

[www.jolietymca.org](http://www.jolietymca.org)  
(815) SAY-YMCA



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# ALWAYS HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Greater Joliet Area YMCA Annual Report  
2011



## FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT NURTURING THE POTENTIAL OF EVERY CHILD AND TEEN

The YMCA is a wonderful place for kids to spend the summer. Energetic counselors are actively involved in creating a safe, fun and nurturing environment. Each part of the camp experience is designed to strengthen each child's confidence, character and well-being, while allowing them to make new friends and try new things.

## FOR HEALTHY LIVING IMPROVING THE NATION'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Y brings families closer together, encouraging healthy habits and fostering relationships through fitness, sports, and recreation for all ages. The nation is facing an obesity epidemic. One third of adults and 17 percent of kids are obese. The child obesity statistic has tripled since 1980. The Y has a duty to help, and offers a variety of activities to combat this problem. Our new Teen Impact Class is a perfect example.

## FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY GIVING BACK AND PROVIDING SUPPORT TO OUR NEIGHBORS

The Y has a responsibility to listen and respond to our community's most critical needs. We welcome and connect diverse demographic populations through collaborations with our schools, agencies, local businesses, community leaders, volunteers and donors. Project SOAR is an excellent example of a charitable community outreach collaboration. Over the last five years, this free program has provided more than 5,000 underserved minority children with the opportunity to learn to swim and enjoy recreation at the Smith Family YMCA.



# Thanks for Caring!



Nineteen of these kids couldn't have enjoyed camp without the support of our generous donors. Summer Day Camp creates an environment where kids can be themselves, exploring exciting new things, cultivating friendships and creating lasting memories. They spend carefree days swimming, playing sports, learning positive character development, doing arts and crafts and going on field trips. Indeed, thanks for caring!

# DEAR FRIENDS,

We are 83 years strong and I am very proud of our Y's great history! It has been an honor to serve as the Board Chair with so many dedicated volunteers and staff over the past two years. The stories shared in this report are a reminder of why I made our Y a charity of my choice. They convey the on-going work in our cause: **Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility**.

Turbulent economic times continue to cause struggling families to turn to the Y for quality services and assistance. Last year, we served nearly 20,000 participants from Will County, Grundy County and parts of Kendall County. We provided **\$807,298** in subsidies and program and membership scholarships, so that **everyone** had the opportunity to participate. Our Central City YMCA served a record **2,031** "at risk" children from Joliet's low income, primarily minority, families in essentially free programs.

During my term as Chairman, we joined 2,600 Ys across the country in a rebranding effort. This unified message helped people better understand the Y's cause and impact. We were honored to be one of nine Ys selected nationally to join the **Project Trendsetters Initiative**. Our goal is to promote the Living Our Cause philosophy by telling stories, deepening relationships, collaborating and demonstrating impact. We share our results with the National Y and other Trendsetter Ys to determine what works and how we can improve our methods.

Our cause-driven philosophy is carefully woven into the fabric of our long range 2011-14 **Strategic Roadmap Plan**. Highlights of our goal progress include:

- **Strengthening our philanthropic culture** to fund our core mission programs - by creating more awareness both inside and outside of our walls - resulted in a 15 percent growth in our Annual Campaign.
- **Growth of our programming to underserved areas and populations** is especially notable in the Morris community. More than 500 kids participated in youth basketball and volleyball leagues. Thanks to generous donors, the Y owns property designated as the future home of the Morris Family YMCA. Also, two new Teen programs were launched at the Avery Y to increase service to that age group.
- Our Board constantly strives to **strengthen the Y's image as a charitable organization** in partnership with our staff. After a thorough search, our Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that James D. Watts has been named as our new President and CEO. Jim is highly qualified to increase awareness of our charitable mission throughout our local communities.

We truly appreciate the support of our donors, volunteers, staff, members and community partners. We know that lasting personal and social change only can come about when we all work together to invest in our kids, our health and our neighbors. That's why, at the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Thank you for your partnership!

Michael Noonan



Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Directors



# PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

## **EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS:**

Joliet School District 86  
Joliet Township High School  
District 204  
Joseph E. Fisher School  
Laraway School District 70C  
Minooka School District 201  
Morris School Districts 54 & 60C  
Plainfield Community Consolidated  
School District 202  
St. Jude Catholic School  
Troy Community Consolidated School  
District 30-C

## **COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES:**

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## **CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE:**

Grundy County  
Joliet  
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For the past four years, the Galowich Family YMCA has partnered with MorningStar Mission by hosting the Box City of Hope homeless awareness fundraiser. As part of the annual event, overnight guests sleep inside tents and boxes set up on the Rotary/YMCA Sportsfield.

# OUR MISSION

To put Christian principles into practice by developing relationships among all persons and providing programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body.

# OUR CAUSE

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits, committed to strengthening our communities through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. This year, 21 million people nationwide will come to the Y to learn, grow and thrive. They will engage in quality programs built on the Christian character values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Every day, we will continue to work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the Y.

# ABOUT OUR Y

The Greater Joliet Area YMCA has been serving families - regardless of age, income or background - from throughout Will County and its surrounding areas for more than 83 years. One of the area's leading non-profit organizations, the Y brings families closer together, encourages good health, and fosters connections through fitness, sports, fun and shared interests. Through our three full-service branches, our Central City "Y without Walls," and our Morris Family YMCA programs, thousands of area residents participate in exceptional year-round programming, including before school and after school child care, summer camps, youth sports, group fitness classes and swim lessons, among others.

Through our many community partnerships and collaborations, we constantly are working to introduce new programming to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities we serve. With the guidance of our leadership team and volunteer board of directors and advisory boards, we work to raise funds and secure grants to support our scholarship fund, which helps to ensure that no one is turned away from the Y due to the inability to pay. The Greater Joliet Area YMCA embraces the Y's mission and furthers its cause thanks to the support of our members, staff, community partnerships, volunteers and generous donors.

The Y is proud to partner with Joliet District 86 by providing an after school youth basketball and cheerleading program. Illinois State Senator AJ Wilhelmi and Joliet Township Clerk Beth Ann May served as volunteer judges, and presented a trophy to the Woodland Elementary Team at the annual Central City YMCA All Stars event.



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**DID YOU KNOW THAT MORE THAN 1,000 AREA RESIDENTS VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME IN SUPPORT OF THE Y'S CHARITABLE MISSION AND ITS PROGRAMS IN 2011?**

# GREATER JOLIET AREA YMCA STAFF

## METROPOLITAN OFFICES

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Aquatics Director  
Maria Romero  
Youth & Adult Sports Director  
Michael Wilhite  
Youth & Family Manager  
Erin Williams  
Youth & Family Director

## JERALD S. GALOWICH FAMILY YMCA

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Membership Director  
Betsy Donahue  
Youth & Family Coordinator  
Laurie Halaska  
Executive Director  
Dave Hedden  
Joliet Jets YMCA Swim Team  
Head Coach  
Marlene Kirsch  
Youth & Family Manager  
Dave Lee  
Maintenance Director  
Jared Miller  
Aquatics/Health and Wellness  
Director  
Meg Schroeder  
Youth & Family Director  
Aaron Towler  
Sports Director

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Laurie Halaska  
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Membership Director  
Maurice Fears  
Community Outreach Executive  
Dave Hedden  
Joliet Jets YMCA Swim Team  
Head Coach  
Dave Lee  
Maintenance Director  
Sally Thomas  
Interim Aquatics Manager  
Aaron Towler  
Sports Director



In 2011, YMCA Printer Rose Gans, sixth from the left, celebrated her 40th anniversary with the Greater Joliet Area YMCA. Rose is pictured with 12 other full-time staff members who held part-time jobs with the Y during high school and college, and now work at one of our branches full-time.

## MEET MAGGIE AND MR. WES “THE BEST PART OF MY DAY IS SEEING THE SMILES ON THE KIDS’ FACES.”

For many seven-year-olds, the start of a new school year can be hectic and even a little scary. Making new friends, meeting a new teacher and getting adjusted to a full day of school can be a little overwhelming. For Freedom Elementary School first grader Maggie Hamilton, this transition was made just a little easier with the help of her Y Kidz Zone counselor, Wes Danielewicz.

Known to the kids in Freedom Elementary’s Kidz Zone program as Mr. Wes, he can be found each weekday morning and afternoon helping kids with their homework, teaching them the mechanics of a free throw or taking part in a rousing game of dodge ball. A three-sport high school athlete and an active teenager, Wes started working part-time in the Sports Department at the C.W. Avery Family YMCA two years after graduating from Plainfield South High School. Looking to add to his responsibilities of coaching and refereeing, Wes began working in the Y’s Kidz Zone and Summer Camp programs as a Counselor.

For the last two school years, Mr. Wes has been the first smiling face the kids at Freedom Elementary see each morning and the last they see at the end of each day. Grateful for the flexibility his job at the Y has afforded him over the years, he currently is working towards earning his Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice at Joliet Junior College. Even more so, Wes is grateful for the amazing people he has met while working at the Y, including his fiancée Caiti, who also works part-time at the Y.

Although his alarm clock wakes him up a little earlier these days, Wes truly enjoys his job. Always working to help the kids find a balance between getting their schoolwork done and staying active after school, he hopes the kids have fun, learn something new, and see him as a role model and someone upon whom they can rely.

One thing is for sure, Mr. Wes has made a lasting impression on Maggie.

“Mr. Wes is really nice and funny,” she said. “He helps me with my homework and reading. And, he rolls the ball really slow, so I can kick it really far!”

Sounds like a ringing endorsement!

Mr. Wes works as a counselor in the C.W. Avery Family YMCA’s Kidz Zone Program.



**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE Y PARTNERS WITH 10 DIFFERENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, SERVING 51 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS IN ALL?**

## MEET MARCY VALENTINE “FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME.”

For Marcy Valentine, her love of sports and competitive drive was instilled in her at an early age. As a three-sport standout at Oak Forest High School and a collegiate athlete at the College of St. Francis, Marcy knew firsthand the important role sports could play in a young person’s life.

When the opportunity to step on the court again presented itself several years ago, she grabbed a whistle and a clipboard and became a coach in the Y’s Youth Basketball League in Morris. A proud mother of four and grandmother of three, Marcy has been a fixture in the Y’s YBL League in Morris for the last four seasons.

Known by many as the ‘Gatorade and Cupcake Mom,’ Marcy is a dedicated professional, a valued volunteer and a hands on coach. Whether she is demonstrating the proper way to play defense - “Hands Up” - or challenging her players to a race from one foul line to another, Marcy truly enjoys the time she spends coaching her kids in Morris. So much, that this season when league coordinator Ken Iverson found himself a few coaches short, she graciously offered to coach two

teams, helping to ensure the girls on her fifth-and-sixth grade teams would be able to participate.

Although her schedule can get hectic at times, Marcy welcomes the opportunity to work with the Y to pass on her love for the game to her players. “The YMCA’s basketball leagues have brought our community together. The kids are having a great time. As long as they learn something, I know my job is done.”



Marcy Valentine is a volunteer coach in the Y’s Youth Basketball League in Morris.



**DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2011 MORE THAN 5,300 KIDS PARTICIPATED IN SPORTS PROGRAMS AT THE GREATER JOLIET AREA YMCA BRANCHES?**

## MEET CRYSTAL TORAN “IN PURSUIT OF A DREAM.”

“Ever since I was little, I just knew that I was bound for college. My father always told me that no matter what I wanted to do, I had to further my education. Unfortunately, Dad suffered a sudden heart attack and passed away during my junior year in high school. Losing my father hurt my motivation to finish strong, but my faith in God and the love of my family helped me get back on course. Maurice Fears and the Teen Achievers Program also played a key role in that difficult period of my life. I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Fears and his co-workers during my last three years of high school. He constantly reinforced how important it was for each individual to have a Plan A and Plan B for her future, and he was always there for me whenever I needed him.”

In May 2011, Crystal graduated Magna Cum Laude in the top 25 of her class at Joliet Central High School. She was inducted into the National Honors Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She currently is in her second semester at Loyola University as a Biology/Pre-Med major. She always wanted to become a pediatrician because of the loss of her older sister, who passed away from meningococcal meningitis at three years

old, before her siblings and Crystal could even meet her. “I believe that the more doctors we have, the more children that can be saved. I feel Loyola can help me achieve my goals.”

Crystal remains in contact with Maurice Fears and his co-workers. “Every time I have the pleasure of meeting with them, they never fail to ask me about school and my current journey. I give the YMCA, as well as Mr. Fears, Mr. Sanderson, Ms. Moore, Ms. King and Mr. Edwards, my utmost respect and appreciation for all their guidance during my last years of high school. Due to these five individuals, and the YMCA Teen Achievers Program, I can honestly say that I was prepared and excited for college. I definitely knew where I wanted to be, and what I would like to do with my future thanks to all of their support.”

“My journey to Loyola had its rocky patches, but I had a great support team along the way. I needed to accept the fact that I could not do it alone, and remember that everyone just wanted the best for me. I could not let my pride get in the way of asking for assistance. I had to remain humble to get here, and I will remain humble on my future journey.”  
- Crystal Toran, Central City YMCA Teen Achievers Program



★ DID YOU KNOW THAT SINCE THE Y'S TEEN ACHIEVERS PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED IN 2005, 96 PERCENT OF ITS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES HAVE ADVANCED ON TO HIGHER LEVEL EDUCATION?

## MEET ARLENE BROWN

### “CARING, EMPOWERING AND COMFORTABLE.”

For Plainfield resident Arlene Brown, managing her weight has been a life-long struggle. After suffering painful nerve damage while pregnant with her daughter Kristen, she struggled daily to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Several years ago, Arlene found herself in the midst of a health crisis. She weighed 509 pounds and ended up in the ER when her blood pressure skyrocketed to 240/140. While in the hospital, she was diagnosed with Diabetes and she knew she had to make a lifestyle change. After a soul searching conversation with her daughter, Arlene experienced her “Aha!” moment. She realized she wanted to live.

With the support of her husband Mike, Kristen, and her dream team of doctors, Arlene took the first step towards a healthy lifestyle. She began exercising at her home and lost more than 200 pounds in two years. Recognizing she needed to take the next step on her journey, she began visiting local gyms and health clubs. After not finding the right fit, Arlene decided to visit the C.W. Avery Family YMCA, a place her daughter had played basketball years before. She knew from the moment she walked in the door that she had finally found the right place.

Since joining the Y last summer, Arlene has begun swimming and exercising six days a week. With the help of Avery’s supporting and friendly staff, she has begun to meet new people and truly feels blessed to have welcomed the Y into her life.

“It’s so wonderful to be in a place where people are compassionate,” she said.

As she continues to work towards achieving her weight loss goals, Arlene is remaining focused with her eyes on the prize. In 2014, she and her husband, Mike, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. To commemorate this special occasion and Arlene’s amazing dedication to embracing her healthy new lifestyle, they are planning a tropical getaway to renew their vows.

With her determination and a little help from her friends at the Y, there is no doubt that Arlene will continue to achieve her goals!

Mike and Arlene are members  
of the C. W. Avery Family YMCA.



**DID YOU KNOW THE GREATER JOLIET AREA YMCA SERVED NEARLY 20,000 MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS ASSOCIATION WIDE IN 2011?**

**15,872 FULL PRIVILEGE MEMBERS • 1,700 PROGRAM MEMBERS • 2,031 CENTRAL CITY PARTICIPANTS**

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Steven Toliver  
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Mr. & Mrs. James Ullian  
Patricia Vaughn  
Cesar Velasquez  
Melissa Vidito  
Kelsey Vihnanek  
Xiaogang Wang  
Lisa Warren  
Tammi Watson  
Collin Watts  
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**BUILDER**  
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Merle Hayward  
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Marolyn Holmes  
James Smith & Associates  
Betty Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jones  
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Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Kiernan  
Robert Klein  
Susan Krause  
William Lamb  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lauer  
David Lee  
Marian Lenz

# CENTRAL CITY YMCA PROGRAMS

Our Central City “Y Without Walls” programs are funded almost entirely through grants and contributions. Most of the children come from economically challenged families that would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in the following YMCA programs:

## TEEN ACHIEVERS

Teen Achievers is a national academic/career program that supports disadvantaged youth by providing inspiration and guidance, from setting goals to graduate from high school, to gaining entry into college to ultimately entering their career of choice. Thirty-eight students were engaged in the program in 2011, with a record 13 seniors graduating. Since the program’s launch in 2005, 48 of 50 graduates have advanced on to higher level education. See Crystal Toran’s story on page 8 for one of the program’s successes.

## CENTRAL CITY DAY CAMP

Central City Summer Day Camp serves more than 100 of Joliet’s underserved kids every summer. It is funded largely by Joliet Township Government’s loyal support, and is held at two of Joliet’s District 86 schools. The average cost per child is only \$5 per week for eight weeks of summer day camp, which runs six hours daily and includes a healthy lunch.



# CENTRAL CITY YMCA PROGRAMS

## LARAWAY SCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM

The Laraway School Choral Program provides bi-weekly choral rehearsals for four weeks, culminating in the 8th grade graduation performance. The program participation averages more than 25 singers in 7th and 8th grade.

## CENTRAL CITY AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING PROGRAMS

The Central City After School Youth Basketball League and Cheerleading Programs are coordinated by the YMCA for approximately twenty weeks. During the 2010-11 season, 275 children participated in the program, representing the following schools: Cunningham, Farragut, Forest Park, Keith, Sanchez, Thigpen, and Woodland Elementary Schools (Joliet District 86), and Laraway School (District 70). The YMCA provided transportation and officials for the games, and the program is free to the participants. See the story on page 17 that highlights the Central City Cheerleading program.

## PROJECT SOAR

Project SOAR (Smith Opportunities for Activities and Recreation) brings together several local agencies to serve Joliet's economically challenged families in an on-going collaborative community outreach. The YMCA sponsors the program, providing 30 minutes of free swim lessons alternating with 30 minutes of recreation time at the Smith Family YMCA once a week. In 2011, 1,539 children were enrolled for 5-8 week sessions with the YMCA providing transportation when necessary.

Agencies: Joliet Housing Authority, Harvey Brooks Foundation, Warren-Sharpe Community Center  
Joliet District 86 Schools: Culbertson, Forest Park, Keith, Marshall, Singleton, Sanchez and Woodland



# 2011 ANNUAL GIVING DONORS

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Leonard  
William Lipsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Lundeen  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Macris  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Mandel  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul McDonald  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Miller  
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Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag  
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Mr. & Mrs. Jim Coats  
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Northern Illinois Steel Supply  
Mr. & Mrs. James Racich  
Drs. Robert & Arlene Stahl  
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Nancy Felman Vincent  
Dr. & Mrs. Larry Wiers  
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## **FAMILY BANNERS (GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE)**

Reverend Jim & Nancy Allen  
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Jay & Lori Bergman  
The Betlej - Cambron Family  
Kathy Blessent  
C.W. Avery Family Aquatic Staff  
C.W. Avery Family Youth &  
Family Staff  
Tom & Sandy Cowgill  
The Don DeGeus Family  
The Klint & Kay DeGeus Family  
The Edward & Gloria Dollinger  
Family  
Elizabeth "Bess" Eichelberger  
The Evenson Family  
The Ron & Jerry Galowich  
Family  
The Gladding Family  
The Halaska Family  
Larry & Carol Hemdal  
Carlos & Shelly Interial Family  
The Brad Johnstone Family  
Ron & Kathy Kazmar  
Robert & Bonnie Kegley  
Kevin's Boot Camp  
The Langan Family  
The Byron Lee, Jr. Family  
The Michael & Susan Lee Family  
The Eric & Victoria Matway &  
Family  
The Steve & Irene Morimoto  
Family  
morning koffee klutch  
The Mike & Chris Noonan  
Family  
Park Vending, Inc.  
Reach Sports Marketing Group  
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Gus P. & Deborah Rousonelos

The Schmidt Family  
Clarence & Brenda Schmitz  
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The Smolinski Family  
The Stein Family  
The Vogen Family  
The Donna & Al Zanzola Family  
The Zollner Family

## **CORPORATE BANNERS (GIFTS OF \$2,000 OR MORE)**

Avery Gravel  
Caterpillar  
Crane Fund for Widows &  
Children  
CYBEX  
Eastern Illinois NECA IBEW  
Local 176  
Exxon Mobil  
First Community Bank  
First Midwest Bank  
Gantzert Investments  
George Sollitt Construction  
Company  
Hanley Chiropractic  
Harrah's Joliet  
Harris Bank  
Holly Club  
InsureOne  
Joliet Jets Swim Team  
Midwest Generation  
PNC Bank  
Provena St. Joseph Medical  
Center  
Rousonelos - Another Illinois  
Lean Pork Producer  
Silver Cross Hospital  
United Way of Will County  
Vulcan Materials Company  
YMCA Board of Directors  
YMCA Staff

# CAPITAL DONORS, GRANTS AND ENDOWMENTS

## CAPITAL GIFTS \$10,000 & OVER

Avery Gravel  
Judy Avery  
Mr. & Mrs. William Avery  
Bailey's Carpet One  
Jacqueline Bellizzi Estate  
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Berglund  
Bill Jacobs Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bryant  
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Central Sod Farms  
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LLC  
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Smurfit-Stone Container  
Enterprises, Inc.  
Robert Sohol  
State of Illinois  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Turk  
Valley Concrete  
Village of Plainfield  
Vulcan Materials Company  
Wadsworth Golf Construction

Thanks to the Caterpillar Foundation and Zonta Club, 33 Teen Achievers' students were able to experience a three-day college road tour to Georgia and Alabama. They visited eight historically black colleges and universities, and were thrilled to meet Martin Luther King III.

## 2011 GRANTS

Dr. & Mrs. Frank Bender  
Caterpillar Foundation  
Crane Fund for Widows & Children  
Ecolab Foundation  
Holly Club  
JC Penney  
John & Mary Lambert Fund for Children  
Joliet Township Government  
Midwest Generation  
Target  
United Way of Will County  
Walmart  
YMCA of the USA  
Zonta Club

## HERITAGE CLUB ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Herman J. Adelman Fund  
Jacqueline Bellizzi Fund  
Lois Berglund Fund  
Elizabeth "Bess" Eichelberger Fund  
Erma Agazzi Chuk Fund  
Albert J. Felman Fund  
Larry Hemdal Fund  
Albert Johnson Trust Fund  
Joliet YMCA JETS Swim Team  
Joliet Rotary Fund  
George & May Lloyd Fund  
Twilla S. Margaron Fund  
Olive McMicken Fund  
Dr. Wylie Mullen Fund  
James Norris, Sr. Fund  
Robert Pilcher Fund  
Tami L. Sender Fund  
Arthur G. Smith Fund  
Vera C. Smith Fund  
Brent Wadsworth Christian  
Character Development Fund



**DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2011 THE CENTRAL CITY YMCA SERVED A RECORD 2,031 AT-RISK, UNDERSERVED JOLIET AREA KIDS THROUGH ESSENTIALLY FREE PROGRAMS?**

## MEET DR. PETER NICHOLS

### “GOOD MEMORIES OF FINE TIMES AND FINE PEOPLE.”

Eighty-eight-year-old Dr. Peter Nichols is simply an amazing person. He was a Depression-era child who competed in a number of Chicago neighborhood sports leagues. This included the Junior Bears Football team for 16-year-olds, coached by columnist Irv Kupcinet. He began his undergraduate education at Wright Junior College while working “seven hours a day, seven days a week for \$7 a week.” After a year, he transferred to Loyola University Chicago, working 40 hours a week for \$12 a week at the *Chicago Tribune*. His pre-dental education was interrupted due to World War II; he proudly served his country, spending 2 ½ years in England and France.

After the war, Peter continued his dental education and married his lovely wife, Amanda. She had a job that could support both of them. After graduation they moved to Joliet with just \$200 to their name, bus fare, and expecting their first of four children. Peter built a very successful practice due to sheer determination and hard work. He also attributed his success to building quality relationships in organizations such as the Greek Orthodox Church, Joliet Rotary, Joliet Junior College Foundation, several dental organizations, Amerifed Bank Board of Directors, and of course, the YMCA.

Peter is blessed with a wonderful sense of humor, a sharp mind and quick wit. He began volunteering for the Y around 1953, eventually chairing the physical and membership

“Having a good cook at home for 61 years, who happens to be the love of my life, has been a major factor in my good health. Also, exercising and the Grace of God are essential. Enjoying people and humor definitely results in a happier life too.” - Dr. Peter Nichols, Avery member, volunteer and donor

committees. Racquetball and the idea of aerobics were introduced back then. “After that, our 1/12-mile suspended running track was actually used as a track instead of a dust collector! We outlined our feet to order running shoes. Once, Dr. Paul Morimoto and I ran 10 miles on that suspended track. Been dizzy ever since.”

Peter chaired the Y Board of Directors in 1968, and has served on the Board of Trustees for 10 years. He is a generous YMCA Capital and Annual Campaign donor, and remains actively involved in his community. Thank you for your wonderful gifts of time, talent and treasure, Dr. Nichols!



**DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2011 THE Y SERVED NEARLY 1,800 SENIORS OVER AGE 55?**

## MEET CHARVONE, ROSELIN AND COACH RUSH “FOR THE LOVE OF DANCE.”

As the bell rings, eight-year-old Charvone Carter and seven-year-old Roselin Rodriguez can hardly wait to join their friends in the Woodland gym after school for YMCA Cheerleading practice. A healthy snack is the first order of business. No junk food or soda! The students then turn their attention to homework. At 4 p.m., the fun begins and the girls unleash their natural talent until 5:30 p.m.. Both of these honor roll youngsters are leaders, taking their roles seriously. They start their days dancing through their homes. By noon, they are practicing their routines in the school’s lunchroom. They can even be seen bursting into dance while shopping at Walmart! They simply **love** to dance!

For decades, the Y has been proud to partner with Joliet District 86 and Laraway elementary schools. The Y’s Youth Basketball and Cheerleading Leagues serve approximately 275 children in schools that serve a high percentage of low income, minority families. These families cannot afford private dance instruction. Principal LaQuita Carter notes, “The YMCA program has enhanced our students’ confidence and problem-solving ability. Students are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 academic average, and exhibit good behavior to participate. Having a program **that comes to you** is amazing! Our parents aren’t mobile in transportation, so their children are limited in outside activities. The Y program has been a blessing to our families.”

The YBL/Cheerleading program operates for approximately six months, with practices one to two times per week, and games on weekends. The Y coordinates the referees, scorekeepers, bus transportation and drivers (for away games) program supplies, t-shirts, medals, trophies, the annual February All

Star event, and the end-of-year May recognition outing. The program could not exist without many wonderful parent and staff volunteers. Coach Carlene Rush, Charvone’s great aunt, has been the loyal head coach for the last seven years! “I feel really good about working with these young ladies. I am proud of each and every one of them. I love doing it.” Thanks for making a positive difference, Coach!

Coach Carlene Rush is pictured with Central City YMCA Cheerleaders Roselin Rodriguez (left) and Charvone Carter (right). Coaching the team has become a “family affair” at Woodland School. Coach Rush’s assistants include her daughters Jayvone and Charlene, her niece Shirley Mackey (Charvone’s mother), and fellow staffers Mrs. Lara and Ms. Smith.



★ DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE IN EVERY FIVE Y PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED A PROGRAM OR MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE GREATER JOLIET AREA YMCA IN 2011?

## MEET DANA DIXON AND BRANDON BELL “FOR A PARENT’S PEACE OF MIND.”

Brandon Bell is a happy eight year-old student at Joliet’s Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. He attends the YMCA’s Kidz Zone programs at an off-site location at Carl Sandburg School. His mother, Dana Dixon, is employed at a non-profit social service agency where the pay is not substantial, but she loves the mission. “The Y has been a tremendous source of support for me. The burden of trying to locate safe, reliable, quality care and transportation for my son has been lifted. I have also been granted a program scholarship, which is a tremendous help since I am a single parent and need to work.”

Brandon gets to spend all day at the Galowich Family YMCA when school is not in session. He loves variety in his activities, and the pool is his favorite spot. He is also a social butterfly. The Y’s program is a perfect fit because participants may have a movie outing one day, and make tie-dye t-shirts the next. They may get to play on the pool inflatable, or go outside to the playground. Time in the gym shooting hoops is a fun option, and sometimes there are special events like the Halloween Party. The most important thing is that Brandon has fun with his friends, and the staff makes him feel cared for and comfortable.

Dana believes that the Y is a good investment for any donor because it offers quality programs for everyone, regardless of income or background. “Our current economic situation has

compromised so many of the programs that were once available to people. If the Y didn’t provide scholarships, people like us could not participate. Thanks to the Y, Brandon is able to interact with other kids just like himself in a positive and nurturing environment. This will help build my son’s character, increase his self-esteem, and cultivate friendships for years to come.”

“I know that my son will want to give back to the Y when he is older because he knows that he could not have been part of the program had it not been for the Y’s generosity. In addition, if I am ever in a position where I can contribute financially to the Y, I will do so because the Y has not only assisted me, but so many others who are in need as well.”  
Dana Dixon, Galowich Kidz Zone Program



**★ DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2011 NEARLY 1,400 KIDS PARTICIPATED IN THE Y’S BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS?**

## MEET THE GALOUNIS FAMILY

### “SWIMMING IS THE ONE SPORT WHERE PARENTS WORK HARDER THAN THE KIDS.”

When it comes to finding a truly dedicated and passionate team of Y volunteers, you don't have to look any further than Joliet residents George and Pat Galounis. Proud and enthusiastic JETS parents, George and Pat have been invaluable members of the Greater Joliet Area YMCA family for the past 15 years.

Through their active lifestyles and their own experiences at the Y, George and Pat understood the importance of water safety, and made it a priority to ensure that their daughter, Sophia, would learn to swim. After taking lessons at the Galowich Family Y, Sophia joined the Joliet YMCA JETS Swim Team when she was just eight years old. Since 2003, the Galounis Family has not missed a single meet.

While Sophia has excelled in the pool, her parents have played vital roles, volunteering in a number of capacities for the team. While serving as the JETS' Meet Coordinator, George has been instrumental in the planning, coordination and success of nearly 40 meets over the last nine years. He also has been actively involved in Friends of Swimming, a parent group that raises funds for the JETS.

When she wasn't serving as the team's Safety Director, Pat was busy embracing the role of "Super Mom." Over the years, she has worked in just about every volunteer role possible. Whether she was working as a timer, testing stopwatches, or baking and serving desserts for the team's hospitality tent, she was always on hand making sure that Sophia had the support she needed to strike a balance between her swimming career and school.

Each year, Friends of Swimming graciously presents each of the team's graduating seniors with a college scholarship check. Among the five seniors stepping to the podium this spring at the team's annual banquet will be George and Pat's daughter Sophia, who will graduate from Mt. Assisi Academy in May. Now 17 years old, Sophia is an accomplished National Team swimmer with aspirations of earning a degree in architecture.

As the Galounis Family prepares to step away from the JETS later this year, they know that they will have fond memories of the team and the wonderful families they have come to know.

"We are very proud of the Y's swimming program," they said. "YMCA families are good people. People... that we have come to love and respect."

Sophia, Pat and George Galounis, Joliet YMCA JETS Swim Team



**DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2011 NEARLY 12,000 KIDS BENEFITED FROM THE Y'S SWIM LESSONS?**

## MEET THE PUCEL FAMILY

### “CARING, COMPASSIONATE AND TRUSTWORTHY.”

When asked to describe the YMCA in just three words, Sandi Pucel, a busy mom of six, didn't hesitate in expressing her gratitude for the Y and the staff members that have been such a huge help to her Shorewood family over the last several years.

With six children in all, and five boys between the ages of four and 11, life can get pretty hectic for the Pucel family. In 2010, Sandi and Bob found themselves at a crossroads when their long-time home daycare provider decided to abruptly close her business. While driving to work one day, Sandi decided to stop by the Galowich Family YMCA to see if maybe they could help her find before school and after school care for her sons. With the help of the Membership Staff

and financial assistance from the Y's scholarship fund, Sandi was able to enroll her sons in the Y's Kidz Zone program, which provides before and after school recreational care at Walnut Trails Elementary School.

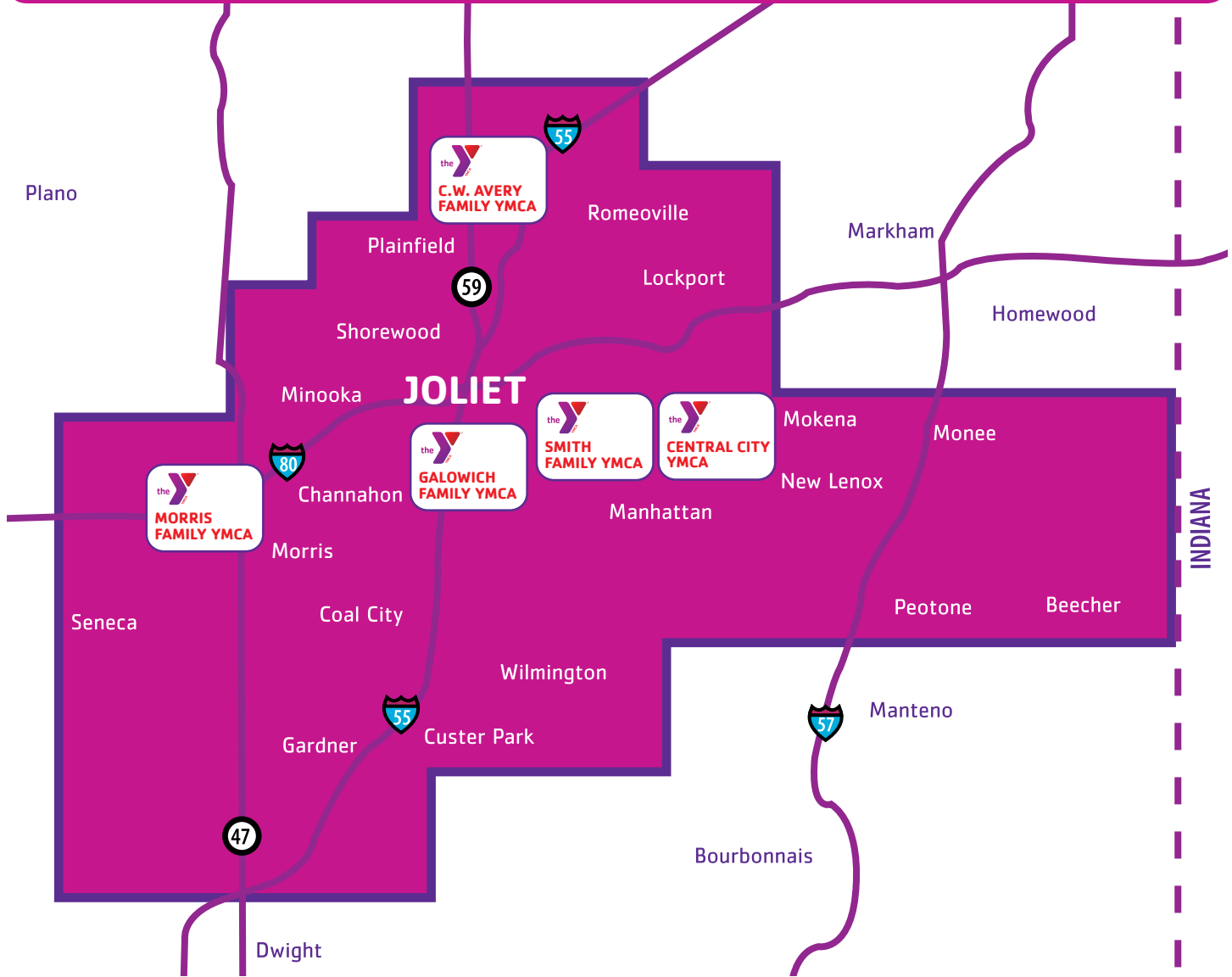
Since joining the Y, the Pucel boys - Jake, Nick, Robert and Josh - have had the opportunity to experience so many new things. Whether they are attending summer camp, learning how to swim, enjoying field trips or playing basketball, they always enjoy their time at the Galowich Y. With their youngest son, Ryan, heading off to kindergarten in 2013, the Pucel family is happy to know that the Y is standing by and with support from individuals like you, will be willing and able to help their family for many years to come.

“The Pucel brothers always stick together and stand up for each other. We love having them at camp every day!” - Meg Schroeder, Youth and Family Director, Galowich Family Y



★ DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2011 MORE THAN 1,300 KIDS ENJOYED Y SUMMER DAY CAMP, SPECIALTY CAMPS AND SPORTS CAMPS?

# SERVICE AREA MAP



## C.W. AVERY FAMILY YMCA

15120 Wallin Drive  
Plainfield, IL 60544  
(815) 267-8600

## CENTRAL CITY YMCA

c/o 1350 S. Briggs Street  
Joliet, IL 60433  
(815) 726-3939, ext.413

## JERALD S. GALOWICH FAMILY YMCA

749 Houbolt Road  
Joliet, IL 60431  
(815) 744-3939

## MORRIS FAMILY YMCA

c/o 749 Houbolt Road  
Joliet, IL 60431  
(815) 729-9622, ext. 5

## ARTHUR G. & VERA C. SMITH FAMILY YMCA

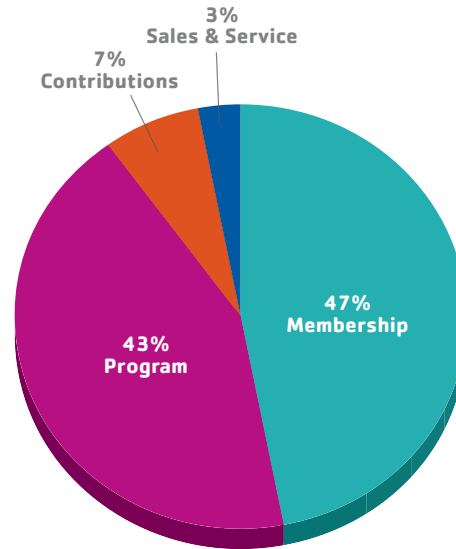
1350 S. Briggs Street  
Joliet, IL 60433  
(815) 726-3939

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## INCOME:

MEMBERSHIP:	\$2,945,024
PROGRAM:	\$2,654,605
CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$420,003
SALES AND SERVICE:	\$182,829

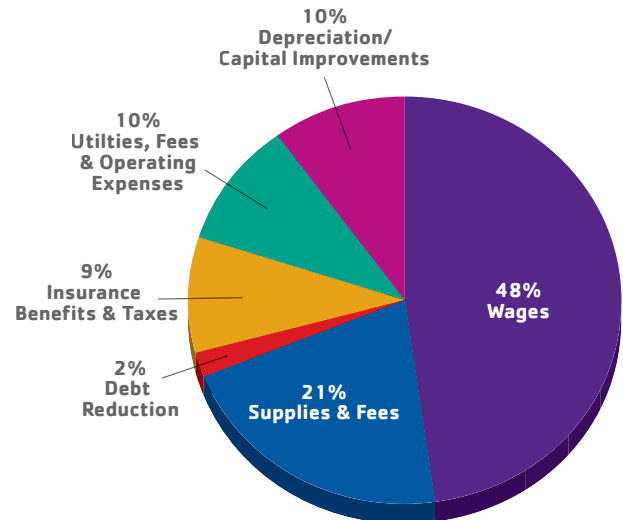
**TOTAL INCOME:** \$6,202,461



## EXPENSES:

WAGES:	\$2,994,336
SUPPLIES AND FEES:	\$1,293,989
DEBT REDUCTION:	\$120,000
INSURANCE BENEFITS AND TAXES:	\$560,568
UTILITIES, FEES AND OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$638,627
DEPRECIATION/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:	\$589,928

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** \$6,197,448

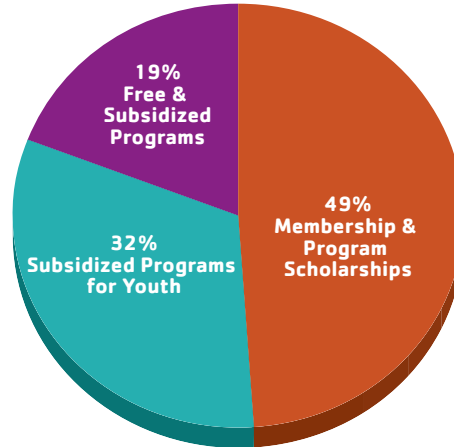


**BOTTOM LINE:** \$5,013

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

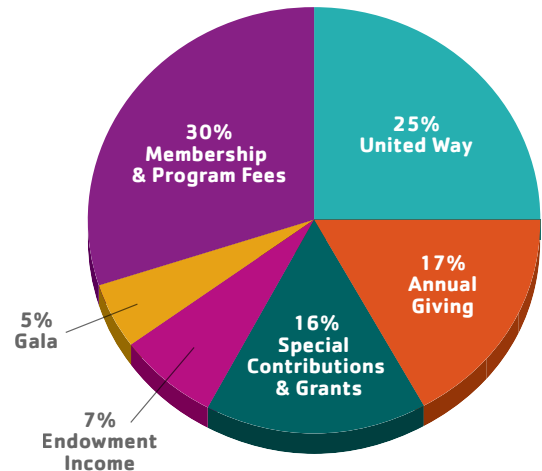
## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN 2011:

MEMBERSHIP & PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS:	\$399,177
SUBSIDIZED PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH:	\$257,255
FREE & SUBSIDIZED PROGRAMS TO UNDERSERVED IN JOLIET:	\$150,866
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$807,298</b>



## TOTAL SUPPORT GENERATED IN 2011:

UNITED WAY ALLOCATION:	\$198,720
YMCA RAISED SUPPORT:	
ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN:	\$135,398
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS:	\$131,386
ENDOWMENT INCOME:	\$58,974
YMCA GIVING GALA:	\$42,963
YMCA REVENUE: (MEMBERSHIP & PROGRAM FEES)	\$239,857
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$807,298</b>



As one of the nation's leading nonprofits committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y believes that everyone should be given the opportunity to be healthy, confident, connected and secure.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- An annual donation of \$52 (\$1/week) can provide a youth with seven weeks of swim lessons.
- An annual donation of \$104 (\$2/week) provides a child with the opportunity to participate in the Y's youth basketball league for eight weeks.
- An annual donation of \$156 (\$3/week) provides a child with a week of summer day camp.
- An annual donation of \$260 (\$5/week) provides for a month of the Y's Kidz Zone (before school and after school) program.
- An annual donation of \$416 (\$8/week) provides a high school student with the opportunity to participate in the Y's Teen Achievers program to prepare for college and a future career.
- An annual donation of \$520 (\$10/week) provides a senior citizen with a year's membership.
- An annual donation of \$1,040 (\$20/week) provides a family with a full year's membership.

The John Logo has symbolized the YMCA mission for more than 165 years. It is a reminder that Christ was at the center of the initial YMCA movement. The symbol represents the oneness of humankind and encircles the Greek letters for Christ.

