAMP MACLEAN

31401 Durand Ave.
Burlington, WI 53105
ymcacampmaclean.org

YMCA CAMP PINEWOOD

4230 Obenauf Rd.
Twin Lake, MI 49457
ymcacamppinewood.org

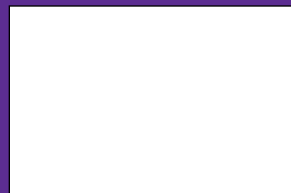
YMCA FAMILY CAMP NAWAKWA

13400 Camp Nawakwa Ln.
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
ymcacampnawakwa.org

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