



Building Our Legacy Shaping *Tomorrow*



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2024 Greater Philadelphia YMCA
Annual Impact Report

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A LETTER FROM Our CEO

When our team sat down to discuss this year's report, I was immediately struck by the theme: Building on Legacy, Shaping Tomorrow. In many ways, that's exactly what the past year has been about for the Greater Philadelphia Y.

In 2024, we celebrated three major anniversaries: Spring Valley, Roxborough, and Christian Street branches marked 20, 60, and an incredible 110 years of service, respectively. While their longevity is impressive, what stands out most is the depth of our connection to these communities. The Y isn't just a partner in health—it's a partner in life, fostering relationships that shape generations ([learn more on page 4](#)).

We're not just honoring our legacy—we're growing it. Membership has increased by 5% year-over-year, our programs continue to expand, the youth we serve at our overnight camp in the Poconos, Camp Speers grows each year, and our childcare programs are having a positive impact not only in Philadelphia but in all the communities we serve. But we're hungry to do more. To build on these foundations, we focused on two key areas: enhancing services and extending our reach. On the operations front, we introduced better tools to improve the member experience—fewer payment issues, faster registrations, streamlined communications, and more. We also launched a more robust member app, seamlessly integrating services with a rich content library. Staying connected to the Y has never been easier. Our physical branches remain at the heart of our mission. Our campaign to revitalize city branches is gaining momentum, and with your support, we can accelerate that progress. While we can't reveal all the details yet, we have several innovative initiatives underway that will significantly expand our impact.

Beyond our walls, we deepened our reach through high-profile events and partnerships designed to promote healthier lives. Last fall, we partnered with Pottstown leaders to expand free swim lessons for under-served children. We introduced new programs to support change to expectant mothers and military personnel through our Maternal Wellness Initiative and Veteran Wellness Program. We launched a city-based Gobble Wobble 5K at Philadelphia's Navy Yard—despite heavy rain, participation was strong. ([See Rich Boone's story for its impact on his family](#)). We also partnered with local schools to grow key initiatives, including Youth Civic Engagement, Achievers, and our newest program, Workforce Development. ([Learn more about Y Achievers program on page 11](#)).



Shaun Elliott

Shaun Elliott
President & CEO

Finally, we hosted Y Gymnastics Nationals last summer, welcoming 1,922 athletes from 81 YMCAs nationwide for three days of fun, friendship, and competition. Experiences like these—whether developmental or athletic—leave an indelible mark on our youth. They instill confidence, discipline, and resilience. They expand horizons. They connect young people to the world and to each other in healthy, constructive ways—something we all know is needed now more than ever.

Our mission has always been about connection: to each other, to healthier living, and to stronger communities. And we're just getting started.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Celebrating Legacy: Three Branches, Endless Impact	4
Gymnastics: Building Strength, Confidence, and Community	5
Tackling the Childcare Crisis	6
How the Y Inspires Lifelong Connections	7
Empowering Camden's Young Athletes	7
Our Impact in Numbers	8-9
Best Buy Teen Tech Center	10
Inspiring Potential: A Teen's Road to Success with Y Achievers	11
A Look at What's Ahead	11
Financial Snapshot	12
Board of Directors	13
Our Locations	14-15



HONORING OUR Foundations

Celebrating Legacy: Three Branches, Immeasurable Impact

What sets the Y apart isn't just fitness equipment or programs—it's the deep roots we've cultivated in the communities we serve. For over 175 years, the YMCA has been a global force for positive change, and the Greater Philadelphia Y (GPY) has carried that legacy forward for more than half that time. In 2024, we proudly celebrated milestone anniversaries at three branches that continue to shape lives: Christian Street, Roxborough, and Spring Valley.

110
years!

Christian Street YMCA: A Legacy of Leadership

Founded in 1889 at the home of activist William Still, the Christian Street YMCA made history in 1914 as the first Black YMCA in the nation to own its building. Located at 1724 Christian Street in South Philadelphia, it became a hub where black Philadelphians gathered, connected, and thrived.

That legacy lives on today. With over 8,000 members, a renowned childcare center, and diverse programs—ranging from fitness and swimming to day camps—the Christian Street Y remains a beacon of opportunity.

60
years!

Roxborough YMCA: Built by Community, for Community

The Roxborough YMCA grew from a decade-long grassroots effort by local volunteers who purchased the 6.5-acre site in 1958, opened it for outdoor programs in 1961, and completed the building in 1964. Though expanded over the years, Roxborough remains a cornerstone of the community, shaped by local dedication. Now home to over 8,500 members and a highly-rated childcare center, Roxborough continues to meet the evolving needs of its community.

20
years!

Spring Valley YMCA: Growth on a Grand Scale

Since opening in May 2004, the Spring Valley YMCA has transformed the landscape at Township Line and Linfield-Trappe Roads. Built on 26 acres, it welcomed 4,000 members on its first day and now serves over 17,000, with more than 2,000 daily visits—making it one of the nation's most active YMCAs. Signature events like John's Ride for the Y and the Gobble Wobble have fueled Spring Valley's impact even further.



It's impossible to quantify the impact these branches have had on their members, communities, and the region. But at the Y, you can hear it. Listen as lifelong friends share how the Christian Street Y shaped their lives.



Gymnastics: Building Strength, Confidence, and Community

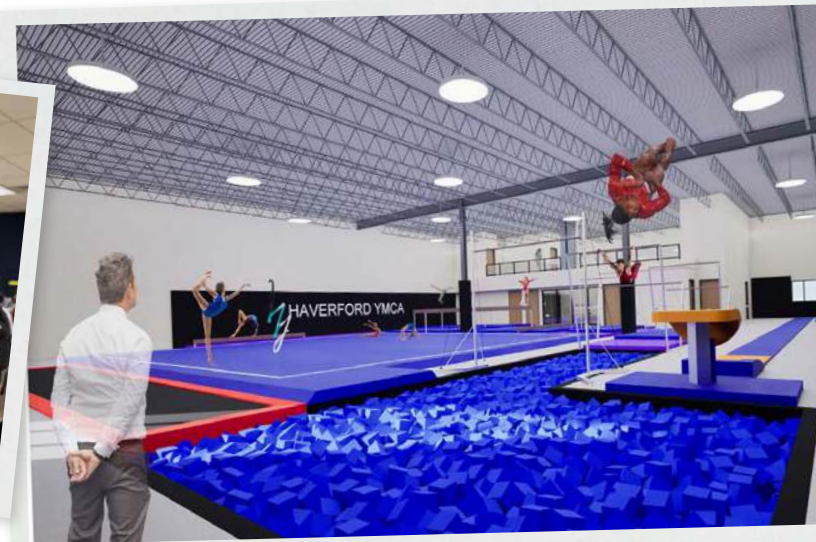
Sports lie at the heart of the YMCA's mission, fostering active lifestyles and uniting communities. Few programs exemplify this impact more than the gymnastics teams across the Greater Philadelphia Association.

Leading the charge is our Willow Grove Gymnastics team, the Twisters. Originally founded at our former Hatboro branch, the Twisters have set a national standard for excellence, consistently ranking among the Y's top 10 teams over the past 20+ years. Under the steady leadership of Darlene Malone, the program has grown year after year, entering an exciting new era with the opening of the Willow Grove YMCA in 2019.

Since then, Darlene and her team have been unstoppable. Last summer, they brought that momentum to life by hosting the YMCA Gymnastics Nationals at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. The event drew 1,922 athletes from 81 YMCAs nationwide, serving as a powerful reminder of how sports transform lives.

But the impact of gymnastics goes beyond strength and skill. It builds confidence, instills commitment, and fosters lasting connections. Unfortunately, for many families, the cost of participation can be a barrier — except at the Y.

To meet growing demand and ensure more youth can experience these benefits, we're proud to expand our offerings. This spring, we're unveiling a second dedicated gymnastics center in Haverford, converting a former warehouse into a state-of-the-art facility. Leading the charge at this new center is Natalie Wojcik, a standout from the 2021 national champion University of Michigan Women's Gymnastics team.



A Vision for the Future

As we continue to grow, Darlene Malone is extending her expertise across all branches as the Association's new Gymnastics Director, ensuring an even greater impact in the years ahead. With expanded facilities, exceptional leadership, and a commitment to affordability, we're building a future where every child can discover their potential through gymnastics.

EMPOWERING OUR Community Today

Tackling the Childcare Crisis: The Y's Unique Role in Supporting Families

Ask any parent, and they'll tell you—finding safe, affordable, and reliable childcare is a constant challenge. For years, access has been limited, costs have ballooned, and quality varies widely. **Consider the following data points:**

Nearly 16,000 childcare programs closed nationwide between December 2019 and March 2021.

Philadelphia saw a net loss of 57 providers in just one year.

A survey of 1,000 PA providers found 7,000 unfilled spots, leaving 32,000 children without care.

This crisis extends beyond childcare. It's holding back thousands of families—particularly women—from fully engaging in the economy. Women often cite a lack of childcare as the reason they've reduced hours, switched jobs, or left the workforce entirely. A McKinsey report estimated that this decline has cost the U.S. economy \$840 billion in lost output.

At the Greater Philadelphia YMCA, we've witnessed these challenges firsthand. As the largest childcare provider in the Commonwealth, we serve thousands of children each day, but demand continues to outpace capacity. Our waitlists grow as we grapple with staffing and operational challenges.

Nevertheless, the Y continues to deliver world-class childcare and early education across our 88 locations throughout the region.

What's more, despite a challenging environment, we continued to keep families' economic needs in focus, offering more than \$2,064,158 in financial assistance to qualifying families last year alone. We believe that when other resources for families fade from view, it's our time to bridge the gap. And it is your support of the Y which makes that possible.



Our daughter Susan is a Physical Therapist for developmentally challenged children. When she let us know of the unmet need for recreation and socialization for these children and their families, the YMCA's mission immediately came to mind and we pitched the idea for a playground to the Y executive team. In partnership with the Y, we created Sandyland (in memory of my sister and brother), a Playground for children of all abilities at Spring Valley YMCA. Through Sandyland my wife Carol and I hoped to bring some happiness and fun to families and children with special needs. Our hopes have been more than realized!

Paul & Carol Touhey
Donors



More Than a 5K: How the Y Inspires Lifelong Connections

Sports connect us—to our communities, to loved ones, and even to our past. For Rich Boone of Traverse City, Michigan, the YMCA Gobble Wobble did all of that at once. A Philadelphia native, Rich was in town for Thanksgiving at his son's home when his daughter, Amanda, suggested they all run the holiday 5K. "Amanda is a runner. She heard about the Gobble Wobble and said, 'Hey, we could all do this.'" Three generations joined in, capturing a moment they'll never forget.

The event's location at the Philadelphia Navy Yard added a deeper connection. "My uncle and grandfather worked at the Navy Yard. It felt wonderful to run where my grandfather had worked—my first time ever visiting."

The Y has been a constant in Rich's life. As a boy, he played in basketball leagues at the Grey Y, and today, he and his wife remain active members in Traverse City. "The Y provides great opportunities for people at any age, including my age group."

As for the Gobble Wobble: "It meant the world to me. One of the greatest joys is running with my family. My older daughter has been a runner for years, and running with her—and now my granddaughters—is a real treat." See you on the road, Rich!



Taking the Y Beyond Our Walls: Empowering Camden's Young Athletes

Our Camden YMCA operates as a true "Y Without Walls" — taking programs and services directly into the community. Nowhere is this impact more evident than in our work with local schools, where we provide sports education, programming, and coaching where funding falls short. A shining example is our groundbreaking partnership with LEAP Academy University School in the heart of Camden. For the first time, the Camden Y was invited to coach the school's middle school sports teams. More than 100 students have joined the school's soccer, volleyball and basketball teams, gaining valuable instruction from the Y.

Best of all, in just one season, the LEAP Basketball Lions roared, claiming the 2024–25 Boys & Girls Middle School Division Championship — a remarkable achievement by any measure. But this is about more than wins and trophies. As any alum of a strong athletic program knows, success on the court fosters deeper connections to a school, community, and academics. That's why we're thrilled to expand our impact at LEAP by adding a flag football program next year. With each new program, we're giving Camden's youth more than a chance to compete — we're giving them a foundation for success on and off the field.



Holman has been grateful to be able to support the YMCA's work in Camden. By providing access to sport and other programs that support healthy living and civic engagement, the Y is brightening the future of youth throughout our region.

The Holman Foundation

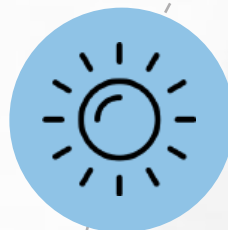
**Alicia McGowan, Manager -
Community Affairs**

OUR IMPACT In Numbers



**OVER \$39
MILLION**

free & subsidized
programs & memberships



6500

kids experienced
the best summer
ever at camp



343

women supported through
Women's Opportunity Center



120

cancer patients rebuilding their
strength and their lives in our
Livestrong program



17,000

children taught
the life saving skill
of swimming



2,700+

free 7th grade
memberships given

“

We started dating while working at a day camp so when we were offered the opportunity to help send kids to Camp Philly, we jumped at the chance. Summer camp offers kids with a wonderful experience that can be life changing. It was for us!

Judy & Ken Weinstein

Donors





OVER 204,000

healthy meals provided
to children this year



“

Campbell's is thrilled to support our long-term, community partner Greater Philadelphia YMCA and the YMCA's Camden Y Kids Cook program, a program in partnership with Cathedral Kitchen. Y Kids Cook brings together the Y's expertise in youth engagement with Cathedral Kitchen's expertise in culinary education to make an impact in the Camden community, enabling young people to prepare and enjoy nutritious meals.

The Campbell's Foundation **Kate Barrett, President**



OVER 6,000

families impacted through childcare and
afterschool programs



70,000+

youth & teen memberships



191,947

members served



BUILDING A STRONGER Tomorrow



At the Columbia North YMCA Best Buy Teen Tech Center, teens are not only developing technical skills, but also using their creativity and voices to uplift their communities. Their passion has transformed this space into a hub for innovation, storytelling, and community engagement.

This past year, the teens took on impactful projects that highlight their commitment to cultural awareness and social change. Through a powerful photoshoot inspired by Ramadan, they captured the beauty and significance of the holy month, celebrating diversity and inclusion. Their summer photography camp nurtured artistic expression, giving young creatives the opportunity to refine their skills and tell stories through imagery.

Understanding the importance of dialogue, the teens launched *The Narrative Talk*, a recurring podcast that amplifies community voices on topics that matter most to them. They also opened their doors to the broader community by hosting Teen Tech Center Open Houses, fostering connections and welcoming others into their creative journeys.

Their dedication to historical awareness was evident in a 45-minute presentation on the modern-day impacts of the MOVE Bombing in West Philadelphia. With deep research and passion, these young leaders brought attention to an often-overlooked part of history, encouraging critical discussions about justice and resilience.

To ensure sustained growth, these inspiring teens have also taken the initiative to secure grants for additional programming, ensuring future cohorts will have greater opportunities to learn, create, and lead.

We at Best Buy are incredibly grateful to the Columbia North Best Buy Teen Tech Center for being a beacon of inspiration—not only for their local community but for Teen Tech Centers everywhere. Their commitment to empowerment and storytelling perfectly embodies our values, reminding us why we invest in the next generation of creators, innovators, and change-makers.

Thank you for your passion, creativity, and dedication. Your work is shaping the future, and we are honored to be part of your journey.



Tazah Richardson

Senior Operations Specialist,
Best Buy Teen Tech Centers

Inspiring Potential: A Teen's Road to Success with Y Achievers

The Y Achievers Program has been a fulfilling experience for 17-year-old Manna Hunter. A member at the Haverford Area YMCA enrolled in a cyber academy, Achievers has not only provided her a community, it's set her on a "road to success".

"... Learning how to write a college essay was made easy and has given me more confidence as I apply to college."

Y Achievers is a college readiness program designed to help teens through academic support, career exploration, and mentoring. Teens also develop a positive sense of self, build character, and interact with professionals who serve as role models.

Manna's favorite activity in the program? "... Our interesting yet fun debate sessions. These helped me to realize what I value. And I got to hear others' opinions and perspectives on what's going on in our life and society!"

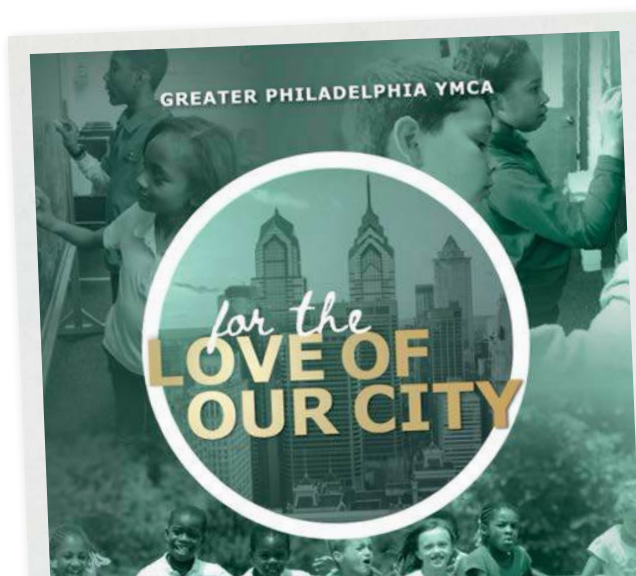
"Y-Achievers is a program I would 100% recommend to any high school student!"



A Look at What's Ahead

Right now, the cities of Philadelphia and Camden and their suburbs are plagued by violence and uncertainty. The data tells the story. The challenges that face us today require an unprecedented response and a bold vision for the future. Through a significant investment in youth, the Greater Philadelphia YMCA is ready to respond through not only programs and services, but also with upgraded and new facilities.

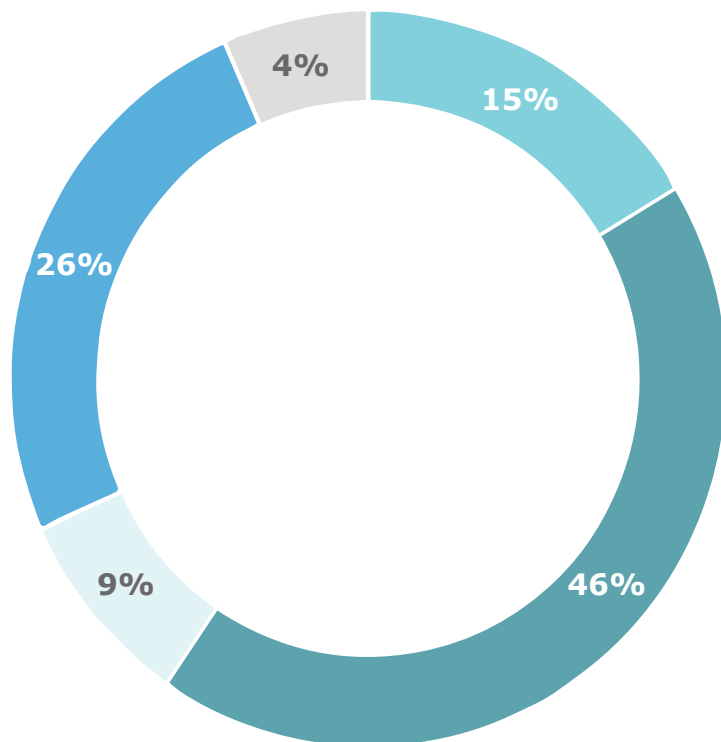
Through the support of our community partners, the Greater Philadelphia YMCA will make a \$100,000,000 landmark investment to transform our ability to engage our youth population and revitalize the health and well-being of entire communities.



Our facilities and programs are the tools to make a significant impact on the lives of our children. By growing our program outreach, creating safe and accessible spaces for all, filling those programs and facilities with dedicated, caring and trained role models, staff and volunteers, we can ultimately alter the current trajectory for our young people.

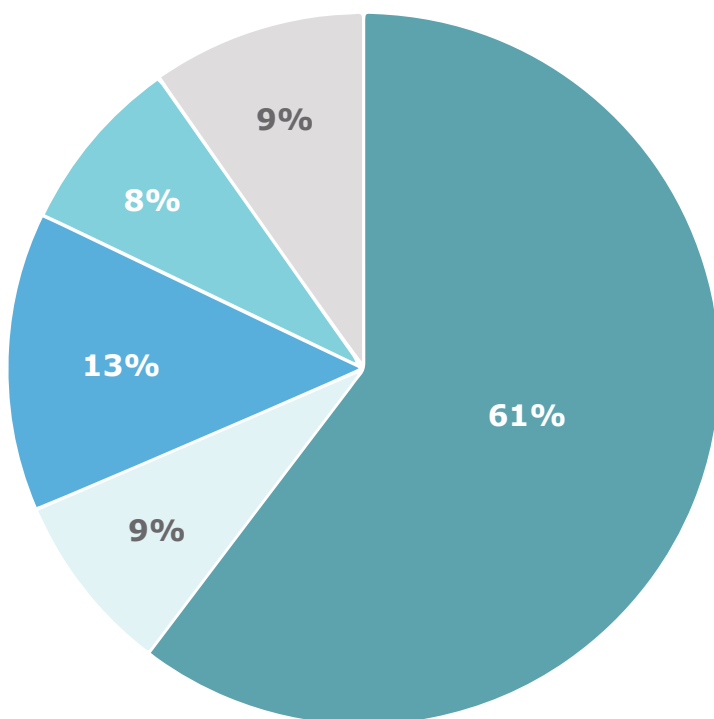
OUR 2024

Financial Snapshot



Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$15,524
Membership	\$49,159
Programs	\$9,386
Childcare and Camp	\$27,443
Other	\$4,320
TOTAL REVENUE*	\$105,832



Expenses

Personnel and Benefits	\$61,176
Supplies and Equipment	\$8,913
Occupancy	\$13,447
Interest and Depreciation	\$8,468
Other	\$9,329
TOTAL EXPENSES*	\$95,502

*in millions

At GPY, we are committed to improving education through our Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Businesses and individuals who support our social responsibility programs are eligible to receive 90% of their contributions back in tax credits. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals and businesses that have already chosen to make a difference.

For more information:

Ronaldo Ribeiro, Director of Institutional Advancement | ronaldo.ribeiro@philaymca.org

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GREATER PHILADELPHIA YMCA

Locations

AMBLER YMCA

1325 McKean Road
Ambler, PA 19002
215-628-9950

BOYERTOWN YMCA

301 W. Spring Street
Boyertown, PA 19512
610-369-9622

CAMDEN YMCA

1 Market Street Suite 2D,
Camden, NJ 08102
(856) 266-9922

CAMP SPEERS YMCA

143 Nichecronk Road,
Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328
(570) 828-2329

CHRISTIAN STREET YMCA

1724 Christian Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146
215-735-5800

COLUMBIA NORTH YMCA

1400 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19121
215-235-6440

HAVERFORD YMCA

891 N. Eagle Road
Havertown, PA 19083
610-649-0700

MT. LAUREL YMCA

59 Centerton Road
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
856-231-9622

NORTHEAST FAMILY YMCA

11088 Knights Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154
215-632-0100

PHOENIXVILLE YMCA

400 E. Pothouse Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-933-5861

POTTSTOWN YMCA

724 N. Adams Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
610-323-7300

SPRING VALLEY YMCA

19 W. Linfield-Trappe Road
Limerick, PA 19468
484-984-2000

UPPER PERKIOMEN YMCA

1399 Quakertown Road
Pennsburg, PA 18073
215-679-9622

ROXBOROUGH YMCA

7201 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128
215-482-3900

ROCKY RUN YMCA

1299 W. Baltimore Pike
Media, PA 19063
610-627-9622

WEST PHILDELPHIA

5120 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139
215-476-2700

WILLOW GROVE YMCA

3300 Davisville Road
Hatboro, PA 19040
215-392-4900

OUR MISSION

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO

Healthier Lives



thank you