2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



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AND OFFERINGS TO THE

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CELEBRATING A REMARKABLE 2022!

Thank you, as always, for your support of and investments in the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, and a special thank you for being part of the Y's journey over a most remarkable 2022.

So, what does remarkable look like?

It looks like: a banner year for strategic and community partnerships.

From Local Lunchbox with the Obama Foundation to the Nike HER Court to the Illinois Spina Bifida Association's support of YMCA Camp Independence, the Y's reach continues to expand through engagement with key corporate, civic, and philanthropic organizations across our portfolio, providing our community with opportunities unlike any other. We're working to foster and deepen existing relationships with organizations such as the YMCA of the USA, the Foglia Family Foundation, and area school districts. And we're establishing new ones with Comcast, the Million Girls Moonshot, and more. All of this is in our pursuit to strengthen community by connecting all people to their purpose, potential, and each other.

Remarkable also looks like: outsized impact on the communities we serve.

In 2022, the YMCA of Metro Chicago touched more than 300,000 individuals, from cradle to legacy. Our Early Education & Care program is in the top 10% nationally for instructional support, classroom organization, and emotional support. We registered 24,000 summer day campers, 64% of whom were new to the Y. In response to a humanitarian emergency and in partnership with the City of Chicago and dozens of civic and nonprofit organizations, the Y welcomed nearly 500 new arrivals to the city, providing them with essential care and services at the temporarily reopened High Ridge YMCA facility.

Remarkable is: evolving to become a 21st-century social enterprise for the region through our connections across communities.

In 2022, the Y successfully overhauled our website to enhance the ease and friendliness you requested — for more than a decade! The Y's partnership with Comcast is establishing or enhancing Tech Hubs in six Y Centers in the City of Chicago, facilitated by Digital Navigators that assist young and young-at-heart people in developing the essential tech skills they need to thrive in the digital age.

Because of our partnerships, because of our neighbors, because of our evolution, because of our revitalized strategic vision to meet the needs of our members in an ever-changing marketplace, it's quite honestly never been easier to connect with the YMCA of Metro Chicago. We are excited to see our reach continue to grow across all of our communities, from Little Village to Lake Zurich and from the Northwoods of Wisconsin to the western shores of Michigan.

While the end of 2022 may have come and gone, it absolutely does not mean the end of any of these exciting developments. The future is going to continue to be remarkable thanks to our members, our awesome staff, our generous supporters, our friends and neighbors, and all of the connections we made last year. \blacktriangledown

Yours in service,



Steven P. SorensonBOARD CHAIR



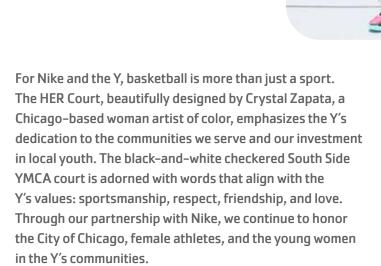
Dorri C. McWhorterPRESIDENT AND CEO

UNVEILING THE HER COURT AND CELEBRATING WOMEN IN SPORTS, MUSIC, AND MORE



the

The YMCA of Metropolitan
Chicago is committed to
supporting and celebrating
women and girls in our
communities. That's why we
partnered with Nike in 2022 to
refurbish the South Side YMCA's
outdoor basketball court —
now named "HER Court" — and
hosted a community event and
ribbon-cutting.



HER Court's unveiling wasn't just a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The community came together to celebrate women in sports, food, art, and entertainment, inspiring our local youth by spotlighting women-owned eateries, local women DJs, public officials, and hometown professional athletes. WNBA star Linnae Harper even joined us to provide skills clinics for girls ages 8 to 17 and boys ages 13 to 17, all for free!

"Through Nike's partnership and generosity, the South Side Y and our neighbors have a beautiful new safe space to gather, to play, and to find joy in community and sports," said Kenne'quia Howell, Executive Director of South Side YMCA. "It was such a privilege to be able to unveil this work of art and then spend the day celebrating local women's achievements in music, food, art, community, and, of course, basketball!"

Our partnership with Nike to create the HER Court underscores the Y's continued commitment to Chicago's South Side and surrounding communities. We are proud to have furthered our mission of creating long-lasting change in our communities by connecting all people to their purpose, potential, and each other by providing opportunities and a new public space for youth to develop and enhance their athletic abilities. And who knows? Maybe the next Chicago sports legend will get her start at the South Side Y's HER Court!

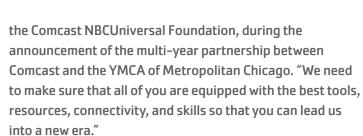


BRIDGING THE DIGITAL LITERACY DIVIDE

Digital literacy has never been more important to performing everyday functions from paying bills to applying for jobs to learning about the world around us. The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago recognizes that closing the digital divide is a necessary endeavor as we work to strengthen our community and connect people to the resources necessary for social and economic mobility.







Tech Hubs, powered by Xfinity, give community members access to not only technology but also free digital literacy support via our Digital Navigators. In a study released in June 2022 by Boston Consulting Group, more than 65% of survey respondents reported that a Digital Navigator helped them to obtain internet access, a computer, or a tablet at home.

The Y's Digital Navigators are committed to helping visitors access and build digital skills on the internet and with technology in general. They work to connect community members without existing digital resources at home to local and federal programs that cover the cost of internet service for those in need.

Community Help Desk, have allowed the Y to further our digital-equity service portfolio and provide our community with tools to connect with their purpose and share their discoveries with the world.

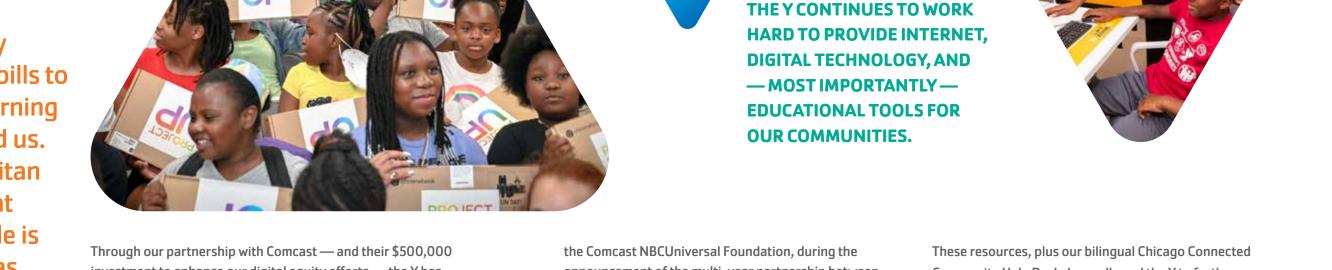
The Y continues to work hard to provide internet, digital technology, and — most importantly — educational tools for our communities.

"The digital equity work undertaken during the last decade by the YMCA, Comcast, and our many other partners continues to bring knowledge, joy, and connection to the individuals and families we serve," said Dorri McWhorter, President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. "More and more people in our communities feel empowered to get online, to learn, and to build the 21st-century skills they need to succeed in school, in the workplace, and in life."

investment to enhance our digital equity efforts — the Y has been empowered to provide free in-person computer labs, known as Tech Hubs, at six YMCA locations: Irving Park Y, Kelly Hall Y, Lake View Y, McCormick Y, Rauner Family Y, and South Side Y. Tech Hubs are open to all community members, regardless of previous affiliation with the Y.

Additionally, as part of Comcast's investment, the company launched Lift Zones within the Tech Hubs, which provide WiFi-connected safe spaces for our community members to learn digital skills, find jobs, complete online homework, and much more. These Lift Zones are essential to supporting the growth and development of our neighbors and communities both young and young-at-heart — and are already making a significant impact on the next generation.

"When I look at these young faces, I know you are our future leaders," said Dalila Wilson-Scott, Executive Vice President of Comcast and Chief Diversity Officer and President of



PROVIDING PLANT-BASED MEAL KITS TO LOCAL FAMILIES









Between rising food costs, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a lack of access to fresh food, putting healthy meals on the table can be challenging for families in the communities we serve.

That's why YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago teamed up with Partnership for a Healthier America and The FruitGuys to pilot a program offering four weeks of free meal kits to members of the South and West Side communities. The collaboration aims to develop sustainable, marketplace solutions to increase affordable access to fruits and vegetables in the communities we serve.

Meal kits included all of the ingredients and recipes needed to cook three delicious meals for a family of four and were available for at-home delivery or pickup at several YMCA locations. The free meal kits were available on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 2,000 families per week. Following the four-week pilot, kits were available for purchase at cost-effective prices.

"Showing up for Chicagoland's families means working together to fill resource gaps and empowering one another to make the healthiest possible choices," said Shannon Babcock, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. "Hand in hand with the Y and our mutual partners, we're working to alleviate food deserts and live out the Y's mission to strengthen families and communities — one delicious, healthy meal at a time."



CELEBRATING A NIGHT OF POSSIBILITIES

Each autumn, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago brings together our friends and supporters to celebrate the individuals and organizations who work diligently to advance the Y's mission of connecting all people to their purpose, potential, and each other. This annual event generates significant philanthropic resources to support the highest priorities of our Association.

The 2022 event, A Night of Possibilities, recognized the past, present, and future achievements made possible by the generosity of the Y community and by three supporters in particular.

Then–Board Chair Sharon Fairley received the Volunteer Award for her service and commitment to the Y. A former federal prosecutor, Sharon is one of Chicago's most respected legal professionals and criminal justice reform advocates. As Chair of the Y's Board of Managers, she helped the Y navigate the COVID–19 pandemic, oversaw a successful leadership transition, and continues to be an enthusiastic advocate for the organization and those it serves.

Juatise Gathings, Director of Operations and Community Engagement for Discover Financial Services, received the Leader Award. Juatise was recognized for purposefully leading the opening of a local Discover call center by focusing on employment, education, and neighborhood engagement to strengthen the local community.

Chicago's own Wilson Sporting Goods received the Partner Award for their generous support of the Y's youth sports program. Their engagement includes not only financial resources, but also a deep commitment to mentorship and volunteerism. For more than 100 years, Wilson has been on a mission to help athletes everywhere reach their true potential.

After two years of virtual events, the 2022 Recognition Dinner was held in person at Morgan Manufacturing in Chicago's West Loop. As Y President and CEO Dorri McWhorter said in her remarks, "Isn't it nice to be back in person, y'all?!"

Since 2014, the event has raised more than \$10 million to empower the Y to carry out its mission. It's safe to say this support opens up worlds of possibilities. ▼



MAKING MEMORIES AFTER A TWO-YEAR HIATUS



Just an hour north of Chicago in Ingleside, Illinois, YMCA Camp Independence serves as a home-away-from-home for youth and adults living with spina bifida. It's a place where campers with diverse abilities can challenge themselves, enjoy outdoor activities of all sorts, and make lifelong friendships in an inclusive, empowering environment.

After a two-year in-person hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, YMCA Camp Independence was thrilled in 2022 to be able to return to in-person programming and operate safely for the summer!

YMCA Camp Independence is a transformative place for campers age seven and up with spina bifida. With a 1:1 ratio of campers to staff, YMCA Camp Independence prioritizes safety and care as campers gain independence by learning adaptive ways to do everyday tasks like washing dishes or tidying their rooms. Like many Y programs, YMCA Camp Independence is about learning skills, developing character, and forming lifelong relationships.

At camp, our dedicated staff teach self-reliance, a love of nature, and the development of attitudes and practices that build character—all amidst the fun of campfires, boating, archery, and even zip-lining through the trees at our picturesque campsite. YMCA Camp

Independence is also unique in that it operates each week right alongside YMCA Camp Duncan. This is an excellent way for all campers to learn from their differences, gain an appreciation for each others' adversities, and form meaningful relationships with those they might never meet outside of camp.

Thanks to an active local Advisory Board, chaired by Mr. Patrick Frangella, wonderful partnerships with the Illinois Spina Bifida Association, and many dedicated donors, the Y is able to offer significant financial assistance for Camp Independence. Dr. David McLone, one of the founders of YMCA Camp Independence and Board Chair for many years, wanted to make sure that all people of all abilities can have a memorable camp experience.

YMCA Camp Independence was excited to have a fun and successful summer in 2022 and looks forward to many more camp seasons filled with empowerment, fun, and community-building. ▼

LIKE MANYY PROGRAMS,
YMCA CAMP INDEPENDENCE
IS ABOUT LEARNING SKILLS,
DEVELOPING CHARACTER,
AND DEVELOPING LIFELONG
RELATIONSHIPS.

COMMITTING TO HEALTH AND FITNESS: "WE'LL HAVE EACH OTHER TO LEAN ON."



Tackling a marathon is more than just running. It's a show of perseverance, community, generosity, and so much more — everything that the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago stands for.

In October, the Y had the privilege of serving as an official Charity Partner for the 2022 Bank of America Chicago Marathon, joining more than 170 nonprofit organizations to generate philanthropic support to advance our mission of connecting all people to their purpose, potential, and each other.

For the first time, the Y built our own running team, "Team YMCA," made up of ten amazing and driven individuals, including staff, friends, and supporters of the Y.

Agneis Schultz, Vice President of Community Investment and Social Responsibility of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, a member of "Team YMCA" and a longtime long-distance runner, reflected on why she ran for Team Y: "When I am whole, I can be whole for my son, too. Running clears my head, is a confidence



booster, and gives me an outlet for self-care. It's an activity that provides space for mindfulness and empowers me to be even more present in other areas of my life."

Along with running a 26.2-mile route, Team Y raised more than \$1,000 per person, and with the help of our dedicated Y community, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago collectively raised more than \$22,000, surpassing our original goal of \$16,000! All of the funds will be used to create a healthier, more equitable Chicagoland and to ensure that the Y has the needed resources to care for the youth, families, and communities that we are privileged to serve. Equally as important, it helps ensure that no family is turned away from YMCA programs and services, regardless of their ability to pay.

By participating in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, not only did our team help drive philanthropic revenue to the Y, it also connected the organization with a well-known and signature Chicago event that deeply aligns with the Y's commitment to health and fitness.

Team Y exemplified the resilience and endurance that we encourage in our Y communities. With our team, we hope to continue to inspire our community, positively impacting the lives of youth and families all across the Chicagoland area.

"Team YMCA is about so much more than training and raising funds," said Katie Panning Spieth, Chief Impact Officer of the YMCA of Metro Chicago. "Through our perseverance and shared commitment to bettering our communities, we aim to serve as passionate ambassadors for the Y's mission."

PARTNERING WITH A LOCAL FAMILY FOUNDATION TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES

ACTIVATING TO WELCOME NEW ARRIVALS TO OUR COMMUNITY

Established in 1995, the Foglia Family Foundation is a private Chicago-area foundation that supports local nonprofit organizations across the areas of education, support for those less fortunate, mental health care, and more.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago is proud to be a longtime partner of the foundation and even more so to be a longtime friend of the Foglia family.

As you've probably guessed, the Foglia YMCA in Lake Zurich, Illinois, is the namesake of Vince, his wife Pat, and the rest of the Foglia family. But did you know that the Sage YMCA in Crystal Lake is also a nod to Vince's successful career in the healthcare industry? It's true! Vince's medical-supply business, Sage Products, empowered the family to start the Foundation, which provides significant philanthropic support to a number of organizations each year.

The ongoing support of the Foglia Family Foundation to the Y includes not only annual gifts that support enrichment and programming at the Foglia and Sage YMCAs and YMCA Camp Duncan, but Vince, his son Vinnie, and his daughter-in-law Cheryl also dedicate their time, talent, and expertise to lift up the work of the Y.



In a recent interview, Vince summed up his and the Foundation's philosophy toward philanthropy and the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago.

"The need for community is stronger than it was before the pandemic," said Vince. "Being isolated is not very good. People need people! When [the Y] comes into an area, it changes the community — the youth in the community and all the people. There's something for everyone [at the Y], and it's affordable. And if you can't afford it, we'll figure out a way to get you in here!"

With the support, friendship, and partnership of the Foglia family, the Foglia Family Foundation, and other dedicated civic leaders like them, there is no question that we can work together to continue to empower the communities we serve.

The YMCA of
Metropolitan Chicago
always strives to
meet the needs of our
community, especially,
as it continues to grow.



800 PEOPLE HOUSED IN 2022



In late August of 2022, hundreds of individuals and families seeking asylum were transported to Chicago from southern U.S. states. The Y mobilized during this humanitarian emergency, joining the City of Chicago and dozens of civic and nonprofit organizations to provide essential care and services to our new arrivals.

As people seeking asylum enter Chicago, their needs are assessed and addressed by trained staff from city agencies and human service providers. Many of our new neighbors arrived without previously established access to food, clothing, shelter, or other resources.

We are honored that the City of Chicago trusted the Y to provide a safe space for our new arrivals by asking for our assistance in welcoming and providing shelter for these individuals beginning mid-September.

As part of this effort, the High Ridge YMCA facility, which was originally closed in January 2021, found a new purpose.

It now serves as a sheltering service for single men and women, providing access to showers, food, internet, and other essential services during their stay at the facility.

Located in Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood on the city's far north side, the High Ridge Y shares a home with a vibrant and diverse immigrant population and was the perfect choice to host our new arrivals. Working in conjunction with many local organizations focused on acclimating newcomers to the West Ridge and surrounding area, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago cultivated a safe and welcoming space for nearly 800 people in 2022. We look forward to continuing to provide essential resources by keeping our doors open for the duration of the humanitarian emergency.

At the Y, we're constantly committed to strengthening our community by connecting all people to their purpose, potential and each other. Providing our new neighbors with the resources and safe space they need is vital to fulfilling our mission.

FOCUSING ON THE POWER OF EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago is honored to have been a part of the 93rd Annual Bud Billiken Parade in August, an annual Chicago tradition that celebrates Black joy and kicks off the back-to-school season.



The annual Bud Billiken Parade and Festival is the largest African American parade in the United States. Due to the pandemic, the Bud Billiken Parade hadn't carried out its full schedule and parade for two years. The 2022 parade's theme was "Power of Bud Billiken 365", emphasizing that the celebration of Black history in Chicago and the continued inspiration of youth continues year-round.

Dorri McWhorter, President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, served as an Honorary Grand Marshal for the annual South Side event. The entire Y community was thrilled that Dorri — an active member of Chicago's civic, business, and philanthropic communities and who is integral in guiding the YMCA of Metro Chicago into becoming a 21st-century social enterprise — received this well-earned distinction.

The Y had the privilege of participating in the parade procession, with 100 of our Y employees and community members walking the two-mile route down Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in the South Side of Chicago while handing out giveaways, including mini basketballs, hand-fans, and more.



Like the Bud Billiken Parade, the Y is deeply committed to the power of education and empowerment. As an organization, we work to empower our communities and to make long-lasting change through investing in our youth and providing them with opportunities and resources to connect to their purpose, potential, and each other.

"We loved seeing all the community that would come out and support the Bud Billiken just to see all the folks make sure that the youth of Chicago know that they matter," said Dorri in an interview with the Chicago Tribune. "To see folks descend upon the South Side and down King Drive it's definitely something to behold."

CREATING A SPACE FOR YOUTH AND VETERANS TO FIND THEIR PURPOSE, POTENTIAL, **AND EACH OTHER**



Thousands of young people in Chicago are growing up in communities impacted by gun violence, domestic violence, poverty, bullying, abuse, and loss. To address these critical issues, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago takes a comprehensive, trauma-informed approach to violence prevention, specifically in neighborhoods in Chicago that have been the most impacted by violence.



Through the Y's partnerships with respected members of the community, such as veterans and supportive law enforcement officials, youth participants are able to work to break cycles of violence. The Y's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention (YSVP) program looks at past exposure to trauma as a driver of future dangerous behaviors and focuses on empowering young people to become the very best versions of themselves. The program is designed to build confidence through a variety of outlets, with a focus on the arts, storytelling, and service to the community. In particular, the Urban Warriors initiative — the longestrunning YSVP program — provides a structured curriculumbased approach that pairs military veterans with young people in some of Chicago's neighborhoods most affected by violence, including Austin, Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, Little Village, Pilsen, South Chicago, Woodlawn, and neighboring communities.

Urban Warriors reduces the traumatic effects of violence on young people and supports participants through 16 weeks of structured programming. Sessions are facilitated by post-9/11 military veterans who are trained and supported by YSVP staff. The curriculum consists of five thematic areas: belonging, positive identity development, cognitive restructuring, coping, and community engagement. Together, the veterans and youth participants discuss their lived experiences with violence, develop and share coping skills, and identify their individual strengths. Participants then explore how they can channel these new skills to benefit their communities. Above all. Urban Warriors fosters a uniquely supportive, reciprocal relationship between two groups of people that understand each other in ways most could never comprehend.

Since the launch of Urban Warriors in 2014, more than 400 young people and more than 80 veterans have participated. Together, they have completed more than 38 service projects, including community clean-ups, food and toiletry distribution to unhoused community members, and other service projects.



The following are results from a survey of participants:

100%

OF URBAN WARRIORS YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AND VETERAN MENTORS WOULD RECOMMEND THE PROGRAM TO A FRIEND.



OF URBAN WARRIORS YOUTH 82% ABLE TO EXPAND THEIR NETWORK.



OF URBAN WARRIORS YOUTH **PARTICIPANTS FELT THAT THEY HAVE** MORE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THEM DUE TO PARTICIPATING.



OF VETERAN MENTORS SAID THAT THE **PROGRAM ALLOWED THEM TO GAIN** A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE **COMMUNITY THEY SERVE.**

With the generous support of our business and government partners, the future of the YSVP program — and our youth participants — looks bright. In 2022, the Y received a \$200,000 gift from McDonald's to support and enhance YSVP programming. The State of Illinois, through its Department of Human Services, also continues to provide significant grant funding to empower the Y to deliver on its mission through YSVP services. With friends and supporters like that, the sky's the limit for Chicago youth! ▼

GIVING FAMILIES PEACE OF MIND THROUGH RELIABLE, HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE



"THE Y'S SCHOOLS DAY OUT PROGRAM
BRINGS POSITIVE LEARNING
ACTIVITIES LED BY CARING ROLE
MODELS TO OUR COMMUNITY'S
YOUNG PEOPLE, HELPING THEM REACH
THEIR FULL POTENTIAL SO THEY CAN
GROW INTO THRIVING ADULTS."
-DORRI MCWHORTER



The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago's mission to strengthen community by connecting all people to their purpose, potential, and each other — including our youngest community members — calls upon us to show up for local youth in every way we can.

During negotiations between Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and the Chicago Teachers Union in early 2022, the Y continued to fulfill our commitment to our community by providing high-quality enrichment and care options for youth across the city.

Throughout the negotiations, several of our sites offered Schools Day Out, the Y's signature child care program for days when school isn't in session.

Youth aged 6 to 12 participated in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) activities, arts and crafts, sports, and enriching games led by the Y's caring and knowledgeable staff. Meanwhile, parents and guardians were able to have peace of mind knowing their kids were staying engaged in a safe community space.

"While parents and caregivers are at work, our Ys provide quality education enrichment to CPS students while classes are not in session, giving them a safe and engaging learning environment," said Dorri McWhorter, President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. "The Y's Schools Day Out program brings positive learning activities led by caring role models to our community's young people, helping them reach their full potential so they can grow into thriving adults."

The Y is committed to making child care more accessible to Chicagoland's families and offers financial assistance. ▼



BRINGING DELICIOUS, NUTRITIOUS, CULTURALLY RELEVANT MEALS TO YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



The YMCA of Metropolitan
Chicago's commitment to
strengthening our communities
extends to all aspects of life,
including the food we eat!





PROVIDING YOUTH WITH
THE NUTRITION-RICH
CHOICES THEY NEED TO
GROW AND THRIVE IS
ESSENTIAL TO BUILDING
A HEALTHIER AND MORE
EQUITABLE CHICAGOLAND.

We are proud to have partnered with the Obama Foundation and the Shah Family Foundation to introduce the Local Lunchbox program as part of our summer Day Camp offerings. Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Local Lunchbox program connects nonprofits, schools, and other community organizations — such as the Y — that serve young people across Chicago with local chefs who provide delicious, healthy, and culturally-familiar meals to kids and teens. By participating in Local Lunchbox, the Y not only delivered fresh and nutritious meals to our campers but also drove financial resources to small, minority-owned businesses.

Lashon Burrell, Executive Chef of Cajun Cafe Chicago and YMCA partner in this initiative expressed her excitement about the program at a Local Lunchbox community event: "It's important to give kids a sense of hope, and I feel like being able to give them some culturally different foods

from a minority chef that's a woman is something that's extremely exciting for me. Just show them that, 'Hey, we can do it. We can be great."

Providing youth with the nutrition–rich choices they need to grow and thrive is essential to building a healthier and more equitable Chicagoland. As the Y continues to look toward the future, we work to invest in the kids and teens in our local communities, ensuring that they are able to explore their value and share their discoveries — truly connecting all people to their purpose, potential, and each other.

"When we were approached by the Obama Foundation and the Shah Foundation to start this summer meal program, we found it a great opportunity for us to really take agency over delivering delicious, nutritious, and culturally relevant meals to kids," said Swathi Staley, Chief Community Investment Officer and General Counsel of the YMCA of Metro Chicago. \blacksquare

LEARNING FROM A STEAM STAR



KATYA, WHO
DECIDED SHE
WOULD GO TO SPACE
AT AGE SEVEN,
IS PASSIONATE
ABOUT GETTING
MORE GIRLS
INVOLVED IN STEAM
PROGRAMMING
BECAUSE OF HER
EXPERIENCES AS A
MINORITY WOMAN
IN THE FIELD.

Not many young people can say they've had lunch with an astronaut. But, as part of a Million Girls Moonshot program, some local youth can now make that claim!

In late 2022, girls in YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago programs such as Community Schools Initiative, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) Club, and Lego Art and Engineering, had the opportunity to meet Katya Echazarreta, the first Mexican-American woman to go to space. Katya is an electrical engineer and — at just 27 years old — was selected from 7,000 applicants to go to travel on Blue Origin NS-21 in June.

Katya, who decided she would go to space at age seven, is passionate about getting more girls involved in STEAM programming because of her experiences as a minority woman in the field. To share STEAM knowledge and experience, she hosted dozens of girls from the

Chicagoland area at a once-in-a-lifetime experience and field trip at the Adler Planetarium in December. Some of the Y's participants were interviewed by CNN about their interest in science and what it was like to meet Katya!

This opportunity came from a partnership with the Million Girls Moonshot, which has a five-year goal of engaging one million girls in STEAM learning opportunities through afterschool and summer programs. Working to be active in all 50 states, the Moonshot seeks to re-imagine who can engineer, who can build, and who can make. Opportunities such as the meet, greet, and learn with Katya are just part of their efforts to reach youth across the U.S. \blacktriangledown

HONORING OUR SUPPORTERS

CIRCLE OF INSPIRATION (\$250,000+)

BMO

Comcast

The Foglia Family Foundation #

Margaret G. Johnson Trust

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

YMCA of the USA

CIRCLE OF HOPE (\$100,000 - \$249,999)

The Crown Family ◊

The Ehlert Family Foundation

Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation USA

McDonald's Corporation

Northwestern Memorial HealthCare

Polk Bros. Foundation

Gabrielle Sirchio and Douglas Williams

Carol J. Smith Revocable Trust

Wilson Sporting Goods Company

CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS (\$25,000 - \$99,999)

Allstate Insurance Company

Anonymous

Bank of America

Rita and John Canning

The Jessica and Timothy Canning Charitable Fund at

The Chicago Community Foundation

Amy and Paul Carbone ◊

Henry T. Chandler Charitable Trust

CIBC

CME Group Foundation

Conagra Brands Foundation

Debicki Foundation

Discover Financial Services

Jeff and Mindy Douthit ◊

Cadence Kitchen & Co. and The Foxtail Restaurants

Patrick and Susan Frangella #

GCM Grosvenor

Harris Family Fund of The New York Community Trust

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keiser Donor Advised Fund

Eric and Liz Lefkofsky

Mercyhealth

Motor Werks Auto Group

Cheryl and Jack Neal

The Nitzberg Family ◊

Northern Trust Fund

Opus Foundation

Partnership for a Healthier America

Reyes Holdings

Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan

John and Kathleen Schreiber

Siragusa Family Foundation

Target

Chris and Kim Trick ◊

Tullman Family Office

Wintrust Financial Corporation

YMCA of Greater Seattle

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Caryn and Jon Africk ◊

Anderson Foundation

Anonymous

Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund

The Alben F. and Clara G. Bates Foundation

Sandra J. Beal

Alfred Bersted Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

The Bluhm Family Charitable Foundation

Joseph and Angela Hicks Bowman

Scott and Tracy Brown

Cameron Can Foundation

Carter Family Charitable Foundation

Chapin-May Foundation of Illinois

ComEd, an Exelon Company

Daniel L. Creamean ◊

Todd Davies #

Jim and Sarah DiMatteo ◊

The Driskill Foundation

Janet and Craig Duchossois

Jim Gordon, The Edgewater Funds

Ben and Jill Erwin ◊

Sharon R. Fairley ◊

Karen and John Ferrero

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Indian Boundary YMCA

Marshall YMCA

McCormick YMCA

North Lawndale YMCA

Rauner Family YMCA

Sage YMCA

South Side YMCA

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Daniel Webster Elementary Disney II Magnet Elementary School

Edgebrook Elementary School Elmwood Elementary School

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