



Imagine THE **Impact**

 **YMCA Buffalo Niagara**
2008 Annual Report

Mission

YMCA Buffalo Niagara is an inclusive association of people committed to a common effort to help individuals and families reach their fullest potential in terms of spirit, mind, and body.

A Message from our Leadership

One hundred and fifty six years ago the YMCA opened its doors with the simple goal of wanting to provide quality programs and services that would positively impact young men in the Buffalo community. With the help of dedicated volunteers and staff, YMCA Buffalo Niagara continued to build upon that initial dream as it expanded its offerings to include quality programming for countless individuals, families, children, and seniors.

Whether it was the building of the Delaware Family Branch in 1927, the development of school age child care programming in 1988 or the establishment of the Lancaster Branch in 1997, the guiding thought throughout was to strive to do better for future generations. 2008 was no different as the YMCA embarked on yet another goal—the construction of a new YMCA Family Branch.

The Northtowns Facility Development Task Force, led by Trustee William Mabee, is developing a comprehensive plan for the construction and operation of a new state of the art family facility to replace the aging Northeast Family Branch. The YMCA will be able to expand their current service offerings which would impact youth, families, and seniors in the Northtowns.

YMCA Buffalo Niagara would not be successful without the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. They don't stop at imagining the impact—they make it happen. Our 2008 Annual Strong

Kids Campaign, led by General Chair Sally Pyne, raised \$485,254, a 9.6% growth over 2007. When you take a step back and look at the scope of the campaign over the past 10 years, the Strong Kids Campaign has raised more than \$3,804,676, impacting the lives of tens of thousands of youth, families, and seniors.

As one of Western New York's leading charitable organizations, the YMCA's financial assistance program is one that has affected both youth and adults in our community alike. Through experiences in YMCA programs such as camp, child care or membership, individuals young and old can now develop skills and aptitudes which will enable them to reach their fullest potential.

The six young men who ran in the first YMCA Turkey Trot in 1896 certainly did not envision the Turkey Trot of today. In 2008, Delaware Avenue swelled with a record number of runners, 10,224 to be exact, in the 113th Annual running of the YMCA Turkey Trot. To carry on this tradition every Thanksgiving Day allows the YMCA



L-R: William M. Collins, Chairman, Board of Trustees; Gregory T. Bruno, Chairman, Board of Directors; John D. Murray, President/CEO

to be such a wonderful part of Western New York event history.

"Imagine the Impact" is an exciting and challenging concept and we look forward to positively impacting future generations of Western New Yorkers. We hope that you will join us on this journey.

Gregory T. Bruno, Chairman, Board of Directors

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Building Brighter Futures

“Through the scholarship program Nyra is **ensured a summer full of fun, activities, and entertainment** that I would otherwise not be able to provide her.”

A trip

to Martin’s Fantasy Island, Bounce Magic, and even Darien Lake were trips six year old Nyra Neter never imagined she’d be able to enjoy. But thanks to the YMCA’s financial assistance program, Nyra has spent her summers making new friends and embarking on new adventures.

“My daughter has been able to take part in valuable YMCA programming since 2007 which we would not have been able to afford without the financial aid provided to us through the YMCA,” said Taryn Avry Dennis, Nyra’s mother.

“I like coming to the YMCA,” said Nyra. “I’ve made some nice friends here, and gone on cool field trips. We even get to go swimming too.”

YMCA programming also offers Nyra the opportunity to work with her peers and use her creative talents in various projects. “It is so refreshing to wake up in the morning and know, no matter what, I have a place to take her where I know she is going to have fun, be safe, warm,



Amber Schuler (left), Nyra Neter, and YMCA staff member Karen Arnold-Kelsey enjoy their time together during School Age Child Care at the Delaware Family Branch.

and cared for all day,” said Taryn. “Through financial assistance, Nyra is ensured a summer full of fun, activities, and entertainment that I would otherwise not be able to provide her.”

Belonging to the YMCA offers more than child care or summer camp involvement for Nyra. It’s a place where Nyra has grown over the years thanks to the staff and the teachings of the YMCA. “The YMCA is instilling strong values which will help her become a bright, strong, and caring member of society as she grows into adulthood,” Taryn added.

Financial assistance not only helps to build brighter futures for our youth but also for adults in our community. While many know Tina Spyres for her involvement on the Lancaster YMCA Board of Managers, she and her son became involved with the YMCA summer camp program three years ago all thanks to the YMCA's financial assistance program.

"As a single mom I struggled with many difficult times, but I created a plan to be

successful, work hard, and with the support of family and the YMCA's help with childcare, I was able to reach my goals," said Tina.

As a recipient of financial support from the YMCA, her son Dylan was able to participate in valuable YMCA programming including summer day camp where he was engaged in hands on activities and making new friends.

Today, Tina is a successful realtor but she never forgets the gift given to her by the

YMCA. As a way of showing how grateful she is to the YMCA, Tina contributes 10% of her commissions to the Lancaster Family Branch. "My life has turned full circle; my son was the inspiration and giving back to children and families in need are what life is all about. I'm proud to help and it's my way of paying it forward."

Did you know...

The Northeast Family Branch awarded more than \$60,000 in financial assistance in 2008.



Tina and Dylan Spyres are also actively involved in the Lancaster Family Branch's Strong Kids Campaign.

Inspiring Generation

Our seniors are a vital part of the association. They bring enthusiasm, knowledge, dedication, and a spirit all their own. From aerobic classes to dance lessons, Tai Chi Aquatics and bridge club, we find our seniors involved in every facet of our YMCA family.

For some seniors, coming to the YMCA is by doctor's orders, but for many others, the YMCA offers them so much more than an improved physical well being. It's a place to make friends, share stories and laughter, and even delight in a

"I really enjoy coming here with my wife. **It's good for my health** and I even make CD's for the class so we can all enjoy singing along to these old numbers."



Tom Lucas (left) and Donald Osborn are weekly participants in the SilverSneakers® Cardio Circuit Class at the Ken-Ton Family Branch.

good homemade cookie or two.

On any given Friday at the Ken-Ton Family Branch you'll find a dozen or so spirited seniors waiting to go into their SilverSneakers® Fitness class. The room is always a buzz with conversations about the latest sewing project and family, while a few men in the group razz each other like brothers. One of those jokesters is Tom Lucas, a funny laid back gentleman who has been involved in the SilverSneakers® program for the past six years. Tom, who has Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

(COPD), takes part in the SilverSneakers® Muscular Strength and Range of Movement class several times each week. "I really enjoy coming here with my wife. It's good for my health and I even make CD's for the class so we can all enjoy singing along to these old numbers."

When visiting the Southtowns Family Branch you're also likely to run into many active seniors, especially a few who enjoy showing off their dance moves. The Taste of Dance

class allows the students to explore a variety of different dance styles in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. “It is magic for me to watch them laughing and enjoying themselves. It builds camaraderie, confidence, as well as mental and physical gain,” said dance instructor Rose Daniels.

Husband and wife team Ron and Donna Stewart used to make up their own dance steps when they were out on cruises and wanted to learn how to dance the “right way.” For one participant, Walter Otto, dancing was a lifelong dream. And for Mike Legierski, an active participant in the program since its inception, it was a way to stay active after suffering from an aortic aneurism. “It’s a good mental workout. You’re always thinking what do I do next? It keeps your mind engaged and I like to learn the latest steps.”



Mike Legierski with instructor Rose Daniels – “Taking part in a dance class is very uplifting for our participants.”

Did you know...

Seniors at the Ellicott-Masten Family Branch comprise 44% of the branch’s membership.

Leading by Example

“Giving back to Camp Weona is just **the right thing to do**. I think that kids need to go to camp because it changed my life for the better and I hope to see it change other children’s lives.”

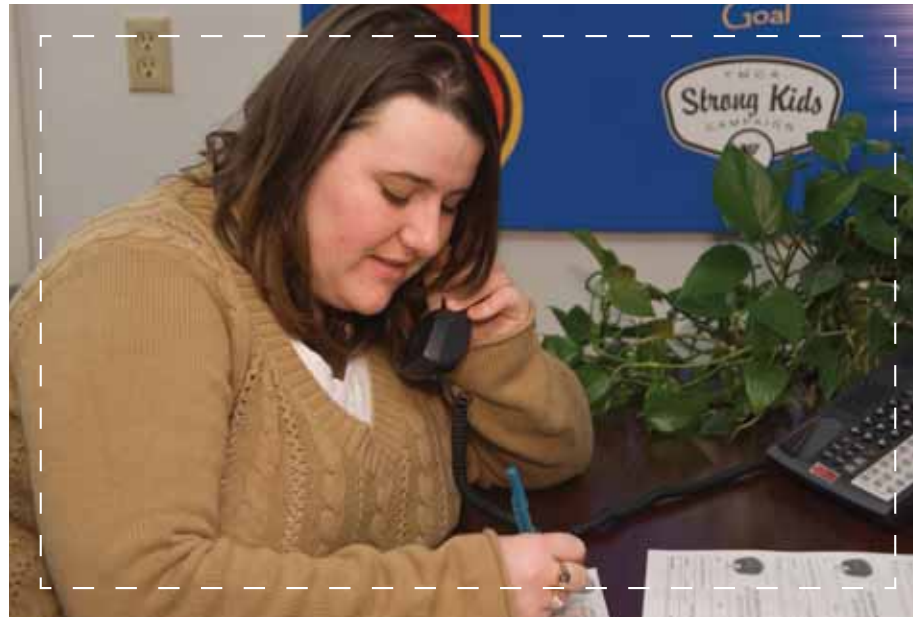
“**The** best thing I ever did for my kids in their whole life was send them to camp.” Little did Tracey Bannister, YMCA Camp Weona Board member and volunteer know that this one decision would make such a profound impact on her children for years to come.

To say that the Bannister children Allison and Peter had caught the Camp Weona bug is an understatement. “At first I really didn’t want to go to camp, but I had a great counselor in training my first year at camp who I loved and who made me want to come back to camp. She inspired me

to pursue becoming a camp counselor myself,” said now 22-year-old Allison Bannister. Allison’s story unfurls from there evolving from a young camper, to a Counselor in Training (CIT), to CIT Director, and now a volunteer for Camp Weona. “Giving back to Camp Weona is just the right thing to do. I think that kids need to go to camp because it changed my life for the better and I hope to see it change other children’s lives.”

Nineteen year old Peter’s experience was similar to that of his sister’s. “Going to camp was a blast so it was a no brainer to keep giving back when I was given the chance. I feel good when I can help send more kids to camp who can’t afford it, so that’s why I help make the Strong Kids Campaign calls. I’m invested in Weona and I enjoy knowing I am an integral part of helping them reach their goals.”

Tracey echoes her children’s sentiments. “I joined the Weona board as a volunteer enthusiastically when they approached me. I had a lot of things to juggle between work and other



Allison Bannister feels Camp Weona gave her a different perspective on life and the people she meets.



Allison, Tracey, and Peter Bannister come together to support YMCA's Camp Weona.

commitments, but Camp Weona and the YMCA never fell to the bottom of my list. I feel very strongly about Weona and the values it teaches our children. I will always sing its praises."

Together this unique family gives back to Weona every chance they get. "I wanted my children to see the importance of volunteering and I think it's remarkable that they don't look at this expecting a pay check but rather as how they can make a difference for someone else,"

said Tracey.

"Being involved with Camp Weona has opened up a lot of doors for me and helped me develop a network of friends that I still stay in touch with," said Allison. "In fact, I just moved in with one of those friends who I've known since I started camp when I was 10. We even have a weekly craft night where we, former staff and campers alike, come together. I can't imagine it any other way."

Did you know...

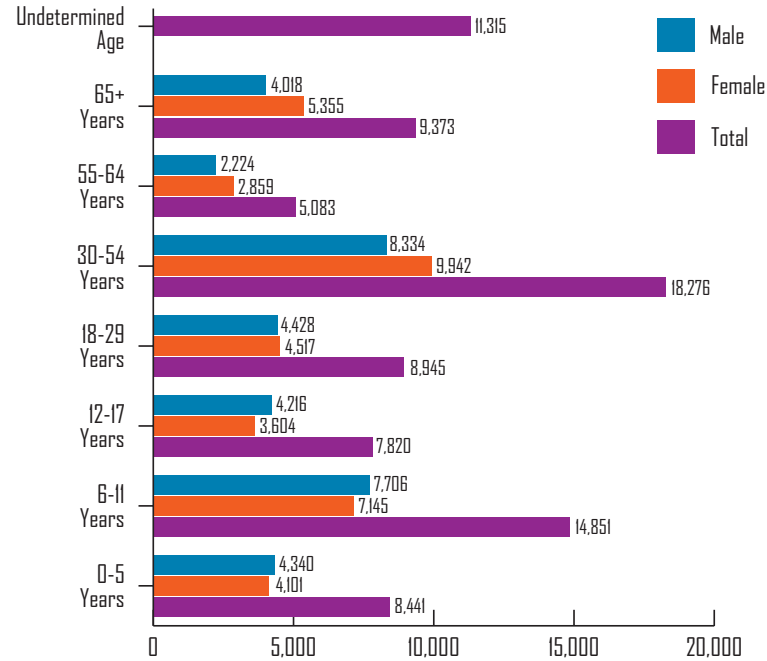
Volunteers at the Niagara Falls Family Branch invested more than 175 hours in raising funds for the 2008 Strong Kids Campaign.

Key Operating Metrics

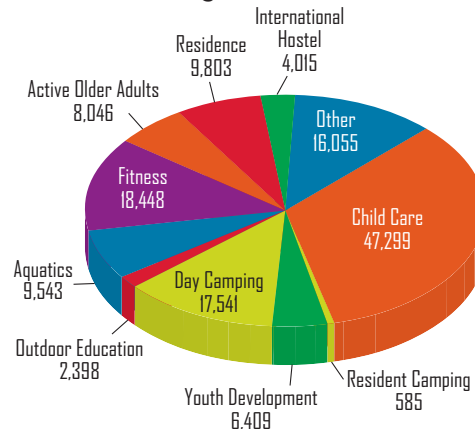
Statement of Activities

	2008	2007	% +/-
Revenue			
Annual Campaign	473,098	444,426	6.5%
Other Contributions	273,341	202,478	35.0%
Special Events	377,479	331,966	13.7%
United Way	167,561	165,099	1.5%
Government Grants	443,759	406,752	9.1%
Program Fees	4,963,822	4,503,249	10.2%
Membership Dues	5,120,030	5,105,047	0.3%
Other Income	928,597	805,016	15.4%
	<u>12,747,687</u>	<u>11,964,033</u>	<u>6.6%</u>
Expense			
Program Services	10,686,378	10,120,661	5.6%
Administration	1,391,735	1,412,886	-1.5%
Fund Raising	453,245	394,253	15.0%
	<u>12,531,358</u>	<u>11,927,800</u>	<u>5.1%</u>
Operating Surplus	216,329	36,233	
Disposition of Property	82,500	(256,726)	
Investment Activity	(1,666,382)	324,093	
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(1,367,553)</u>	<u>103,600</u>	

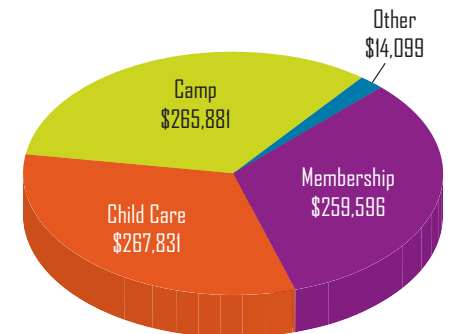
2008 Member/Participant Demographics



2008 Program Enrollment



2008 Financial Assistance



Financial Development Support

YMCA Heritage Society

The YMCA's Heritage Society recognizes a select group of individuals and or families who have made a significant commitment to the YMCA's endowment fund. Their gift to the YMCA is the starting point from which the YMCA will expand its reach, providing life-enriching experiences that in turn will help build stable families, stronger leaders, healthier communities, and a brighter future for Western New York.

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113th Turkey Trot



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Adesa Auto Auction, Keith Bernard, Bonadio and Company, Budget Rent-a-Car, Buffalo Bills Youth Foundation, Brian Byrne, William M. Collins, Jack Connors, Gary Crosby, Custom Tee Activewear Inc., English Park Land Company, William Flickinger, Debra Grzybek, Michael G. Guerinot, Peter F. Hunt, IIMAK, Loose Ends Vending, The Lotis Group, PC, William H. Mabee, Frank Mesiah, NFADA, Rev. & Mrs. Eric Olsen, Anne Reif, Robar General Funding Corporation, Savarino Companies, Joan Stovroff, Towne Automotive Group, John C. Travers, Jr., Robert Walker, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc., Judi & Robert Wrhen

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