

We are proud to share with you the Gateway Region YMCA 2021 Annual Report. Coming off the heels of the unprecedented year the world experienced in 2020, last year was still another challenging year for our Y. The pandemic continued to test us and create uncertainty in many ways.

Despite that, the commitment and resolve of our remarkable team of volunteers and employees enabled us to move our mission forward as we worked to recover financially and get back to positively impacting thousands of lives in the community.

In 2021, we were able to resume many programs and services in person, like math and reading Learning Labs, safety around water, the YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program, STEAM, and other services critical to so many in our community.

Working with our Metro Board of Directors, we updated our three-year Strategic Plan to reflect the ever-changing world brought on by the pandemic to guide our decision-making as we continue our recovery. Our three primary strategies to achieve success focus on commitment to culture, organizational excellence and social responsibility. As part of that plan, we continued with our comprehensive "Opportunity for All" capital campaign, approaching \$40 million by the end of 2021 as we march toward our \$55 million goal. Last year's efforts were highlighted with the ribbon cutting at the Emerson YMCA, a \$1.5 million investment that represents just the latest in significant capital investments throughout our association.

We are so thankful for the widespread community support. Funds from our comprehensive campaign are invested directly into the community – allowing us to serve more people, innovate and improve programs, and ensure we have purposefully designed spaces to support generations to come.

More than anything, last year taught us how resilient our Y is, and how overcoming the challenges of the pandemic has only made us stronger and better. Thanks to our volunteers, members, staff and supporters, we were able to accomplish so much more than we thought we could, and we are excited about the future. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our cause.



Tim Helm President & CEO



Melissa Lackey Metro Board Chair





\$2.76M
IN FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE
given to those
in need to
participate in Y
programs and
services.

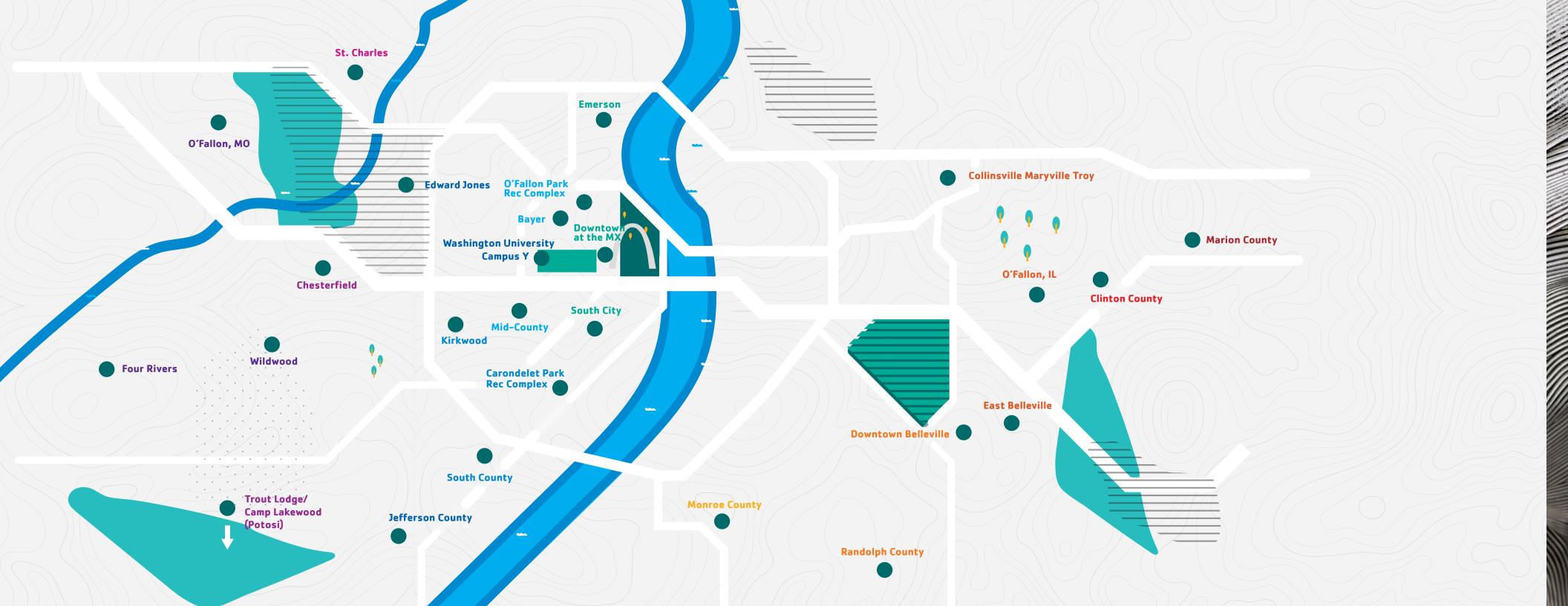
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\$10.1M IN COVID-19 FUNDS AND GRANTS

(including PPP funding and childcare grants) helped us continue our work to strengthen communities.

\$613,600
allocated to serve
725 INDIVIDUALS
through INCLUSION
& ADAPTIVE
SUPPORT SERVICES





YOUTH **DEVELOPMENT**

The Y works to nurture the potential of every child and teen by cultivating the values, skills, and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health and educational achievement.



11,373

Youth sports participants

"The Y's youth programs are so important, as they give each child a chance to have a **healthy outlet**, a chance to build **lasting relationships** with their teammates, and **build** character."

- Youth sports volunteer



5,649 Day camp participants

6,732 YMCA Camp Lakewood

3,241 participants at 5 Early Childhood **Education Centers**

3,062 Y Club participants at 77 Y Club sites

25 school district partnerships

9,156 youth served in Out of School programs



SAFETY AROUND WATER

In people under 30 in the U.S., drowning is one of the top three leading causes of unintentional injury death. Research has shown disproportionately high drowning rates among some racial and ethnic groups, an important health equity

The Y's size and reach uniquely positions the organization to bridge the gap in the delivery of water safety education. Our Y has a long-term goal of equipping 5,000 children with drowning prevention skills by 2029, thereby helping reduce the risk of drowning for at-risk youth.

11,555 individuals

Free programs

offered to the

community

given traditional swim

lessons





given discounted \$5 swim **lessons** to promote safety and provide assistance where needed, thanks to the St. Louis City Museum, at 9 of our YMCAs. 352 individuals in swim outreach programming targeting at risk communities 256 children in Safety Around Water school collaborations (classroom, dry land, and in-water curriculum) 285 children in **Go for Green**, a program offering

lessons to day camp youth who

haven't passed their swim test.

1,357 individuals



YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program

146 individuals

participated in a 12-month, groupbased program to encourage behavioral change to reduce the risk for diabetes.

YMCA's Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program

47 individuals

participated in an evidence-based program combining blood pressure self-monitoring, nutrition education seminars, and personalized support.

Integrated Fitness

74 individuals

with documented developmental disabilities became comfortable with programs and equipment, feeling included and able to pursue their health goals.

LiveSTRONG® at the YMCA 20 survivors

participated in a free 12-week wellness program for adult cancer survivors.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

With research showing about half of all cases of chronic mental illness begin by age 14, the Gateway Region YMCA launched a program in 2021 to help address this critical challenge. Titled "Starting the Conversation," the program helps caregivers learn how to engage in conversations and address concerning behaviors around mental health. The Y was able to launch the program thanks to its longstanding partnership with **Starting the Conversation. The** program served 35 participants in 2021, and is quickly growing.

"The more we can get people comfortable with talking about their mental health, the more aware the broader population can be about not only what mental health challenges look like, but also that seeking help doesn't have to be threatening. A lot of evidence points to the idea that the sooner people can get support, the less severe their experience might be with a mental health issue."

- Starting the Conversation Panelist





STEAM Programming

According to the Pew Research Center, women make up a quarter or fewer of workers in computing and engineering. In 2021 as part of its STEAM programming, the Y introduced two new programs – Techbridge and Technovation – to equip girls in gaining technology and entrepreneurial skills to solve real-world problems in their community.

Y Literacy

134 participants received 1,820 instruction hours

through education and tutoring programs, which provide enriching and supportive experiences to help others learn, grow, and thrive.

"This program is wonderful. My daughter was reading at a 3rd grade level at the beginning of the school year and by the end she was reading at 5th grade level. She still needs to work on fluency but her comprehension is fine." – YRead parent

Food access

Every year, the Y opens the doors to the community, such as during the annual Thanksgiving meal at the O'Fallon Park Rec Complex, and also supports food access for children in need through our child care programs.

72,456 meals served

360 boxes collected

during the Day Camp Food Drive at 21 Y locations, in partnership with the St. Louis Area Foodbank.





COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

The Gateway Region YMCA is grateful for the widespread community support for our multi-year, \$55 million Comprehensive Campaign. Themed "Opportunity For All," the campaign is focused on bridging the opportunity gap, connecting communities and cultivating healthy equity in order to help those most in need in our community.

Comprehensive Campaign total: \$39,856,285
Donors to the Y: 10,000+

Annual Campaign

Supporting our Annual Campaign means that we can scale and expand our programs into our most vulnerable communities, as well as allow us to sustain current services, all while ensuring access and opportunity for all.

Raised in 2021 Annual Campaign: \$3,011,520

Capital Campaign

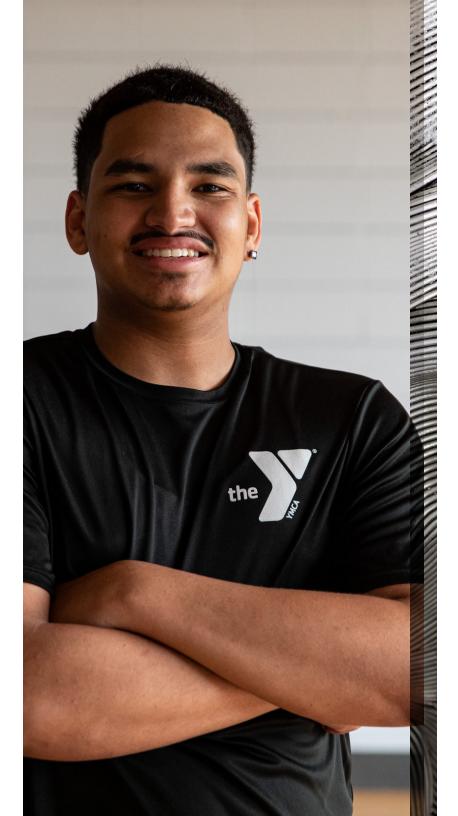
The Gateway Region YMCA has launched a multi-year Capital Campaign in an effort to increase our impact by serving more people, innovating and improving programs, and ensuring we have purposefully designed spaces to support generations to come.

Raised toward Capital Campaign in 2021: \$5,030,360

Endowment

We are able to invest in the future while providing support today for program innovation and scholarships through endowments.

Endowment Value: \$31,915,214 (As of 12/31/2021)





INCLUSION AND ADAPTIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

For people with a documented developmental disability, the Y provides opportunities to be engaged in a number of programs through Integrated Fitness programming. Trained staff help ensure each person is able to become familiar and comfortable with programs and equipment, including cardio and group exercise, aquatics, lap swimming, and strength training.

In 2021, the Y served 725 individuals through Inclusion and Adaptive Support Services, including 74 in Integrated Fitness programming. Colin (pictured left) and Sam were two of these individuals.

"You are truly changing Sam's life! What you do matters. I've been involved in a great deal of programming for people with disabilities over the years and yours is top tier."

- Karen (Sam's mom)

At-Large Members:

Matt Auffenberg
Vince Bennett
Greg Dart
Michael Gibbons
Steve Hanley
Carrie Jostes
Brad Koeneman
Melissa Lackey
David Layton
Mark Leeker
Suzan McDaniel
Rosetta Okohson-Reb
Fred Perreand

Emily Pitts

Steve Rasche
Susan Ratz
Jon Reed
David Rogan
Jon Rosenstengel
Kurt Schwager
Catherine Small
Amy Smith
Greg Sonnenberg
Danna Stone
Jacques Thro
Hardy Washington, Jr.
Suzanne Whitehead
Matt Whiting

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Dr. Joseph King Jr., SOUTH DISTRICT
Greg Rush, WEST DISTRICT
Stephen Brock, EAST DISTRICT
Darren George, YMCA CAMP
LAKEWOOD/TROUT LODGE

METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MISSION:

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

