



## **WELCOME TO THE Y!**

When you think of the Y, the words 'gym' and 'swimming pool' are most likely to come to mind. But we are more than a gym... we are so much more!

More than a place or program, the Y is a cause dedicated to Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. We are also a community of caring people who help one another.

Looking back at 2016, the Y did so much more to strengthen the Rochester community. **7,575** program participants were impacted through summer enrichment programs, youth mentorship, Y-Tots preschool, chronic illness and disease prevention programs, group fitness classes, and swimming lessons. We gave back to the community through financial assistance scholarships and volunteer projects. And we provided employment opportunities to 298 young adults and volunteer leadership opportunities to 182 volunteers.

Another exciting development was the revitalization of the "Leaders in Training" (LIT) summer enrichment experience for youth entering 7th-9th grades. This program was developed in direct response to Rochester's need for a skilled and qualified workforce. The program utilized WeConnect, a new Global Youth Citizenship curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota Extension, where youth participate in goal-setting and service learning to become great leaders of the future.

As Interim CEO and Board of Directors Chair, we are honored to work with passionate staff, a dedicated Board of Directors, community partners and supporters like you.

Thank you for being a valued partner in efforts to give youth and families the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. This is YOUR Y and we invite you to get more involved. Whether you join, give or volunteer, together we can do **SO MUCH MORE** for our community.

**MIKE LAVIN** 

Interim President and CEO

Aun & Blatty **ANN BEATT** 

**Board Chair** 





#### ROCHESTER AREA FAMILY YMCA

709 1st Ave SW. Rochester, MN 55902 **P** (507) 287-2260 **W** www.rochfamy.org





YOUTH SPORTS & ACTIVITIES



2,057 **SWIM** 



**166** Y MENTORS AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



**528** SUMMER DAY CAMP **ENRICHMENT** 



Y-TOTS PRESCHOOL



**994** CHRONIC DISEASE AND ADULT FITNESS CLASSES



2,704 Y MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



182 **VOLUNTEERS** 



STAFF



7,575 TOTAL COMMUNITY IMPACT

Ulises Gonzalez
More Than Boxing: Youth learn positive
life skills and a new sport

Living in Rochester, Minnesota Ulises Gonzalez is a long way from his home in Jalisco, Mexico. But he and his daughter, Macey have found a new home in the YMCA community through the Conquerors "More Than" Boxing program. Ulises and Macey come to the Y three times a week to box, have fun with friends, and learn positive life skills.

"I heard about **Conquerors at the Y** through a friend, who encouraged me to become a volunteer coach," Ulises recalls, "I have seven years' experience as an amateur boxer, so I thought I could **make a difference by mentoring youth** at the Y."

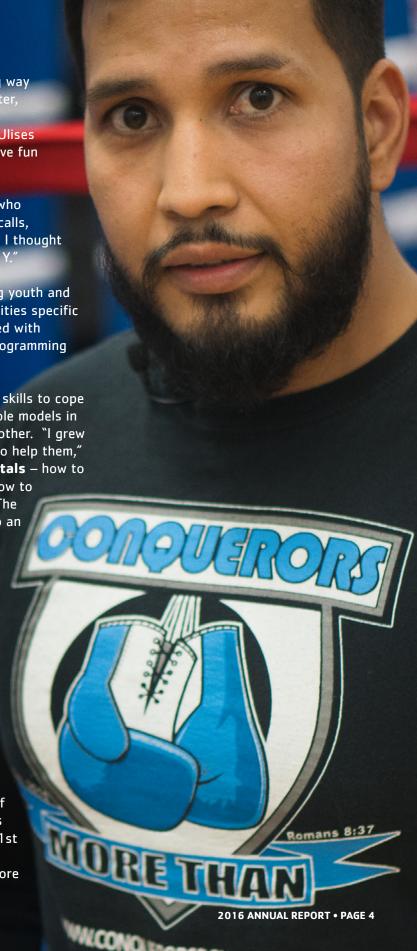
Conquerors "More Than" Boxing is all about empowering youth and young adults in the Rochester and surrounding communities specific to their faith, family, fitness and future. The Y partnered with Conquerors in 2016 to strengthen youth mentorship programming for K-12th grade youth in Olmsted County.

Boxing is a unique way to mentor kids to develop life skills to cope with challenging issues, such as lack of positive adult role models in their lives, unstable home life, or an absent father or mother. "I grew up without a father, so I can relate to the kids and try to help them," Ulises notes, "In boxing, you start with the fundamentals – how to stand with good posture, how to throw jabs properly, how to make healthy eating choices and get regular exercise. The physical side of the sport is important, but there is also an ethical side."

In the program, kids learn how to **respect one another**, develop self-discipline, and enhance
emotional intelligence. "You learn how to fight, so
you don't have to fight," Ulises remarks as he explains
the benefits of mentoring kids on exercising their
self-discipline and controlling their emotions. "This
is the 'more than' part of the program. I know I am
successful as a coach when a kid decides to resolve a
conflict without using violence. He knows he's worth
more than to throw his chance at a better life away."

#### When kids know that they matter, they thrive.

Ulises has seen how the power of mentoring youth can move them to become their best. "We just took a few of the kids to their first boxing competition in Minneapolis the other week. Nine year old Angel walked away with 1st Place and will now go onto the National Championship. I'm so happy that Conquerors is welcome at the Y, so more kids like Evan can get involved."



#### Michele Altman

"I am beautiful!": A woman's journey to total health - body, mind and spirit

In 2010, Michele Altman weighed almost 400 pounds. "I was scared," she recollects. Today, she is a Y member, a group fitness instructor, and an inspiration to others.

Back then, her doctor proposed two options: either (1) **get in shape and get healthy**, or (2) continue down the path she was on, which was guaranteed to lead to organ failure. Michele found a personal trainer through Snap Fitness. "I hated her that first time!" Michele laughs as she remembers the induced pain from initial exercise, "But now we are best friends."

The two women eventually made their way to the Rochester Area Family YMCA to take advantage of the array of group fitness classes available to members.

Once Michele started losing weight, she admitted the change was more than just physical. She recalls "growing mentally." She became more aware of the issues and habits that moved her in such an unhealthy direction – low self-esteem, eating on the go, working a sedentary job, and letting other family members tear down her self-image. "I thought I was worthless, but I soon learned on my journey back to health that I was wrong."

After one full year of working with her trainer, **she lost 100 pounds**. The work didn't stop there. The trainer promptly added, "And you have 100 more to go."

Michele went on to achieve that mark by the time she turned 40, which was a personal goal. "You need other people around you to make it work," she notes, "And, you have to be ready; you have to be in that state-of-mind where you want to change."

Sure, there was the nagging of her siblings which only proved hurtful and didn't change anything. Her mother's voice ringing, "You have to lose weight!" proved annoying to Michele as she heard it again and again. One comment, however, still sticks out for Michele – a comment that hit her in a way that she began to see things differently, which fueled her motivation to change. She was in a local bakery where an employee asked, "When are you due?"

At the Y, Michele made many friends who encouraged her to become a certified group fitness instructor. Michele jumped at the chance to give back, "I was excited to mentor others in an area – physical exercise - where I had to struggle to find a mentor."

In addition to the lost pounds, her extreme shyness resulting from years of low self-esteem has also vanished. Michele recognizes how losing excess weight can really change a person. "I really came to love myself and believe that I am beautiful!"

She truly appreciates the support she has found at the YMCA from staff and members. Her formal occupation is in customer service and administrative support – areas which could have kept her "behind the scenes." These days she is out there, active and an inspiration to others who come to the Y as she encourages them to be healthy and active.

#### Tim Zetzsche

#### Finding Himself and Giving Back: One man's story of rediscovery through volunteerism

Several years ago, Tim Zetzsche, his wife, and their two children, ages one and four, moved to Rochester from Madison, Wisconsin. His wife was starting a new job, and Tim was a stay-at-home dad. They didn't know anyone when they moved here. Tim decided to sign up for a **Y family membership**, so the kids would have a **place to play** and **meet other children**.

Tim began coming to the Y with his kids nearly every day. He decided to take advantage of Kids Care as he explored group fitness classes. His motive was to exercise and quite frankly get a break from the kids. But he got so much more out of attending classes. He met many other **Y members** who were **genuinely interested in getting to know him**.

These **encounters** Tim experienced quickly **became friendships**, which Tim realized was precisely what he needed. Tim had been feeling isolated and depressed since moving to Rochester. "People are social creatures. We need social connections. I found my connections at the Y – lovely, caring people who... well... actually care!"

Over time, Tim showed such compassion towards others that he caught the attention of Y staff who asked him to consider volunteering for LIVE**STRONG**®, a free 12-week program for cancer survivors to regain strength and confidence. Without hesitation, Tim agreed stating he wanted to "give back to the Y for helping me in my time of need."

Tim has now been a LIVESTRONG®
instructor for one year closely working with
some of the most vulnerable people in the Y's
care. He is humbled by their stories of battling
cancer and putting their lives back together after
treatment. His compassion builds them up, but
also they uplift him every day in spirit, mind, and
body, which has completely changed his outlook on life
to a great sense of gratitude for the gift of life.

"Volunteering for LIVE**STRONG**® helped me **rediscover my love of helping others**." Tim admits he felt lost during his depression but has found himself again by giving back.

"It's that universality of knowing that other people are going through difficult times too. That is one of the wonderful things about being here in this YMCA community. People are willing to share that with you. You are not alone."



2016 ANNUAL REPORT • PA

## **COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We revitalized the summer Leaders in Training program for teens in grades 7-9 by partnering with Cascade Meadows for Environmental Science and utilized the Global Youth Citizenship Curriculum from the University of Minnesota Center for Youth Development. We further built strength and character among teens through rock climbing at Prairie Walls.

We developed new partnerships with Red Gate Riding and Project GO to offer youth a more robust summer camp experience.

Y Mentors, a youth mentorship program in collaboration with United Way of Olmsted County, began a partnership with Conquerors Youth Boxing, and a boxing gym was installed at the Y.

LIVE UNITED United Way United Way of Olmsted County

A renewed and intentional focus of providing high quality youth programs once again became central to the mission of the Rochester Area Family YMCA.

#### **HEALTHY LIVING**

Our Y committed to implementing Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) Standards for early learning, afterschool and summer camp programs, and we replaced all beverages and snacks for sale with healthy choices.

In collaboration with Mayo Clinic, those who participated in LIVE**STRONG®**, a free program for any adult diagnosed with cancer to regain strength and confidence, experienced an average increase in mobility and stability of 20%.

Our Enhance®Fitness class, offered in partnership with the Arthritis Foundation, gave 48 participants, who are diagnosed with at least one chronic condition, a chance to maintain or improve their health.

We partnered with Winona State University School of Nursing to bring in a cohort of nursing students to work one-on-one with cancer survivors to regain their strength and confidence.

#### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Our Y maintained an open doors policy where all are welcome regardless of one's ability to pay. More than 35% of Y members reporting low income status received financial assistance for vital programs, such as Y-Tots preschool, summer enrichment and afterschool programs, Y-Mentors youth mentorship, swimming lessons, and health and wellness classes.

We showed compassion to patients and their care-givers who stayed at the Gift of Life Transplant House, the Ronald McDonald House, and Hope Lodge, by giving them free, unlimited access to our Y.

Our Y Litter League partnered with the City of Rochester and thousands of other volunteers to pick up trash in the surrounding neighborhood during the A Litter Bit Better week-long event in April.

A total of 80 caring sponsors gave Christmas presents to 124 kids from 37 families from our Y community. Nearly \$5,000 worth of gifts and money were collected for children and families in need. Five volunteers spent a total of 55 hours to make the 2016 Giving Tree project a success!

# FINANCIAL REPORT & BACKGROUND

#### **OPERATING REVENUE TOTAL**

\$2,411,806



Contributions
Program Fees

Special Events

\$462,042

\$1,898,141

\$51,623

#### **OPERATING EXPENSES TOTAL**

\$2,552,204



Youth Development

Healthy Living

Social Responsibility

Operations

\$467,784

\$419,808

\$56,175

\$1,608,437

Disclaimer: These totals are unaudited and do not include depreciation and amortization. Audited financials will be available to the public in late April.

#### MISSION, CAUSE, STRENGTHS, AND CORE VALUES

#### **Our Mission:**

The Y's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

#### **Our Cause:**

We know that lasting personal and social change comes about when we all work together. That's why at the Y, strengthening community is our cause. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

#### Our Values:

**Caring:** to show a sincere concern for others, for their needs, and well-being.

**Honesty:** to be truthful in what we say and do.

**Respect:** to follow the Golden Rule. **Responsibility:** to do what is right,

be accountable for our promises and actions.



#### **Our Strength in Community:**

The Y is community-centered. For nearly 160 years, we've been listening and responding to our communities.

The Y brings people together. We connect people of all ages and backgrounds to bridge the gaps in community needs.

The Y nurtures potential. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

The Y has local presence and global reach. We mobilize local communities to affect lasting, meaningful change.

Augustina Torres Miller
The Y helps those in need through donations made to the Annual Support Campaign

**Augustina Torres Miller** received financial assistance from the Y long ago when her son was a young boy. Financial assistance is made possible by donations given to the Annual Support Campaign.

As a young mother, she was struggling financially, but she still wanted to give her son a wholesome childhood, as all parents do. She especially wanted him to learn how to swim because she believes swimming is a basic life skill all people should have.

In fact, the Minnesota Department of Health lists drowning as the 2nd leading cause of death among children ages 1-14. One of the primary reasons associated with such tragedy is the lack of swimming skills due to the inability to pay for lessons. Thankfully in Augustina's case, the financial assistance she received from the Y enabled her to enroll her son in swimming lessons all summer long.

Years later, she has never forgotten the **generosity of the Y.** She now brings her grandson to the Y for swimming lessons. Her financial difficulties are long gone, and she is now at a point in her life where she is able to pay it forward to help another family in need. She chose the Y to make her donation because there are numerous opportunities for families to engage in quality time together, learn new skills, and release stress from their financial burdens. Augustina recognizes that, "It fulfills me in body, mind, and spirit to give back."

# **OUR SUPPORTERS**

#### JANUARY 1, 2016 - DECEMBER 31, 2016

#### **ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN**

#### **President's Round Table**

#### Platinum (\$10,000+)

Mayo Clinic Michael and Teri Joyner Think Mutual Bank

#### Gold (\$5,000-\$9,999)

City of Rochester Employees of IBM Corporation Mary Ellen and Mark Warner Maxine Coppe

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#### **ROCHESTER AREA FAMILY YMCA**

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